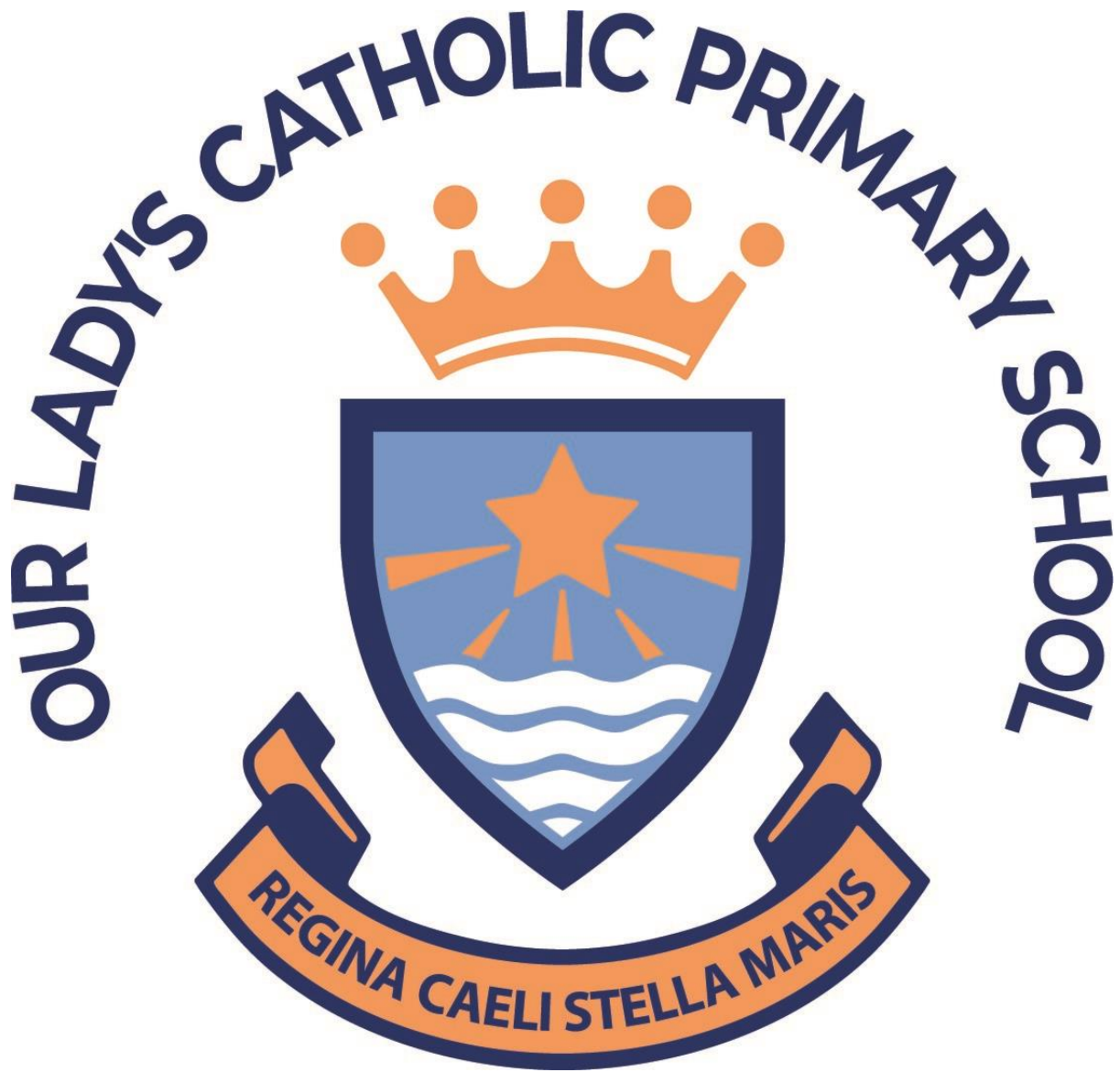




Our Lady's June 2026

A message from Miss Cahill

Faith and Trust in God

Dear Parents,

Happy June!

This half term has been a busy one for assessing children and completing statutory assessments like the Phonics screening check for year 1, Multiplication check in year 4 and assessing our Reception children against the early learning goals. This combined with the challenge of the extreme heat has made it a busy time in school.

