Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Primary School

Newsletter October 2026

Faith, Love, Learning

Headteacher's Message

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, I would like to thank everyone in our school community for your continued support, encouragement and kind words. The children, as always, have embraced the new school year with excitement and enthusiasm and have settled wonderfully into their new classes. It has been lovely to see them grow in confidence, develop new friendships and approach their learning with such positivity.

The response to our summer science project was overwhelming, with children sharing their experiences and projects. Their wonderful work has been celebrated through displays in classrooms and in our main corridor, providing a fantastic opportunity for children to learn from one another and appreciate the richness and diversity of our world.

Year 6 are enjoying a very successful residential trip to PGL, where they challenged themselves through a range of activities, supported and encouraged one another and strengthened friendships with their peers. I would particularly like to thank the staff who so willingly gave their time to ensure that the children had such a memorable experience.

It has also been a real pleasure to welcome so many parents and family members into school to meet staff, celebrate the children's achievements and take part in their learning. Year 5 shared their learning about the Vikings, whilst Year 3 investigated different fruits and vegetables. Parents helped their children make waistcoats in Year 6 and chairs for teddy bears in Year 2. Reception enjoyed sharing their learning with their families, while Year 1 explored their grandparents' childhoods, sharing memories, stories and games.

The children love having the opportunity to work alongside you and to share their achievements with you. Your support at these events is invaluable and helps to strengthen the partnership between home and school that is so important to our children.

As a Catholic school, we are reminded that each one of us has a part to play in building a community rooted in faith, love, kindness and service to one another. These values can be seen each day in the way our children learn together, support one another and contribute to the life of our school. I am extremely proud of all that they have achieved during this first half term.

I hope that all our children, families and staff enjoy a happy, peaceful and restful half-term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back and to sharing another busy and exciting half term together, including our Express Events and Christmas celebrations as we prepare together for the joy of Advent and the birth of Jesus.

Mrs Byrne

Nursery News

The children have had a fantastic first term in nursery! They have settled well into their new daily routine and have already formed positive relationships with both the adults and their peers. Our learning focus this term has been 'Nursery Rhymes', which brought so much creativity and exploration into our classroom. We visited the forest school to build shelters to protect *Incy Wincy Spider* from the rain, painted our own wonderful representations of *Humpty Dumpty* and the *Dingle Dangle Scarecrow*, and explored textures to create a beautiful nighttime sky filled with *Twinkling Little Stars*.

Alongside this creative play, the children have thoroughly enjoyed our focus phonics activities, where we have been developing strong listening and attention skills by learning to tune into different environmental sounds. We are incredibly proud of how much they have grown and learned in such a short time. In order to develop the children's gross motor skills and self-care, we ask that over the half term they practise putting on their coat unaided.

Mrs Hall

Reception News

Our first topic “All About Me” has been lots of fun for the children in Reception. They have had many opportunities to complete activities about themselves as well as family related activities, particularly enjoying the use of natural materials available at this time of the year. The children have enjoyed listening to core texts such as “The Colour Monster, “and “Elmer,” which have led to interesting discussions about emotions and enjoyed taking part in a masked Elmer parade after reading this book and talking about what makes us special and celebrating our differences. Our next text, “The Squirrels who Squabbled” will be used to explore the importance of co-operation.

Reception have also enjoyed learning about Lewis Hamilton as part of Black History Month and the car themed activities that followed.

As we approached the end of our first half term, how special was it to have our Family Stay and Play session. The children enjoyed this opportunity to share their learning environment with their grown-ups, and it was lovely for us as teachers to spend time with their parents/carers too. Thank you to all that came and made this experience so delightful.

The children have all settled in well this term and embraced their learning with enthusiasm. Well done children. We are very proud of you all.

Mrs Blincoe, Ms Evans and Mrs Liddy

Year 1 News

Year 1 have had an amazing start to the new school year. As part of our history topic, we had our grandparents visit us to tell us about life in the 1960’s. We also had a grandparent come in to talk to the children about his life growing up and he shared photographs with us.

In R.E, we have been learning about creation and CRIBS have been supporting the children with their understanding of the Bible story through a variety of creative, exciting activities. 1NS and 1CP bravely performed their class Celebration of the Word to KS1 and were nervous but proud of their efforts.

In Science, we were thrilled to have Zoolab visit Year 1 to show us reptiles, mammals, amphibians and insects. The children had the opportunity to hold the animals if they wanted to and were amazed to see them up close.

In English, we have explored ‘Five Minutes' Peace’ by Jill Murphy and ‘Once There Were Giants’ by Martin Waddell. Through these stories, the children have developed their reading and comprehension skills by making predictions about what might happen next. We also brought the characters to life by acting out key scenes using freeze-frames and writing our own captions to describe the action. We are now practicing how to include nouns, adjectives, and verbs in our own writing to build fantastic sentences. We are incredibly proud of their growing confidence!

