



Our Lady's January 2025

## Headteacher's message



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! As we are still in January I'm sending you all my very best for the year ahead.

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas break, I'm sure it seems a distant memory now school is back in full swing.

It has been a wonderful start to 2025 in school. There have been lots to celebrate and lots of exciting events taking place and in the planning.

We are very excited for our first Young Voices event this week with year 5 and year 6 and Year 6 are also preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation in a few weeks time. Such wonderful blessings for our school community.

### **Jubilee Year**

We are officially in the year of Jubilee and we are Pilgrims of Hope!

This year there will be a lot of exciting events for the children to participate in to celebrate the Jubilee year. This began on January 24th when all schools nationally joined together to

launch the year of Jubilee. During this day we celebrated Mass, participated in a live stream from the diocese and held our own special jubilee launch assembly.

There will be an exciting day for the children in school on February 12th where we will be off timetable to take part in a special jubilee activity! Watch this space!

### **Welcome Mr O'Connor**

As you all know Mrs Copland will be leaving us in February.

Mr O'Connor has been appointed Deputy Headteacher of Our Lady's and will be joining us in April this year. Mr O'Connor has a wealth of experience and is currently working in a school in Aston. We look forward to him joining us and working with him. I'm sure you will all join me in making him feel welcome.

### **Mrs Flaherty**

Mrs Flaherty has been appointed as Assistant headteacher with a specific inclusion - she will replace Mrs Copland as SENDCO. She will also take on this new role from April.

Congratulations Mrs Flaherty!

### **Christmas Fundraising**

Thank you to our school association who worked hard to raise further funds for school over the Christmas period. The total raised was £1445.67.

There are lots of ideas about how we can spend this money to support our children including sun shades, ICT equipment and special treats!

### **Parents Evening**

Our Spring parents evenings will take place on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th March. You will receive information nearer the time to book an appointment to see your child's class teacher.

A number of parents have asked about seeing their child's work and books and therefore we will arrange an open evening where you can look at your child's work. More information will follow.

Thank you all for your continued support

*Best wishes,*

*Miss Cahill*

## A Word from Pope Francis



On Christmas Eve Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica. There are 4 Holy Doors in Rome that were all opened between Christmas and the Epiphany. These Holy Doors are opened every 25 years and show our way to grace and forgiveness through the Lord.

We cannot all visit Rome this year and therefore Bishops have designated Holy Doors in our local area and that we are invited to pilgrimage through. The Holy Door most local to us is St Chad's Cathedral. Please consider a pilgrimage to a Holy Door during this special jubilee year.

This year we are 'Pilgrims Of Hope' and therefore we are looking at where we can see, feel and experience hope within our daily lives.

We invite you to reflect:

- Who brings hope to your life?
- What makes you feel hopeful?
- How can you be a source of hope for others?



New Website!!!!



Our Lady's new website will be launching on Monday 27th January. The website address remains the same as does all the information you can find.

This is a new layout and website to align with our fellow MAC schools. We hope you like it!

<https://www.ourladys.bham.sch.uk/>

## Social Media



As you know we have our school 'X' account (previously twitter) and lots of you follow us to see what your child/ren and us as a school are doing.

However we have noticed less interaction in recent months. Therefore we would like to review our use of social media with yourselves so that it can be used to keep you informed about the learning in school as easily as possible.

Please could you complete this quick (2 mins - promise) form to let us know which social media you use most to inform our decision about our school's social media presence.

First 5 to complete this will win a little prize! Ready steady Go.....!

Thank you!

Social Media Form<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup><https://forms.office.com/e/NsiSR5hUdt>

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## Holiday requests / Leave in Term Time



Unfortunately, holidays in term time will not be authorised and could result in a referral to the Local Authority where further action may be taken. Children have missed a lot of learning during the pandemic, please only take holidays during the school breaks.

**There is updated guidance effective from 19th August that will have been sent to you - do have a look at the detail (summarised below):**

- Increase in fine - From £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days. From £120 to £160 after this 21 days.
- If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period, the notice will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at £80.
- Further unauthorised absences within a 3 year period may result in further more serious sanctions eg prosecution.

Thank you, we really appreciate your support in helping your children receive the best learning opportunities that they can.

During the 2023/24 academic year the Local Authority issued **37 fines** with an additional **2 cases going straight to court** (one for Leave in term time and one for School Attendance). 2024/2025 there have been **4 fines** issued for holidays in term time.

## Attendance



Attendance Period: 05/09/2024 to 24/1/2025

- Reception 93.5%
- Year 1 93.4%
- Year 2 92.6%
- Year 3 95.3%
- Year 4 92.8%
- Year 5 94.3%
- Year 6 96.5%

Whole school - 94.1%

Our whole school target is

96% attendance for your child means that your child will have missed **8 days of education!**  
Please remember attendance at school everyday is so important for your child's learning!



## Diary Dates



Wednesday 29th January - Year 5/ Year 6 Young voices event NEC

Friday 14th February - Break up for Half Term

Monday 24th February - Teacher Training Day school closed to pupils

Tuesday 25th February - School re-opens to Pupils and staff

Thursday 13th March - Year 1 trip to Ash End Farm

Tuesday 18th March - Year 3 First Reconciliation in Church

Thursday 20th March - Year 4 trip to Conkers

Friday 11th April - Breakup for Easter Holidays

Monday 28th April - School re-opens to pupils and staff

### **Inset days 2024-25**

- Monday 2nd September
- Tuesday 3rd September
- Friday 25th October
- Monday 24th February
- Monday 2nd June
- Monday 21st July