Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

Newsletter March 2026

Faith, Love, Learning

Headteacher's Message

During these times of uncertainty and challenge for many of our families, it is important that we are reminded that not only is Easter the foundation of our faith, but it is an invigorator of our hopes. We catch sight of the new life in Christ which his death and resurrection holds out to us and to the world. This hope was beautifully shared with the school and parents in Year 4's Easter Service. The singing, dancing and readings reminded us of the sacrifice of Good Friday and the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all the children and the Year 4 team for all their hard work in producing such a reverential service.

This has been another busy term. Year 1 and Year 5 have explored the local area on their geography walks. Year 6 visited the Imperial War Museum in relation to their history topic. Parents helped Year 5 with their food technology, Reception with their Easter crafts and watched Year 3 erupt their volcanoes. Thank you for your continued support at these events. It means so much for the children to be able to share their work and achievements with you.

The Lenten sponsor event was another great success. Miss Crew, Miss Glennon, Mrs Middleton and the premises staff decorated the playground with bunting and balloons so that the children had a really memorable experience. The money raised will be used to purchase new RE resources for the school.

Thank you once again to the PA who have been busy once again running the Mother's Day sale and helping with the Book Fair. An Easter gift will be going home with the children this week from the PA. The money raised from these events pays for valuable resources and opportunities for the children. As budgets become more and more constrained, the additional money from these events allows us to enrich the curriculum with Ipads and a music specialist which we otherwise could not afford.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for their continued support and wish you a very happy and holy Easter.
Mrs Byrne

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you very much to all of the children, parents and grandparents who supported the Book Fair in March. The school raised £ 745.44 and have received rewards worth £298.18 to be spent on new books for the school.
Thank you very much for your support.

Nursery News

The nursery children have enjoyed continuing to learn about traditional tales. This half term we have read Goldilocks and the three bears, Little Red Riding Hood, the three Billy Goats Gruff, and more. We have enjoyed learning about spring and observing the changes that are happening around our school including daffodils growing and blossom on the trees. We have planted grass seeds for the Billy Goats and our own beanstalks, like Jack! It has been a lovely opportunity for the children to explore growing and change. The children have continued to learn the Jolly Phonics sounds and are now beginning to hear the initial sound in words and group objects by initial sound. We are very proud of all of the children's achievements this term and wish them all a lovely Easter holiday.

Mrs Hall

Reception News

This half term we have been learning about 'People who help us'. Each week we have focused on a different profession and learnt about the different jobs that they do to help us. The children have enjoyed role-playing the different professions of police officers, medical professionals and fire fighters. We have also discussed many of the other people who help us in our community.

As part of the science curriculum, we have also been learning about the changes that take place in Spring. We had to wait until recently to take our Spring walk around the school as we wanted to wait until the sun put in an appearance and the trees had time to blossom fully. The children have enjoyed telling us about the signs of Spring that they have noticed during their walks exploring the local area. We finished the term by learning about Easter and planting Easter gardens.

Ms Evans and Miss Keenan

Year 1 News

Year 1 have had an exciting half term. They have read stories about London such as Paddington, Katie in London and The King's Hats. The children worked hard to include adjectives in their descriptive writing. We have prepared for Easter by understanding the events of Holy Week and reflectively taken part in the Children's Stations of the Cross in school. The CRIBS team provided a creative way for us to remember the events of Holy Week.

In science, the children learned that animals can be grouped based on whether they are mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish or birds or according to their diets; carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. The children enjoyed learning about and holding the animals that came into school to visit them. In maths, we have learned to measure length using centimetres, as well as compare weight, mass, and volume. The children made incredible windmills to evidence building a structure and in geography have been comparing living in the U.K to living in Shanghai in China. The children wrote questions to children at a school in China and are awaiting their replies.

The children looked amazing in their world book day costumes and we thank you for all your support this term. We wish all our parents and children a happy Easter and a restful holiday.
Miss Creed, Mrs Pinto and Miss Ives

Year 2 News

It's been a short but busy half term in Year 2!

In English, we have enjoyed reading the children's classic, The Secret Garden and having the opportunity to create secret gardens of our own.

