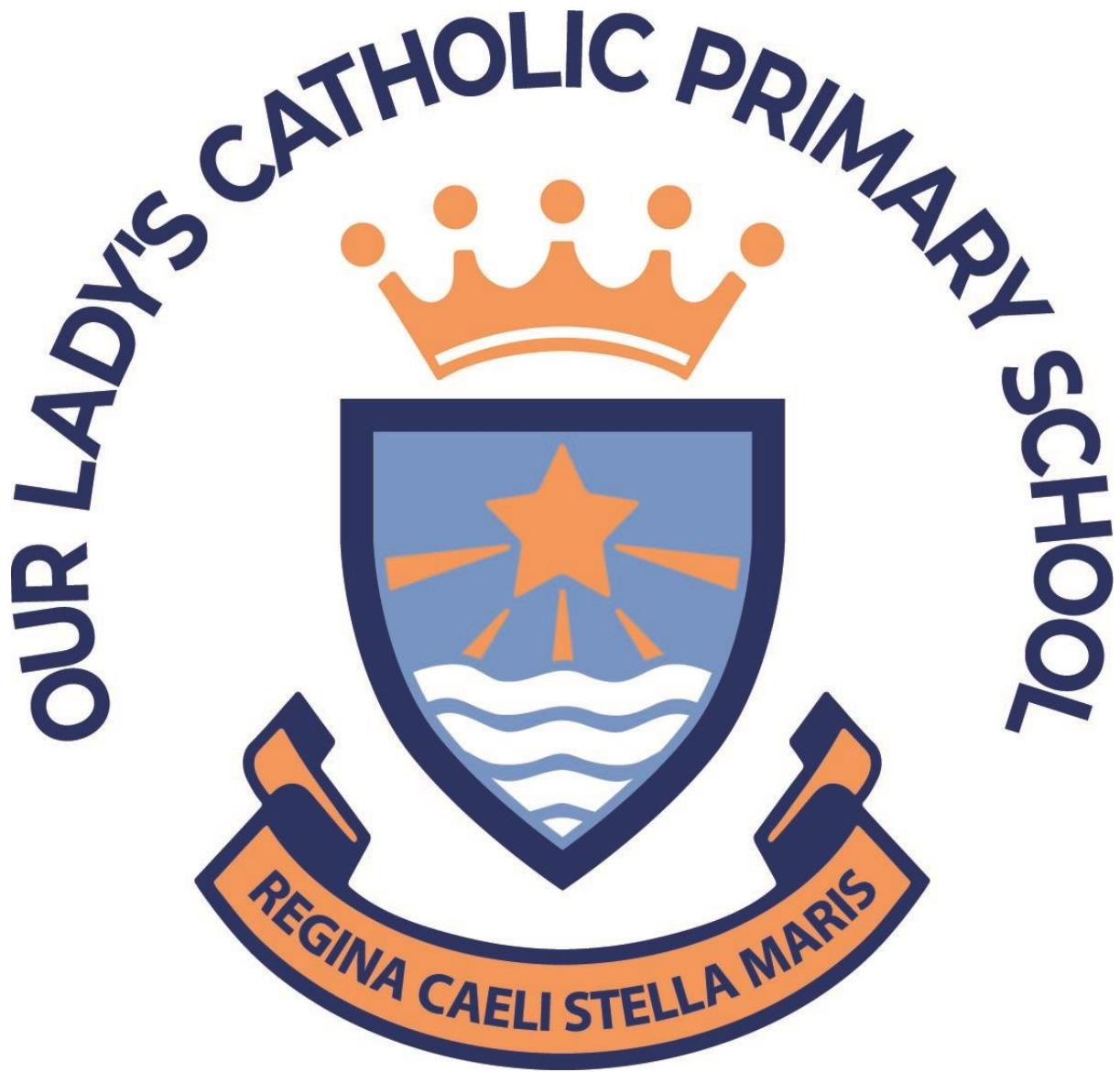




Our Lady's September 2026

A message from Mrs Miller



Dear Parents,

Welcome Back!!!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the 'ber' months of the year. These months are always filled with such joy as we start back at school and look forward to the wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas. (I've said the C word already!)

This is a slightly shorter newsletter just to say hello and welcome back. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school and to meet our new reception class of children.

Thank you for all your kind wishes both in July and now in September following my wedding over the summer. We had a wonderful day and certainly felt very blessed (especially as we managed to pick a day when it wasn't 40 degrees!).

Welcome

We welcome Mrs Winkett to our staff team and school community. Mrs Winkett is our new SENDCO and pastoral support. Please do say hello to her when you see her around. If you wish to speak with her she will be on the playground most mornings or you can make an appointment by contacting the school office.

Communication

As promised we are currently working on event sheet lists for each year group so that you know when all masses, assemblies, workshops and any meetings or trips are for your children this year. We do not want to sent out incorrect info or anything that's changed repeatedly so bear with us so we get these right.

To help you out this Friday 11th September is Year 6 class mass and next Friday 18th September is Year 5's mass.

Meet the teacher meetings

All year groups (Year 1 - 6) are also planning meet the teacher meetings which I encourage you to attend. These are so that you can find out the curriculum coverage for your child as well as year group specifics e.g. homework requirements / PE days etc. This is a direct response to what parents said they wanted so please support these.