Miss Simmons, Miss Creed and Mrs Pinto

Year 2 News

It has been a busy start to the new school year in Year 2!

In History, the children have enjoyed learning about kings and queens, castles and the Battle of Hastings in our Monarchs topic.

In Science we have learned about different habitats such as woodlands and rainforests and explored the Forest School to look for things that were living, once alive or never alive.

Every Monday morning, we have had a lovely start to the week as we have been singing with Charlie from the Southwark Singing Project who has taught us lots of new hymns.

In RE, Jason from the CRiBS team has led sessions about the creation story and the promise God made to Noah after the flood, which linked to our class Celebrations of the Word. We also visited Our Lady of the Rosary Church to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism.

In English we have been learning about the structure of fairy tales. We have learned, performed and retold some well-known stories and have also planned and written fairy tales of our own.

Finally, in our DT lessons, the children were excited to design and make chairs for a bear - a big thank you to all the parents and carers who came to help! Wishing you all a restful half term.

Miss Crew and Miss Keenan

Year 3 News

Year 3 have settled well into the new school year and approached their learning with focus and enthusiasm.
In English, the class studied *The Hodgeheg* and created a set of instructions to help Hedgehogs cross the road safely. They worked carefully to include descriptive language and varied vocabulary in their writing this term.

In Design and Technology, the children designed and made seasonal tarts, practising their cutting and peeling skills. A visit from a local greengrocer supported their understanding of when different fruits and vegetables are in season. In Science, the class learned about bones and muscles and created balanced diet plates to support their understanding of healthy eating.

In Geography, the children explored the topic of Settlements. They enjoyed going on a walk around the Oval to explore the land use in the area. Back in class, Year 3 enjoyed using Google Earth to compare Blackfen with regions in India. They engaged well with the enquiry-based activities and discussion.

Mrs Everett and Miss Greally

Year 4 News

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the academic year! We have explored the world of Charlie and the Chocolate factory through the text, film clips and chocolate tasting to inspire our creative writing. Using expanded noun

phrases, the children have described the characters in detail and have had a go at writing their own chapters inspired by Roald Dahl. To celebrate and share our work with each other, we have published our chapter's in a class book that the children can read for pleasure. The children have also been exploring the features of a playscript, ready to write their own based on the class text.

In Geography, the children have explored where their food comes from and have looked at the benefits of buying locally produced products versus imported products. They have considered how buying Fairtrade products could support farmers globally.

A highlight of the half term, has been looking at the journey our food goes on through our digestive system in Science. The children thoroughly enjoyed getting messy and modelling this process. They have also explored the different types of teeth that humans and animals have based on their diet.

October was Black History month and the children enjoyed learning about Olive Morris who is an inspirational black lady.

We would like to wish the children a restful half term and look forward to a new half term full of lots of learning and exciting activities.

Mrs Brady and Hamilton

Year 5 News

Year 5 have had a fantastic start to the school year. In English we have been reading 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and have been using this to write recounts, descriptions and persuasive speeches. In Maths, the children have been developing their knowledge of place value up to 1,000,000, learning how to use inverse operations and have gained an understanding of square and cube numbers.

In Science, Year 5 have carried out many experiments in order to separate materials and particularly enjoyed creating their own water filters. Learning about the Vikings has been amazing this half term, the children really enjoyed their Viking Day and sharing their knowledge with their parents.

In R.E Year 5 have explored the Virtues, The Ten Commandments and how to put the Catholic Social Teaching principle of 'The Common Good' into every day life.
We wish the children a restful half term break!

Miss Galvin and Miss Tomlinson

Year 6 News

Year 6 have had a fantastic half term and have settled really well into the new academic year. This half term we have been learning about censuses in our history and exploring how they have changed throughout the years, why they have changed and how they can used as a valuable source when exploring different historical times. The children particularly enjoyed making links to the Victorians and the different jobs they would do at the time and who they differed so much to what we do now.

In English, Year 6 have been reading Harry Potter and creating some wonderful pieces of writing. They have written letters to the 'Sorting Hat' about which Hogwarts' House they would like to be in, as well as non-chronological reports about life at Hogwarts.

In our science topic, the children have been looking at classification and exploring how different living things can be grouped and the specific names for these different groups. The children have also had the opportunity to create their own classification diagrams based on what they had learnt throughout the topic.

In RE, the children have been reflecting on Creation, from the Book of Genesis and from the prologue of John's Gospel. They have discussed the meaning of the text and studied pictorial representations, to look at the deeper symbolic and religious meanings behind the creation of Adam and Eve and how they disobeyed God.

Our annual trip to PGL in Swindon is a great success where the children have the opportunity to take part in many activities. We were so happy to see how they are challenging themselves throughout the week!

