



Our Lady of Grace RC Primary School

Tel: 0161 796 7254 E-mail: olog@bury.gov.uk

Mr Collins' Newsletter 15th November 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

School Places

I am very pleased to announce that Our Lady of Grace is now offering places in our fantastic Nursery to any child who will be three years old by the 31st December 2024. Successful applicants will be able to attend our modern, purpose-built Early Years Centre from January 2025. If you would like to apply for a place, please contact the school office as soon as possible. Our Early Years Team are very experienced and will help your child to, make new friends, build confidence, improve speaking and listening skills, develop through play and get ready to start school.

Reminder - The closing date for applying for Reception & Nursery places (September intake) is fast approaching. You can get support/guidance with the application process by contacting the School Office. Please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will be very happy to help. **We currently have places available in all year groups.** If you know of anyone who may be interested in a place at our lovely, calm, successful and welcoming school, please ask them to contact the school office as soon as they can. Please note that **we welcome all children and all families from all faiths.**

Open Day

On Wednesday we held an open day for Nursery & Reception age children. This was a great opportunity for parents/guardians to have a look around our Early Years Centre & the before & after school provision we offer. The school choir sang and there was the opportunity for prospective parents to have a coffee and a biscuit with the Senior Leadership Team. If you couldn't attend for any reason and would still like to visit school, please get in touch.

Catholic Life

It was wonderful to see so many parents and Governors at the Mass for All Saints. The Year Six children read beautifully. Father Phillip and the Teachers were particularly pleased with the number of children participating by responding and singing so enthusiastically. Well done children! We also received many lovely comments from parishioners about the behaviour and reverence of our children. The next whole school mass is at **9:30am on Monday, 9th December at church.** This mass is to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception and will be led by the school Chaplaincy Team and Year Five. Please do try to attend if you can – everyone who does is always pleased they did.

Last Friday, we were all very proud of the Year Five children as they expertly delivered a very moving Remembrance Assembly. It was wonderful to see so many parents, grandparents, ex-pupils and Governors joining us in the Hall to mark this important tradition. We continue to promote and pray for world peace.

Parish Christmas Fair

Our Lady of Grace Parish – Grand Christmas Raffle – Bottle Tombola - Your child has received a white envelope containing raffle tickets which we ask you to kindly sell. Further information can be found on the tickets. Sold raffle tickets and monies can be handed in to school (please place in an envelope labelled Christmas Raffle and hand to class teacher). **On Friday 22nd November and Friday 29th November, we are allowing children to wear their own clothes to school and asking families to donate a bottle for the Parish Bottle Tombola.** The school and the parish are always bowled over by the generosity of families. All the proceeds of both the raffle and the tombola will be spent keeping our Parish the central point of this thriving community we all love. Thank you so much for your support.

Season of Advent

The season of Advent is always a very special time here at school. Pupils plan and deliver an Advent assembly that helps children understand the importance of this key time in our Liturgical Calendar. Parents and governors are invited into school so they can enjoy it with us. Later in Advent we also invite the grandparents of our Y6 children into school for a mince pie, a drink and to sing along with us. We sing all the classic Christmas hymns and it always entertains. Advent is a busy time for our Chaplaincy Team too. They prepare travelling cribs for families to take home. Families are encouraged to come together, light a candle, think of the Christmas story and reflect. Back at school Advent prayer stations start to appear throughout school. Children love to use these to have a quiet moment in their busy days. Staff also come together and (led by the Chaplaincy Team) have weekly reflections. Not to mention the Early Years Nativity and Carols at Church. Wow!

Date for Your Diary

The Year 5 and Year 2 children will be delivering '**Carols by Candlelight**' on Monday 16th December at 6pm in church. Further details to follow.

Kindness & Anti Bullying Week

This week I saw some great odd sock combinations in support of the strong culture of kindness we enjoy here at Our Lady of Grace. Well done to all of our children (and staff!) for being true witnesses of their faith and getting fully involved.

School Leadership

As some of you may be aware, Mrs Casey is currently absent from school. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Casey a speedy recovery. In her absence I have been appointed by Governors as Acting Headteacher. The support I have received (from a range of sources) has been vital in enabling me to keep up the high standards and vibrant school life we all enjoy. If you ever need to contact me in the future, please follow the same process as before which is to ring the school office to arrange an appointment.