Attendance

This is going to be a high priority for us again this year - attendance just cannot be as low and as poor as it was last year. This impacts all areas of school life for your child and once they have missed some aspects of the curriculum it's very tricky for them to catch up to the same standard - we all want your children to do their very best so they have to be here everyday.

The number of holidays taken in term time last year contributed greatly to our poor attendance - we know the cost is a consideration - we do understand that, however we are here to educate and if your child isn't here we can't do that!

We will also be working with CSAWs to support us with attendance this year. Therefore you may receive communication directly from them.

In this Newsletter:

- Diary dates
- Healthy lunchboxes + Nut-free information
- Bluesky - please follow us :-)

Thank you all for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Miller

Attendance



Attendance Period: 02/09/2026 to 7/09/2026 (4 school days)

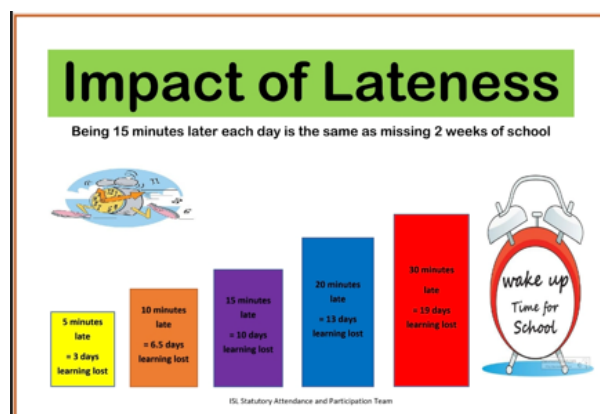
- Reception - 88.15%
- Year 1 - 93.53%
- Year 2 - **96.25%**
- Year 3 - **97.89%**
- Year 4 - 95.02%
- Year 5 - 93.27%
- Year 6 - **96.88%**

Whole school - 94.47%

Our whole school target is 96%

After 4 school days we already don't have a single year group with 100% attendance. and 3 year groups are already below our 96% attendance.

If your child has already had a day off this year you will receive a phone call from our CSAWs worker Ms Harris.



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!

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

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).

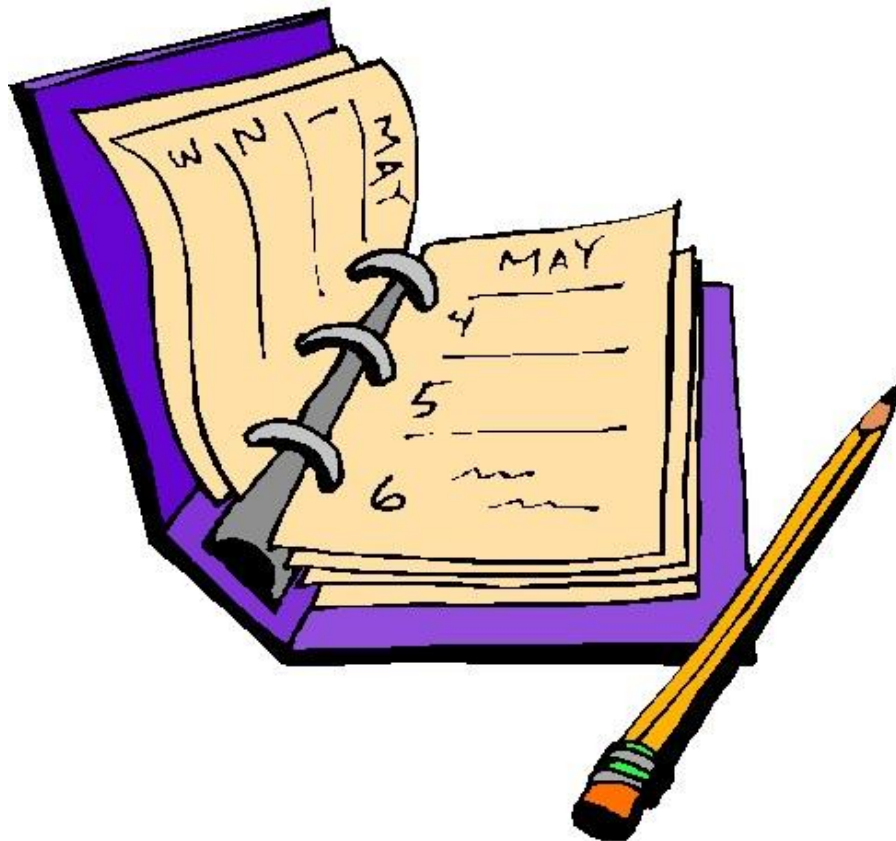
<https://bsky.app/>

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)

Diary Dates



Tues 8th Sept - Year 2 - Meet the Teacher @ 3pm

Year 6 - Meet the Teacher @ 2.45pm

Wed 16th Sept - Year 3 - Meet the Teacher @9am

Wed 7th Oct - Individual school photo's - school Photographer in school

Thurs 8th Oct - Flu Vaccinations

Fri 23rd Oct - Break up for Half Term

Mon 26th Oct - Fri 30th Oct - School closed for Half term

Mon 2nd Nov - Teacher Training Day - school closed for pupils

Tues 3rd Nov - School re-opens to pupils/staff

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



Advice and guidance

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