Welcome

We welcome Mr Mansell to our staff team and school community. Mr Mansell is our new site supervisor - please do welcome him when you see him around our site.

Baby News

Miss Hughes wishes to share the wonderful news of the birth of her Baby boy - Alfie! We welcome Baby Alfie to the world and hope that his life will be blessed in a very special way. Mum and baby are both doing well.

School Association

Our school association have been busy organising the talent shows and our upcoming, and first ever, Summer Fair - please see below for more from the school association.

Summer Break

As we prepare for the final few weeks of the year we look ahead to the summer break and September - please see further down in the newsletter information regarding staffing for 2026 and when your child can meet their new teacher and see their new classroom.

Mrs Flaherty has decided to leave Our Lady's after 12 years here to spend more time with her own family and children. We wish Mrs Flaherty all the very best and we hope she will come back and visit us often. Over 12 years Mrs Flaherty has taught in Year 1, year 3 and year 6 as well as supporting school as inclusion lead for the last 12 months. Thank you Mrs Flaherty for being a wonderful blessing to our school community and may God bless and guide you in whatever you choose to do next.

The last day of the term is Friday 17th July. There will be an early collection option available as we usually offer at the end of each term. You can collect your child at either 1.30pm (gates open 1.25 - 1.40pm) or the normal time of 3.15pm.

Faith Events

This half term we have celebrated with year 3 as they have made their First Holy Communion. Each one of the them were a credit to their family and our school in how reverent and respectful they were when they received this sacrament for the first time - well done everyone. Thank you to all the family members who supported the children and were present during the mass to celebrate with them. Thank you to Mrs Parkar and Mrs Roper who have supported the children and prepared them for this very special day in their faith lives.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those who took the time to complete our most recent questionnaire. We really do value what you have to say. We know that we are not perfect (who is?) and therefore always strive to be better and the best we can be. We are sharing a summary of the responses and how we intend to move forward with your suggestions in this newsletter.

Sports Day

What a wonderful sports morning we had! Thank you to all the staff and the year 6 leaders who supported the children so well during the event. Thank you Ms Ryan for organising the sports day. Thank you to all the parents who came to cheer the children on and support - a special thank you to those who participated in the parents race - superstars!

In this Newsletter:

- Diary dates
- Staffing 2026 - 27
- School association information
- Parent questionnaire analysis
- Attendance
- Blue sky

- Healthy Lunchbox
- And of course.....a few words from Pope Leo :-)

Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Miss Cahill

Staffing 2026-2027



Reception Miss Clarke and Mrs Grantham

Year 1 Ms Ryan and Ms Smith

Year 2 Mrs Dumont and Miss Adney

Year 3 Mrs Parkar and Mrs Mann

Year 4 Miss Moss and Mrs Roper

Year 5 Miss Newey and Miss Locke

Year 6 Mrs Roberts and Mrs Duffy

Your child will have the chance to meet their new teacher on Tuesday 30th June.

Wedding bells!

In September I will be Mrs Miller following my wedding this summer - don't worry, I'll still answer to "Miss Cahill"... at least for the first few weeks while I remember to sign things properly!

Parent Questionnaire Summer 2026



Thank you to the 30 parents / families who completed our summer parent questionnaire. Please find below a summary of the results and school's response and where further action / work is planned.

Theme	Strengths	Improvements needed raised by parents	Schools response
Catholic Life of the School	Majority selected "Very strongly" / "Strongly" Parents value: • Weekly • Mass • Teaching of values (respect, kindness, compassion) • Children learning about Jesus and faith Comments highlight: "Strong values are presented and encouraged" "Catholic life is incorporated in all aspects" "Positive environment for children"	Very few concerns raised in this section (one linked to communication so that is referenced in the appropriate section)	It was lovely to read the wonderful comments from you all – Thank you.

