



OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

'We Learn, Love and Grow through Christ'

Core Purpose – Mission Statement



Headteacher: Miss K. Coll
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Etheridge

NOVEMBER 2023

www.visitation.ealing.sch.uk

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A Prayer for Remembrance

Lord,
If I ever "build walls", cutting
people off or isolating myself
from the needs of others, alert
me to what I am doing.

Open my eyes to see what
unites people rather than what
divides us.

Show me how to be inclusive
and build bridges between
people instead of being
exclusive and putting up walls
that divide.

Amen

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS



AUTUMN TERM

Advent Liturgy (Infants only)

Wednesday 29th November
9.15am

Carols with Cardinal Wiseman

Monday 4th December 6pm

Reconciliation Service Year 4 – 6

Friday 8th December

Junior Carol Service

Wednesday 13th December-2pm

Thursday 14th December- 6pm

**School Mass – Sunday 12th
November at 12pm**

**School Mass – Sunday 10th
December at 12pm**



Today we marked Remembrance Day with a minutes silence at 11am to show our respect and appreciation to those men and women who have fought in wars across the world to bring PEACE to our nations. We especially remember those who are in conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East. May a resolution be reached soon.

We marked Remembrance Day, listening to the Last Post. We are so lucky to have this opportunity. Thank you to Sean Kelly for playing for us.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK takes place nationally next week, the 13th November. The children will be doing additional activities around bullying, what it is and how we can get help for ourselves and our friends. You may find that during this time the children will talk more about bullying. If you have any concerns as a result of anti-bullying week please make sure you speak with the class teacher.

TERM DATES: The 2024-2025 term dates are now available on the school website.

Diary Dates

Monday 20th - Friday 24th November –
School Book Fair

Wednesday 22nd November –
Reception - Year 6 Nasal Flu
Immunisations

Saturday 25th November – Parish
Christmas Bazaar

Friday 1st December – 8.45am Coffee
Morning in the hall

Monday 4th December – Carols with
Cardinal Wiseman 6pm in the Church

Thursday 7th December – Christmas
Panto for Reception and Nursery

Friday 8th December – Christmas Panto
for Year 1- 6 and Christmas lunch and
Christmas Jumper Day for the whole
school

Wednesday 13th December – Junior
Carol Service 2pm

Thursday 14th December – Junior Carol
Service 6pm

Wednesday 20th December – Last Day
of Term for Afternoon Nursery

Thursday 21st December – Last Day of
Term for the Christmas Holiday (School
finishes at 1.30pm)

Tuesday 9th January – School re-opens
for the Spring Term

CHILDREN IN NEED: On Friday 17th November we will be supporting Children in Need.



Children are invited to wear their pyjamas to school. This is an event that children love. There is an **optional donation of £1 per family** that will be sent to Children in Need. Donations will be collected at the school gate.

Pyjamas should be warm and children should wear underwear and possibly a t-shirt under their pyjamas. Children may wear plimsolls or trainers but not slippers. Children from Nursery to Year 2 are asked NOT to wear Onesies as these cause difficulties when they go to the toilet.

If you don't have warm pyjamas children may wear their PE Kit.

BIRTHDAYS: We celebrate every child's birthday at our Friday Praise Assembly where we sing Happy Birthday to the children who have had a birthday that week.

We are a healthy school and as such we encourage healthy eating habits. A number of years ago we agreed with parents that we would no longer bring in sweets for birthdays. We are not being mean, we are considering the healthy options for children.

If you would like to bring in a treat please consider a class book or fruit to share.

CHRISTMAS: We are fast approaching the Christmas season and we want to ensure you have sufficient notice of activities.

The **Christmas Panto** for Year 1- 6 will be on Friday 8th December and Nursery and Reception's Panto will be on Thursday 7th December. This will be a live show. Each child is asked to contribute £1. **Christmas lunch and Jumper day** will also be on Friday 8th December. We are expecting a pre-Christmas day full of fun and frivolity.



CHRISTMAS PLAYS: The year group nativity plays will be at the following times:

Nursery – Wednesday 6th December
11.00am and 2.30pm

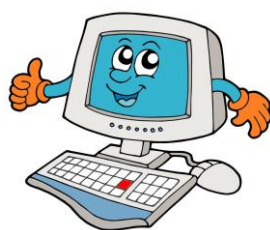
Reception – Monday 11th December
9.30am

Year 1 – Wednesday 13th December
9.30am

Year 2 – Monday 4th December 9.30am

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE:

Placing your computer or laptop in a busy part of the house e.g. the living room or kitchen can be helpful. This can make it easier for you to be involved in their technology use.



PARENT HELPERS: Do you have a DBS and would you be available during the day to help with your child's class, in their DT lessons.

This will be the week beginning 27th November for 3 – 4 weeks. The timetable is as follows.

Year 1 – Friday morning

Year 2 - Monday afternoon

Year 3 – Tuesday afternoon

Year 4 – Thursday afternoon

Year 5 – Thursday morning

Year 6 – Friday afternoon

If you are able to help please message your child's class teacher on ClassDojo.



THE NEXT COFFEE MORNING will be on Friday 1st December at 8.45am. Please bring donations of cakes/biscuits on Thursday 30th November.

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE: The school is now registered to receive payments through Tax-Free Childcare.

You can use this to make payments for Breakfast Club and the Nursery Lunch wraparound charge **only**.

For more information please see the information at the end of the newsletter.

POP-UP CHRISTMAS SHOP: The Mini Vinnies and Prayer Leaders are delighted to announce that they are busy preparing a Pop-up Christmas Shop for your child to independently buy a present for a member of your family.