In Geography, the children have learnt about amazing places including famous landmarks around the world and the five oceans.

They have studied maps in Art and have used a variety of techniques including printing to create maps of their own.

The children were delighted to have the opportunity to celebrate Mother's Day by making flower arrangements for their mums. We hope that you enjoyed them!

In Science, we have learnt about human and animal life cycles, what living things need to survive and how to keep our bodies healthy.

As we approach Holy Week, we have been remembering the Easter Story and visited Our Lady of the Rosary Church to pray the Stations of the Cross.
We would like to take this opportunity to wish the Year 2 families a happy and peaceful Easter and look forward to seeing you again in the summer term!

Miss Crew and Miss Galvin

Year 3 News

It's been a busy in Year 3 and we are so proud of the children's hard work across all subjects.

In Science, we've been exploring the world of light and shadow. The children have been investigating how shadows are formed and how they change size when the light source moves. In Geography, we've been researching where and why volcanoes form, looking closely at tectonic plates and the "Ring of Fire."

Our English lessons have been inspired by Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox. The class showed off their persuasive skills by writing speeches from the perspective of Mr Fox and have written letters as the grumpy farmers, Boggis, Bunce and Bean.

In Maths, we have been getting hands-on with mass and capacity, learning how to measure grams, kilograms, millilitres and litres with great accuracy. Meanwhile, in French, we've been broadening our vocabulary by learning the names of different fruits - fantastique!

We are so impressed with the progress everyone is making. We hope you have a restful break. Happy Easter and well-done Year 3!

Miss Greally and Miss Glennon

Year 4 News

This half term the children have enjoyed learning all about sound with some very practical Science activities and experiments. They have explored sound vibrations, waves, pitch and volume. The children have enjoyed exploring why rainforests are important to us in Geography. They have located rainforests on a world map, explored the different layers of the Amazon rainforest and looked at the lives of indigenous tribes. They have also explored how the rainforest is changing and how we can help combat these changes. The children have enjoyed mixing paint in Art to create different tints and shades when painting their own compositions. We have also enjoyed having the opportunity to be taught hymns by a singing specialist and perform our very special Easter Service to our parents.

The children all deserve a well-earned break after all of their hard work this term. We hope you all enjoy your Easter holidays and look forward to welcoming the children back ready for the summer term.
Mrs Hamilton and Miss Simmons

Year 5 News

This term has been a busy but fun one for Year 5. We have been investigating life in The Alps, using iPads to research, went to our local areas, The Oval, to conduct fieldwork. We asked the public about leisure and facilities then compared this research with the Alps.

In English, we have been analysing different short stories and having a go at writing our own.

In RE, we have been learning about the significance of the Eucharist and the words the priest says during different parts of the mass. We have enjoyed personalising the prayers.

In Maths, we have covered Perimeter and Area of rectangles and compound shapes.
We are looking forward to a well-deserved Easter break.
Mrs Everett and Miss Tomlinson

Year 6 News

In Year 6, the children have been enjoying their class text, 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. They have used it to write many pieces of extended writing, including a diary entry, a letter, a character description, and a new story opening. We have been so impressed with their fantastic writing skills.

In Science, we have been learning all about Energy - circuits, batteries and switches. The children learnt about components in a series circuit [including a buzzer and motor]. They have explored the conventions of drawing circuit diagrams, including the recognised symbols for common components and using straight lines. They have also experimented with voltage and how it can be changed to affect bulb brightness.

We have begun our History topic: What was the impact of World War 2 on the people of Britain? As a year group we visited the Imperial War Museum in London, where the children worked in group to follow a self led tour. They had to look at the exhibits carefully in order to be able to answer set questions. The children thoroughly enjoyed walking through the trench, trying on uniform and finding out if they were eligible to join the Army!

Miss Doughty and Mrs Evans

JRSO

The Junior Road Safety Officers have continued to work hard this term. They have been collecting data weekly from all the classes in the school to see how many children are walking to school and announcing the winner from each key stage in assembly. The JRSO's would like to take this opportunity to remind all the children to 'keep safe and be seen' during the holidays and remember to do the ABC bike check before going on bike rides. Safety information can be found on the 'Brake website'.