There have also been some changes to the Governing body. Earlier this term, three new Governors were nominated by Father Philip and approved by Bishop John: Mrs Margaret Cunningham – Chair of Governors, Mrs Margaret Cottam – Foundation Governor & Mrs Janet Dalton – Foundation Governor.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming these volunteers to our school community and give them the usual warm Our Lady of Grace welcome.

School Website

I have been working hard to improve the school website (the process is ongoing).

Please take the time to have a look around. A good place to start would be the Latest News section. <https://www.ourladyofgracercprimaryschool.co.uk/latest-news-1/>

Sports Reports Below – all written by our young sports stars!

Our Lady of Grace vs All Saints @ Salford Sports Village

On Tuesday 12th November 2024, OLOG played All Saints school in a thrilling 9-1 win to OLOG. All Saints kicked off with the ball. About 2 minutes into the game OLOG's number 12 scored the first goal of the game with a shot into the right bottom corner. OLOG dominated the middle of the pitch with several shots blazing just wide of the post. Around 10 minutes into the game OLOG's number 12 scored again. 12 minutes into the game number 12 scores again! Then number 9 scored 13 minutes into the game. 15 minutes into the game a light foul was given by questionable refereeing. Their number star player stepped up and scored (a nice goal actually) 😊. Half time . OLOG 5 All Saints 1. OLOG kick off with the ball. 24 minutes number 12 scores again! 4 goals! 25 minutes OLOG's number 8 scores. OLOG's number 8 scores again and again and again. OLOG have had several chances that narrowly missed the goal. Full time. OLOG 9-1 All saints.

Our Lady of Grace Chess Tournament @ Our School Hall.

On the 13th of November 2024 OLOG school hosted a chess tournament in the school hall. It featured 4 different schools Higher Lane, King David's, Heaton Park and finally OLOG. The OLOG chess coach brought all the schools together. The teams were OLOG A to OLOG D, King David A to King David E Higher Lane A to Higher Lane B and Heaton Park A. Each team had 3 three people.

When it got to the semi-finals the games were: OLOG A vs OLOG B, King David A vs Heaton Park A. OLOG A won against OLOG B, King David A on against Heaton Park A. King David A won the tournament. King David A came first, OLOG A came 2nd, OLOG B came third.

Our Lady of Grace Netball Tournament @ Phillips High

ON Friday the 1 November the OLOG girls played an amazing netball tournament. We played against lots of different teams. They were all brilliant, including us! It was a fantastic experience we met lots of people we had never seen before & everyone had brilliant skills. The first game we played we WON 6 NIL GS and GA scored! We were already sweaty and then we were on again. We scored again. Then we had several chances and scored them all we really had a team full of goal scorers. The games felt so quick, we played swiftly throughout the whole game. After that, we all had a half an hour break. OLOG played a semi-final which we won and then we played St Bernadette's in the final. They were an amazing team and won. They deserved it, they played like professionals!

Christmas Fun!

The school Christmas post box will open on 2nd December. Please encourage your child/ren to put the initial letter of their friends' surnames on to avoid confusion (i.e. Tom C) and the class name. This helps avoid problems for the Year Six post team in their sorting office!

Finally, I am so excited to take the children to see Sleeping Beauty at Middleton Arena (starring Strictly Come Dancing's Karen Hauer as Carabosse!). Travelling on a coach with their school friends and enjoying the show together is an experience the children will really enjoy & remember. Thank you to everyone who has already paid for their child's place. If you have not yet managed to do so please try to do so next week (remember you can pay electronically).
NatWest - Our Lady of Grace RCP - Sort Code: 01-07-20 – Acc. Number: 09640134 (Ref. Child's name & class)

We have a great school and great children. Thanks for your help making it such a wonderful place to work.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Collins

Mr T. A. Collins.
Acting Headteacher
BA (Hons) NPQH

This is our school, let it be full of love, love of one another, love of life itself, but most of all, the love of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



“Our Lady of Grace is an outstanding Catholic Primary School” - RE Inspection
“Pupils enjoy belonging to this school community” - Ofsted Inspection

