



Headteacher: Miss K. Coll

Date: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

[www.visitation.ealing.sch.uk](http://www.visitation.ealing.sch.uk)

Tel: 020 8575 5344

### Prayer for the day



Father of love, hear my prayer.  
Help me to know Your Will  
and to do it with courage and  
faith.

Accept my offering of myself,  
all my thoughts, words, deeds,  
and sufferings. May my life be  
spent giving You glory.

Give me the strength to follow  
Your call, so that Your Truth may  
live in my heart and bring **PEACE**  
to me and to those I meet, for I  
believe in Your Love.



### **WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL**

**YEAR:** We have had a fantastic start to the new school year. A huge thank you to all parents/carers for your support in helping the children to settle back into the school routines. There is a calmness throughout the school with staff and pupils all working extremely hard.

It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm with which every child returned to school. They were so excited to see their friends and get to know their new teachers.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the many new families who have joined us this term. I hope you find us to be the welcoming and supportive community that we strive to be. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

If you need any advice, or are not sure of something please contact the school office or your child's class teacher. There is always someone here to help.

**THANK YOU:** On behalf of myself and the staff I would like to thank you for all your warm wishes and gifts at the end of the school year. As always there was an overwhelming and humbling show of thanks for what we do. I am just sorry that I cannot thank you all personally.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Kazimirowicz (Site Manager) and his team of cleaners for preparing the school for the new school year. Everywhere is sparkling and clean.

**EXPECTATIONS:** We have had many conversations with the children about our expectations of them this year. This includes their behaviour, their uniform, as well as their effort in class. You have chosen this school for your child because of our high expectations. Therefore, it is important that you support your child to follow the school rules. This includes wearing the correct uniform.

All our expectations have been shared with you during the Headteacher Information Meeting. A copy of the PowerPoint is on the website in Parents' Information / Letters. We ask you to reinforce these messages at home.

**TEACHING ROAD SAFETY:** This week I was driving back to school, after a meeting, at around 3.30pm. I was shocked to see parents crossing Greenford Broadway, a very dangerous junction, when the traffic person was still red. One family was narrowly missed by a bus who had to sound his horn very loudly to avoid hitting them. Another family ran across the road in front of my car 10 metres from the crossing and had to stop in the middle of the road to avoid a van coming in the opposite direction. In a few years your children will be in year 6, walking home on their own, or in year 8 collecting younger siblings. They will not know how to cross the road safely if you do not teach them. We teach road safety in school but adults need to set a good example.

**INFORMATION MEETINGS:** Thank you to all parents who attended the information meetings. These were quite well attended. The power points will be saved on the website in your year group folder.

**WELCOME MASS:** Thank you to everyone who helped organise the Welcome Mass this week and to all the parents/guardians who were able to attend. I'm sure you would all like to join me in congratulating the children on their impeccable behaviour.

### LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS



### AUTUMN TERM

#### **HOLY ROSARY in the Church at 9am**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October - Year 6

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October - Year 5

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October - Year 4

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Year 3

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October - **Harvest**

**Liturgies - In school** (Infants at 9.30am and Juniors at 10.00am)

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October - **Family of God (All Saints) 9.30am**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December - **Advent Liturgy- In school** (9.30am Infants 10am Juniors)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – **Carols with Cardinal Wiseman Choir**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December –

**Reconciliation Service – Year 4 - 6**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December- **Junior Carol Service** - 6pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December- **Junior Carol Service** - 2.00pm



As a school we welcome all parents to be part of our community and work in partnership with the school to enhance the educational experiences of your children. One of the ways we do this is through our parent groups who arrange regular coffee mornings and events for parents so that you can get to know staff and parents within our community. However, being a part of these groups and supporting events enable us to organise more events for both parents and children.

Last night we had our first meeting of the FRIENDS OF THE VISITATION (FOTV). We like to think of everyone as a 'friend'. Thank you to the six parents who attended that meeting. We had a good discussion about how the 'friends' can support the school and have arranged some fun events for the children. In the past we have had a few parents complain about the events organised. The parents who organise these events give up their time for the good of all the children. **Please do not complain unless you are willing to attend meetings and put across your point of view.**

One of the complaints I have listened to year after year is regarding the 'Monsters Ball'. The parent survey was 59.2% in favour of a 'Fancy Dress Party' and 40.8% in favour of the 'Monsters Ball'. We have listened to the majority and this year there will be no Monsters Ball.

We are also updating our class parent representatives. We are grateful to all parents who have taken on this role in the past and would really like you to continue. However we would like this role to be more linked to the FOTV and will be sending out application forms

in the next few weeks. Please support the school by applying for this role or getting more involved with the FOTV and helping with events.