Mrs Hall

NURSERY – SEPTEMBER 2026

We still have some spaces for our Nursery for September 2026.
We can offer from **one** of the following options:

·30 hours funded care plus lunch (8.30am –2.30pm)
·15 hours funded care (5 mornings per week –8.30am –11.30am)

Please contact the School Office for further details.

Considerate Parking

The increasing number of cars outside school at the beginning and end of the day is a common issue for the majority of schools in the country. We encourage families to walk to school wherever possible and politely request that parents and visitors to the school park in surrounding roads with thought and consideration for the children, other adults and the local community. Please remember the restrictions in place and do not park in an obstructive manner.

Please think before you park!

- Walk to school if you can.
- If you have to come by car, observe the traffic regulations and park safely a short distance from the school to avoid congestion near to the school so that children can cross safely.
- Do not park, or wait, on the yellow 'KEEP CLEAR' markings. These markings are self-explanatory and are there to keep children safe.
- Do not block other people's driveways with your vehicle. This is classed as an unnecessary obstruction and could result in your vehicle being ticketed and even removed.
- Do not park blocking dropped kerbs. These are in place to allow access to wheelchairs/prams. Blocking these will result in your vehicle being ticketed.

The safety of the children is our priority. Thank you to everyone that parks in a safe and considerate fashion.

Wellbeing Ambassadors

In our **myHappymind** lessons this term, we have been exploring the **Celebrate** module. It has been brilliant! We have been learning all about our **Character Strengths.** They are the special things that make us who we are, like being brave, kind and welcoming to others. Instead of just focusing on what we're good at doing, like football or maths, we have been celebrating the **inner strengths** that help us succeed every day. It has been interesting to spot these strengths in our friends and ourselves and it has helped our whole class feel more confident and happy.

There are 5 character strengths. They are: **Teamwork and Friendship**, **Love and Kindness**, **Bravery and Honesty**, **Love of Life and our world** and **Exploring and Learning**.

I used Teamwork and Friendship when making things in class. I worked with others and it helped me a lot! Two heads are better than one! - Nancy

I used Love and Kindness when I was playing a game with my friends - Aria

I used Exploring and Learning when I didn't know something and I found out what it was by looking it up – Effie

I used Teamwork and Friendship when my partner was stuck in maths and I helped him - Tallulah

I used Love and Kindness when I played a game with someone who was alone - Remi

I used Bravery when I got a spider out of the room! - Isabella

I used Teamwork and Friendship when I was in PE – Ibrahim

I used Bravery when I performed in the Easter service – Jayden



Our Wellbeing Ambassadors

Dogs

We would like to remind parents that under no circumstances should dogs be brought onto the school site, even if they are attached to a lead.

If you leave your dog by the school entrance, please be mindful some of the children can be very anxious. Thank you very much for your support.

Attendance 23rd February to 24th March

Class	Number of Absences	Number of Lates	% Attendance
RJE	53	17	95.7
RSK	67	19	94.5
1CP	18	15	98.1
1LS	21	22	98
2EC	20	15	97.7
2HG	23	3	97.4
3GL	56	35	95.5
3GR	67	20	94.9
4NS	73	24	94.1
4VH	59	26	95
5EE	48	14	96.2
5JT	28	19	97.9
6HE	67	29	94.9
6MD	61	13	95.4

Calendar of Events Summer Term 2026

April	
Monday 13th	**Children return to school**
Wednesday 15th	Swimming resumes for class 5JT
Monday 20th	Class 2HG Celebration of the Word
Wednesday 22nd	Earth Day
Thursday 23rd	Class 5JT Celebration of the Word
Friday 24th	RNLI Assembly's for KS1 and KS2
Tuesday 28th	Choral Festival – Choir and Year 5
	Year 2 Victorian Day
Wednesday 29th	Class 2EC Celebration of the Word
Thursday 30th	2.00 pm Year 5 Mass in school – parents welcome
May	
Thursday 7th	Year 1 trip to Godstone Farm
Friday 8th	Rededication to Our Lady Service
Monday 11th to Thursday 14th	Year 6 SATS week
Monday 11th	MyHappyMind Assembly KS1