We are asking for donations of any unwanted/unused gifts that are still in their original packaging (soap, socks, costume jewellery, candle etc...). These can be dropped into school from the week beginning 27th November. We will have a box near the blue gate at drop off and home time.

Money raised will go towards supporting the homeless in our Parish, more information to follow shortly.



SCHOOL BOOK FAIR: Scholastic Book Fair is coming to OLOV on Monday 20th November until Friday 24th November!!! It's an exciting time to buy a new book or two to read at home for pleasure. Every book bought helps fill our school library and classrooms with new FREE books, so make sure you don't miss out! Come to the Book Fair after school as a new adventure is awaiting for you to dive into!!!



CARE HOME VISIT: On Monday 6th November, the Mini Vinnies and Prayer Leaders visited Elm Lodge Care Home. During the visit they played games and made loom band bracelets with the residents. The children also gave the residents cards they had made at school. They will be going again in December to sing Christmas carols and give Christmas cards to the residents. Thank you to the parent helpers who accompanied us.



DENTAL HEALTH: At the end of last Half Term, Dental Health Nurse Adele engaged the Nursery children in an enlightening session about oral health. Her visit was a mix of education and fun, using interactive tools and a story to help explain the significance of maintaining sparkling smiles. Adele made learning about teeth brushing and healthy eating an enjoyable adventure for the children, which left a lasting impression, inspiring the children to take better care of their teeth.



YEAR 5 SCIENCE MUSEUM TRIP: On Thursday 2nd November, Year 5 went to the Science Museum as they are currently answering their BIG question, 'What's out there?' The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip which included time in the Wonderlab, testing out different forces, and in the IMAX theatre. A fantastic science-filled day had by all!

"I really liked the slides in the Wonderlab and the 'Beautiful Planet' film in the IMAX cinema. In the Wonderlab, I watched one of the lab explainers explain how the Earth rotates. We also pulled on a rope to lift our bodies up and the force let us go down. It was a fun challenge."



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES



THE FELIX PROJECT: This is a charity that is set up to reduce the amount of food that goes to landfill. The food is donated by large companies such as M & S, Ocado and Hello Fresh that have produce that is near its sell by date.

We are working with the Parish to ensure that this food is distributed to **ALL members of our school and parish community**. The food will be distributed every **Saturday morning at 11am** from the room next to the Old Church Hall, in the car park. Please come and help yourself.

TAKING PHOTOGRAPHS IN SCHOOL: Following the DfE's recommendations on keeping children safe and the sharing of images, we are introducing a new policy around taking photos and videos in school. Parents/carers will no longer be permitted to take videos or photographs of Christmas plays, school trips and any other school event. Staff will take photos which will be uploaded onto the website for you to view. Please be respectful of this new policy.



WINTER UNIFORM: All children should now be wearing their winter uniform. That is a shirt and tie and school jumper (not sweatshirt). Please do not put children in a polo shirt and tie. Tights must be blue not black.

LOST PROPERTY: A number of children have lost jumpers which have been labelled. Please check your child's uniform. If you have a jumper with someone else's name please return it to school.

DROPPING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL: You must ensure children especially those in year 4 and younger, are brought to the school gate and not left at the car park to walk in themselves.

PUNCTUALITY: We have a new signing in system which all children are registered on. If your child is late you will need to register them using the new system. It is very simple to use. Just select pupil and type in their name. There will be absolutely **NO SMOKING** on the school premises including vaping.

SPORTS NEWS

We took 2 teams to compete in the **Borough Netball Competition** and both teams finished with silver medals - so well done to everyone.

Each team played 5 competitive matches. Player of the Match for the A team was Zach and for the B team it was Keelan.



We competed in the **Borough Girls Football competition**. We played 2 league matches which we lost, but finished with a win in a friendly match. Nicola was Captain and Liliana was our highest scorer. We have Girls Football at break and lunchtime every Friday.



Our **Y5 Playground Leaders** have completed their training and now give one lunchbreak a week to playing with the younger pupils. They are easily identifiable in the high vis bibs. This is another step in being good citizens for our school.



Catholic Women's League



'Caring With Love'

We are looking to start a new section of a worldwide charitable organisation here at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish called the Catholic Women's League.

The Catholic Women's League at OLOV will be an opportunity for women of all ages to become part of a group united in faith, friendship and love, where members will use, share and develop their talents with others during our monthly meetings.

It will be for all women in our parish who would like to get together monthly (usually the 1st Monday of the month), to share faith, skills, friendship, company, support and laughter.

Please join us for mulled wine and mince pies at our first meeting.

On – MONDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2023

At – 6.30 – 8.00PM

In – THE VINCENT PALLOTTI ROOM (Parish Centre).

CWL Committee Members – Kayla, Anna, Claire, Terry & Natalia.

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Childcare
Choices

Tax-Free Childcare

Our Lady of the Visitation is now registered to receive payments through Tax-Free Childcare.

You can use this to make payments for Breakfast Club and the Nursery Lunch wraparound charge only.

Tax-Free Childcare is a Government scheme to help working families with their childcare costs. The scheme will be available for children under 12 years old (under 17 years old for disabled children) and can be used to contribute towards approved childcare.

How do parents sign up?

Applications can be made online to check if you are eligible by visiting: <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>. If you are eligible, parents will be able to open an online account through the Government website, just like a bank account. The account can then be used to pay in money to use towards your childcare costs with a childcare provider who has also registered for the scheme.

Grandparents, other family members and employers will also be able to pay into the account if they choose.

To find out about all the government's childcare offers visit the Childcare Choices website:

<https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/>