Theme	Strengths	Improvements needed raised by parents	Schools response
Quality of Education & Achievement	High satisfaction levels: - Many responses: "Very satisfied" - Strong agreement that children are supported to achieve their best Positive feedback includes: "Teachers support students well" "Education is amazing" "Children learn new things they enjoy" Support for SEND noted positively in some cases: - ADHD/dyslexia support praised	Requests for: - More academic challenge / homework - More hands-on/interactive learning	We will review homework in readiness for the next academic year. To facilitate what parents have said we will schedule: - Weekly homework to include reading / phonics / maths and handwriting practise. - Half term creative challenge projects based on various curriculum areas

Theme	Strengths	Improvements needed raised by parents	Schools response
Support for Individual Needs & Wellbeing	Many parents feel: - Children are safe, happy, and supported - Staff are caring and approachable Positive comments: "My child feels safe and happy" "School supports learning and development well"	Some parents report: - Insufficient SEND support - Need for more attention to quieter children Health concern: - Child not sent home despite 39°C fever	SEND children have additional targets and support through their pupil passports as well as support from external agencies. We are not experts or specialists in SEND provision but we will always do our best to support and provide for every child and their varying needs. We are limited by the number of 'hours' support we have from external agencies – if we could get more we would. This was raised with us directly a few weeks ago by a parent and we now have a digital thermometer in every classroom so that when children say they are feeling unwell their temperature can be taken to ascertain severity. We will always keep children in school if we think they can manage but we will also contact you if we feel that that is warranted.

Theme	Strengths	Improvements needed raised by parents	Schools response
Communication with Parents	Many positive responses: "Very effective" - Parents feel comfortable approaching school Some teachers praised for: - Regular updates - Use of planners / apps	Communication is the most common issue raised Parents request more notice for: - Assemblies - Sports day - Trips Regular updates on: - Learning topics - Progress - Behaviour Issues with: Marvellous Me notifications One parents comment = "Terrible communication... I never know what is happening"	To support with this next academic year we will send out dates at the beginning of each term regarding assembly, mass and any trips that are already scheduled to try and support with this. Due to circumstances some may have to be arranged but we try to avoid this as much as possible. Marvellous me – we will contact them and see what is happening regarding app notifications. Meet the teacher meetings at the beginning of each term will be reintroduced in 2026-2027 to support with you knows the curriculum coverage for your child's year group. These happened previously but were cancelled due to lack of parental attendance and engagement with this. This parent commented that they are never kept informed of their child's progress. We hold 2 parents' evenings – one in Autumn and one in spring. If parents do not attend in person we do call to update regarding your child's progress but usually parents evening is well attended and so we know that parents are kept informed. You then receive the end of year report at the end of the summer term which also informs you of progress – any statutory assessment data is provided alongside these reports. Communication is key and we are constantly working to do the best we can – we send emails, monthly newsletters and display key information office and door windows.

Theme	Strengths	Improvements needed raised by parents	Schools response
Parental Engagement & School Life	Parents appreciate opportunities to attend: • Mass • Assemblies • Events • Community feeling of school	Attendance limited due to: • Short notice for events Parents want: • Better planning communication to allow attendance	To support with this next academic year, we will send out dates at the beginning of each term regarding assembly, mass and any trips that are already scheduled to try and support with this. One parent commented about short notice for Sports day however that date was in the May newsletter that was shared before half term.
Behaviour, Environment & Care	Positive comments: • "Children show respect" • "Good behaviour in school and at mass" • School seen as: Safe and respectful environment	Concerns raised about: • Monitoring behaviour of some pupils • Lunch time rushed • Playground safety (slippery surfaces, drainage)	Behaviour in school is very good. This is always a strength identified by our visitors to school. We have some children who do struggle with behaviour and this is being addressed with those children and their families. Our lunchtime is the longest in our Multi Academy company – 1 hour 5 mins for KS1 and 50 mins for KS2. The children have sufficient time to both eat and play. We recently had an observer in to observe lunchtime and they commented how wonderful the provision was for the children.
Breakfast Club	Positive feedback: • Helps children settle before school • Supports working families • Friendly staff • Children enjoy attending	One parent asked if breakfast club was suitable for children with allergies Minor suggestions: • Opening times • Availability	Yes! All allergies can be accommodated and we will work with you if your child has specific food allergies. We currently operate 7.30am – 5.30pm. This is reducing to 7.30am – 4.30pm next academic year due to very low numbers after 4.30pm.

Afterschool club September 2026



Following a thorough review of our after-school club provision over the past years, we have made the decision to **reduce the closing time from 5.30pm to 4:30pm**. This decision has been carefully considered in light of consistently low demand for the service beyond this time, which means it is no longer financially viable for us to extend provision further into the evening.