## **HELP YOUR CHILD BY HELPING THE SCHOOL**

### **FOTV Fundraising Events**

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Bingo Night

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November – Winter Ball

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Valentine's Ball

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Bingo Night

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Colour Run

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July – Funday Sunday

### **ATTENDANCE MATTERS:**

This week I met with the Local Authority Attendance Officer. We have set a target of 96.5%, 1% higher than this year's attendance of 95.5%. I have set the children a challenge of regaining our title of the school in the local authority with the highest attendance. This means we are aiming for at least 97%. Apart from the 40 children who missed the first day of school, attendance has improved compared to this time last year. Well done and keep it up. Let's work together to make sure that all our children receive the education they deserve by coming to school every day.

**Please see below our attendance to date this year.**

Nursery – 91.7%  
Reception – 96.9%  
Year 1 – 96.7%  
Year 2 – 96.4%  
Year 3 – 98.9%  
Year 4 – 96.7%  
Year 5 – 95.4%  
Year 6 – 96.9%

## HOW OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION IS BECOMING GREENER

We are delighted to announce that Our Lady of the Visitation has **qualified as one of three schools in Ealing** to be part of the **Sustainability Managers for Schools (“SMS”) programme for the 2024/25 academic year**. The school will benefit from a dedicated Sustainability Manager at no cost to the school. Rachel Warren will be our new Sustainability Manager and will work alongside Claire Rice to help the school **save money, develop green skills and apply for eco-project funding**.

The SMS programme first learns more about the school by calculating our **carbon footprint**, forming a weekly **pupil eco-group** and running **surveys** with staff, pupils and families. With this information the school will agree a **Climate Action Plan** to give us a clear eco-strategy.

The pupil eco-group will **help to shape the school’s Climate Action Plan and secure the brilliant Eco-Schools award**. We’ve had an incredible number of pupils apply to be part of the Eco-Group which starts next week. Reminder Eco-Group pupil families should return the media permission forms by 27<sup>th</sup> September.

Eco-Group pupils will **learn about sustainability and how to create and manage schoolwide eco-projects**. We look forward to seeing how these young people **develop their ideas and build a more sustainable future for themselves and their community**.

The learnings of the programme will be **shared with the Department for Education, local and national government** to progress UK schools’ contribution to net zero targets.

### How YOU can help!

Please spend **2 minutes** completing this very short 6 question survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/JM22s2dbb6>  
(We’ll be asking you again at the end of the Summer Term to see whether there have been any changes.)

### Want to know more?

We look forward to updating you with the school’s progress. Please email [RachelWarren@sustainabilitymanagersforschools.org](mailto:RachelWarren@sustainabilitymanagersforschools.org) if you have any thoughts or questions about the programme.

- For more information about the Programme please visit: [www.sustainabilitymanagersforschools.org](http://www.sustainabilitymanagersforschools.org)
- Follow SMS on Instagram to discover what the pupils are achieving: @smsmakingadifference

To learn more about Eco-Schools award please visit: [www.eco-schools.org.uk](http://www.eco-schools.org.uk)

## **SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP – SEPTEMBER 2024**

We are delighted to share that Our Lady of the Visitation School has achieved the highest award for the Sports Games Mark – we are now a Platinum award holder. The new logo will be used on our letter-headings and website. We have a busy schedule of sports competitions and festivals for pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 that run throughout the year. We also provide a range of additional sports clubs for pupils in Years 1 - 6: Football (BFC) and Tennis (Get set for Tennis) , and Athletics, Team up- Girls only and Active Me for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6.

6 pupils from Year 6 were invited to a Sports Activity morning at St Benedicts where they practiced Tag-Rugby, Tag-Netball, Cricket and Fencing. Many thanks to Miss Benjamin and our Parent Helper for taking them. It was an enjoyable and interesting experience.

### **OLYMPIC SUCCESS**

Many of you have followed the progress of 1500m runner Georgia Bell, whose mother Mrs Bell is our PE & Sport Lead.

Georgia was a very successful junior athlete with ESM who are based at Perivale Track, and won the English Schools 800m record, British Universities and U23. She went on to a Sports Scholarship in the USA, but gave up running when she graduated.

In a rare good story from Covid times - only being able to go out for exercise got her back running and over the last 3 years she has surpassed her greatest hopes: in 2023 she won the World Championships Duathlon (10k run, 44k cycle, 5k run) and then having re-joined her coach Trevor Painter she won GB titles indoor and outdoor at 1500m, European Silver and at the Olympics in Paris this summer - the bronze medal.

If you haven't seen it, do look it up as it is such an exciting race - Georgia's time of 3.52.61 is the new British National record. The Staff and Pupils at school and the Clergy are thrilled at her results and look forward to meeting and congratulating her when she visits us here later this year.



**WE ARE ALL TEAM VISITATION!**