Tuesday 12th	MyHappyMind Assembly KS2
Monday 18th	MyHappyMind Assembly Year 6
	Class Photographs
Wednesday 20th	2.00 pm Year 4 Mass in school – parents welcome
	Musical Theatre to see The Lion King
Thursday 21st	Year 6 Graduoke
	Class 5EE Celebration of the Word
Friday 22nd	Sports Day for KS1 and KS2
Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May	**Half Term**
June	
Monday 1st June	**Children return to school**
	MyHappyMind Assembly KS1
Tuesday 2nd	MyHappyMind Assembly KS2
Friday 5th	Non uniform day for bottle donations for the school fayre
Wednesday 10th	Class RJE Celebration of the Word
	PA Father's Day Sale
Thursday 11th	Class 4VH Celebration of the Word
	2.00 pm Year 3 First Holy Communion Mass
Wednesday 17th	9.00 am Nursery Sports Morning
Thursday 18th	Class 4NS Celebration of the Word
	Non uniform day for chocolate donations for the school fete – Year 2 only
Friday 19th	Non uniform day for chocolate donations for the school fete
	Year 2 trip to Joss Bay
Tuesday 23rd	KS2 Water Safety Assembly
Thursday 25th	Year 6 swimming gala
	9.15 am Meeting for new Nursery parents
Friday 26th	3.45 – 6.00 pm School fayre
Monday 29th to 2nd July	Year 6 Bikeability week
July	
Wednesday 1st	Class RSK Celebration of the Word
Monday 6th	Visits for new Nursery children for September 2026 by appointment
	6.30 pm Year 6 play for parents
Tuesday	Visits for new Nursery children for September 2026 by appointment
	6.30 pm Year 6 play for parents
Wednesday 8th	Last swimming lesson for class 5JT
Thursday 9th	9.15 am Meeting for new Reception parents
Friday 10th	9.30 am Rock Steady presentation to parents Reports to be sent home to parents
Monday 13th	MyHappyMind Assembly KS1 Parent meetings to discuss reports – by appointment only
Tuesday 14th	2.00 pm Year 6 Leavers Assembly for parents
Wednesday 15th	KS1 Effort and Achievement Assembly
	Year 3 trip to Lullingstone Park
Thursday 16th	KS2 Effort and Achievement Assembly
Friday 17th	10.00 am Year 6 Leavers Mass at church **1.30 pm Break up for the summer holidays**
Summer Break	**Monday 20th July to Tuesday 1st September**
Wednesday 2nd September	**INSET DAY**
Thursday 3rd September	**Children return to school**

Parents Association News



Thank you to everyone in the school community for supporting our fundraising events including Crazy Hair Day, Little Recyclers, pre-loved uniform shop, Christmas Wrapping Room, Easter raffle, Mother's day sale and Christmas cards. Our recent quiz was a fantastic success with very positive feedback from attendees about what a fun Friday night out they'd had!

There is much more to come including our annual Summer Fete which is always a great event, enjoyed by the whole school community.
As always, we appreciate volunteers and more people getting involved.
Do get in touch on our email at olorpa@hotmail.co.uk



Children's Easter Raffle – ends this week

Tickets £1 each - please put the money in your child's book bag
Children's Hamper, Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs to be won



Upcoming Events

- Coin Challenge -April
- Little Recyclers - April
- Tuck Shop - April
- Father's Day Sales - June
- Summer Fete- Friday 26th June

We have funded...



- A whole new class set of ipads, cases and a trolley
- A singing teacher from the Diocese of Southwark who will work with every year group during the year
- KS1 and EYFS Christmas entertainers and KS2 pantomime
- A Christmas and Easter gift for every child in the school

Pre-loved Uniform

Pre-loved uniform can be orderd at
https://forms.gle/coq3BRXv2tfJh6729
or see link in our Instagram bio

You can support the PA by signing up to Easy Fundraising for Our Lady of the Rosary (Blackfen) Parents' Association—shop online and a % is donated at no extra cost.

easyfundraising

For updates, weblinks and Information: Follow us on Instagram olor_pa

Your PA would like to wish you a joyful and peaceful Easter!