What this means:

- The After School Club will operate until **4:30pm only** from September 2026 onwards.
- This change applies to all pupils currently using the extended provision

This change has been jointly agreed by both our Governing Body and our Multi-Academy Company. The decision reflects our commitment to ensuring that the services we offer are sustainable and represent the best use of school resources.

Healthy Lunchbox

Healthy Lunchboxes at Our Lady's

To help support our pupils' wellbeing and encourage healthy eating habits, we kindly ask parents and carers to follow our lunchbox guidance. A balanced meal helps children stay focused, energised, and ready to learn throughout the school day.

Please avoid including the following items:

- **Fried crisps** Instead, consider healthier alternatives such as *baked* or *air-popped* options, **vegetable crisps**, rice cakes, or wholegrain crackers.
- **Chocolate bars or sweets**
- **Sandwiches with sweet fillings** such as chocolate spread or jam.

Healthy lunchbox ideas include:

- Fresh fruit or chopped veggie sticks
- Wholemeal sandwiches or wraps with savoury fillings (e.g., cheese, ham, tuna, hummus, or egg)
- Yogurt (low-sugar options preferred)
- Water/ low sugar juice or squash as the main drink

Attendance - New Ofsted Framework



Good attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success at school. Under the Ofsted 2025 framework, attendance remains a key indicator of a school's effectiveness, reflecting not only pupils' engagement with learning but also the strength of the partnership between home and school.

Children who attend regularly are more likely to achieve well academically, build strong friendships, and develop positive routines that support lifelong learning.

At present, our school attendance is below the national average, which places us in the 'needs attention' category. This is not where we want to be, and improving attendance is a shared responsibility between school and families.

We understand that children will sometimes be unwell. However, if a child is slightly under the weather but able to manage the school day, we encourage parents to send them in. Once in school, we will always monitor them and do everything we can to ensure they are comfortable and supported - we will only send them home if we feel it is absolutely necessary.

Often, children perk up once they are in a familiar routine with their friends. There have been occasions where parents are told by the child that they were more 'unwell' in school than they actually appeared. Our staff are considerate and kind and will always respond if they can see that a child is unwell and needs to go home. To further support with this we have purchased additional thermometers so that we can check children's temp and report this information to home as needed.

A significant factor affecting our current attendance is children being kept at home longer than necessary after minor illnesses, or being absent when it is not essential.

In addition, term-time holidays have a noticeable impact. While we appreciate the importance of family time, absence during term time means children miss valuable learning that cannot easily be replaced.

Every day in school truly counts.

Even a few days missed can make it harder for children to keep up with their work and can affect their confidence. Small gaps quickly add up over time.

We ask all parents and carers to support us by:

- Ensuring children attend school every day unless they are genuinely too unwell.
- Encouraging routines that promote punctuality and readiness for learning.
- Avoiding booking holidays during term time.
- Keeping absences to an absolute minimum.

By working together, we can improve our attendance, meet national expectations, and most importantly, give every child the best possible chance to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support.

A word from Pope Leo....



'Let technology serve humanity not replace it...'

POPE LEO XIV

Does technology serve you or have you let it take over your life?

Let's take a moment to remind ourselves that God has given us the world and we should do all we can to enjoy it and protect it!

Attendance



Attendance Period: 02/09/2025 to 19/06/2026

- Reception - 90.57%
- Year 1 - 91.79%
- Year 2 - 93.33%
- Year 3 - 92.94%
- Year 4 - 94.58%
- Year 5 - 92.06%
- Year 6 - 93.07%

None of our year groups are at, or close to, the targeted 96% attendance.

Whole school - 92.61%

Our whole school target is 96%

We have recently issued letters to families informing you of your child's attendance and making you aware if your child's attendance is becoming an issue.

96% is equivalent to missing 8 days of education across the year - it is vital that your children are here so that they can learn! Every day matters!

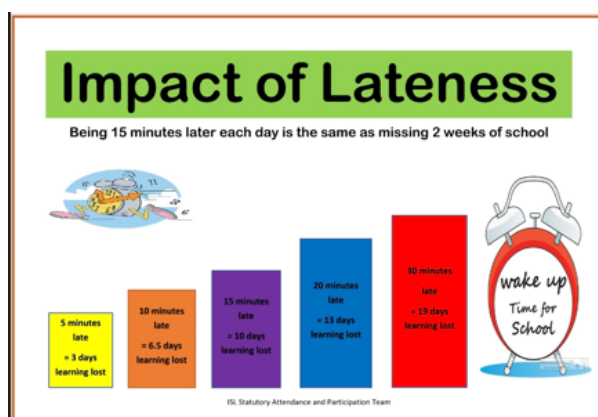
A child with 90% attendance at this stage of the year has missed approx 15 days of education already.

The children who are already at 80% attendance cannot now get out of being categorised as a persistent absentee.

Birmingham local authority ask us to follow very specific guidelines and procedures for attendance and this is what we are doing.

Please see the impact of late arrival to school. Please ensure your child is here between 8.35 and 8.45am so they are ready to start their learning with the rest of their class.

Being 15 mins late every day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school!



1 - Please see the impact of late arrival to school. Please ensure your child is here between 8.35 and 8.45am so they are ready to start their learning with the rest of their class.

Being 15 mins late every day is the same as missing 2 weeks of school!

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 2024 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.

2025/2026 there have been **34 fines** issued for holidays in term time.

Nut Free



A reminder that we are a **nut-free school** as we have children and staff with severe nut allergies. Please check ingredients of snacks and lunch items before you send them into school.

Blue Sky

Our new social media platform is 'BlueSky'. This is a very similar platform to X (Twitter).
<https://bsky.app/>

The app is free to download and register for an account.

Some of you expressed an interest for us to have an Instagram / Facebook presence - however we are unable to join this with our current email handles.

Please do have a look at the new BlueSky page for Our Lady's - there will be lots of updates so you can follow what we are up to daily :-> [@ourladystilecross.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/ourladystilecross.bsky.social)

Health and Safety



Earrings must be removed or covered with a plaster for PE lessons. This is to prevent injury during physical activity. Earrings should be small stud earrings only to comply with our school rules.

In the same way long hair should be always tied back for school and must be tied back for PE lessons or swimming.

Thank you for your understanding.

A reminder that any form of trainers are not correct school uniform shoes. Please ensure your child has school shoes to wear for school.

Walls outside of school

A number of children are standing on, climbing on the walls outside school - especially those by the St Giles gate entrance. This is a concern - parents please discourage your child from doing this. If you arrive at school before the gates are open remember we have access to our free breakfast club from 8.15am.

Diary Dates



25th May - 29th May Half Term holiday

Thurs 25th June - Yr6 Visit to Oscott College

Tues 30th June - Yr3 Bikeability (KS2 playground)

Yr6 Transition day 1 @ JHNCC

Home visits for new EYFS pupils

Wed 1st July - Yr3 Bikeability

Yr6 Transition day 2 @ JHNCC

Home visits for new EYFS pupils

Thurs 2nd July - Yr3 Bikeability

Breadmaking + Yr2 parents (Aspens)

Tues 7th July - New EYFS Stay and Play sessions

Fri 10th July - Summer Fayre 2pm - 4pm

Tues 14th July - New EYFS Orientation Session

Choir Trip to Symphony Hall

Wed 15th July - KS2 Disco 3.30pm - 4.30pm

Fri 17th July - Last day of the Summer Term

School Year 2025 to 2026

Summer Term 2026

Term starts: Monday 13 April 2026

Half-term: Monday 25 May 2026 to Friday 29 May 2026

Term ends: Monday 20 July 2026

Inset Days 2025/26 remaining:

- Monday 20th July

School Year 2026 to 2027

Autumn Term 2026

Term starts: Tuesday 1 September 2026

Half-term: Monday 26 October 2026 to Friday 30 October 2026

Term ends: Friday 18 December 2026

Spring Term 2027

Term starts: Monday 4 January 2027

Half-term: Monday 15 February 2027 to Friday 19 February 2027

Term ends: Thursday 25 March 2027

Summer Term 2027

Term starts: Monday 12 April 2027

Half-term: Monday 31 May 2027 to Friday 4 June 2027

Term ends: Wednesday 21 July 2027

INSET days 2026-27

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Monday 2nd November 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Friday 12th February 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

Monday 12th July 2027

child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.