Ms Doughty and Mrs Evans

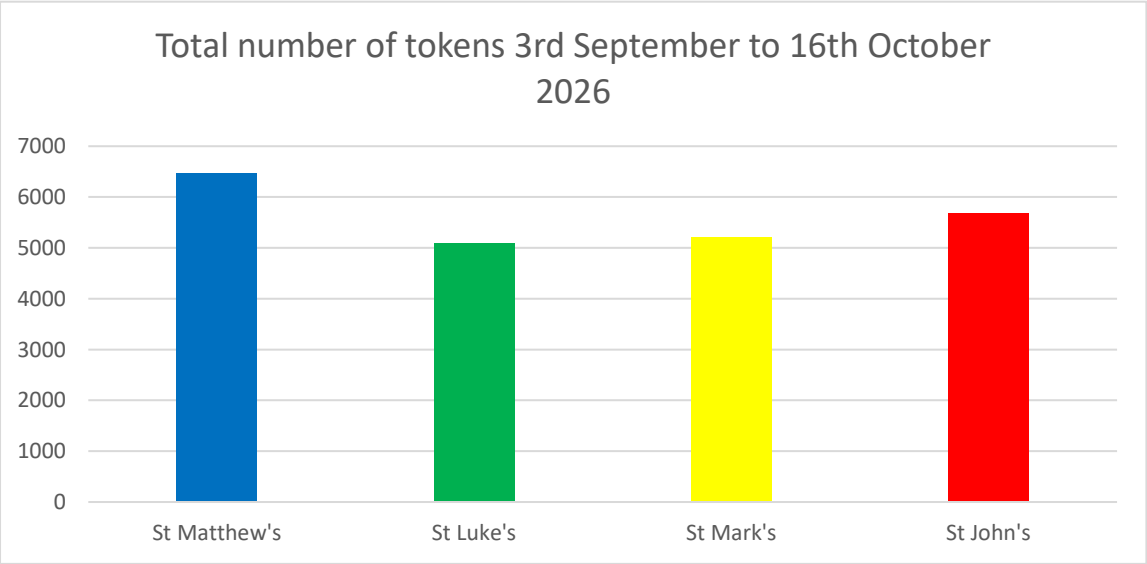
Junior Road Safety Officers

We are pleased to announce we have appointed two new road safety officers to represent year 5. Ava and Annie will be joining the year 6 JRSO's, Jake and Ava -Rose. The children have started to gather data each week to see which class is walking the most and then announcing the winning classes in our celebration assemblies. Throughout the year they will be encouraging children to walk to school to reduce car emissions, they will present assemblies reminding children about how to cross the road safely and they will be setting competitions linked to road safety.

Attendance 3rd September to 20th October 2026

Class	Number of Absences	Number of Lates	% Attendance
RBL	51	4	96.2
RJE	67	8	95.1
1CP	83	22	95.5
1NS	47	7	97.5
2EC	54	19	94.8
2SK	51	42	96.7
3EE	55	9	96
3GR	12	21	99.1
4RB	85	8	95.7
4VH	49	37	97.3
5HG	127	30	93.5
5JT	88	33	95.5
6HE	59	28	97.1
6MD	63	35	96.8

House Points



Calendar of Events Autumn term 2026

Friday 23rd	**Break up for Half Term**
	Half Term – Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October
Saturday 31st	Closing date for online submission of Common Application Forms for Secondary Transfer 2027
November	
Monday 2nd November	**INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**
Wednesday 4th	Year 6 Harry Potter day
	Year 4 Roman day
Saturday 7th	9.30 am Open morning for new parents Reception September 2027
	11.30 am Open morning for new parents Reception September 2027
Monday 9th	Whole school remembrance Assembly
Tuesday 10th	Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm – online booking date 2nd November
Wednesday 11th	Van Cols Photography in school for individual and siblings photographs.
Thursday 12th	9.30 am Open morning for new parents Reception September 2027
	Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 6.30pm – online booking date 2nd November
Monday 16th	Anti Bullying Week
Wednesday 18th	9.30 am Year 6 Mass and Rosary at Our Lady of the Rosary church – parents welcome
Thursday 19th	Road Safety Whole school Assembly
Friday 20th	Little Recyclers collection
Tuesday 24th	Pantomime for Years 2 - 6
Wednesday 25th	10.00 am Year 6 Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary church – parents welcome
December	
Wednesday 2nd	Last swimming lesson before Christmas for Class 5JT
	PA Christmas Wrapping room
Thursday 3rd	Year 4 Express event for parents
Monday 7th	9.30 am Open morning for new parents Reception September 2027
Wednesday 9th	9.30 am Year 2 Nativity for parents
	2.00 pm Year 2 Nativity for parents
Thursday 10th	Christmas Jumper Day
	Christmas Lunch
Friday 11th	9.30 am Rocksteady concert for parents
Tuesday 15th	2.00 pm Year 5 Carol Service for parents
Wednesday 16th	KS1 Effort and Achievement Assembly
	Year 3 Stone Age Day
Thursday 17th	KS2 Effort and Achievement Assembly
Friday 18th	**Break up at 1.30 pm for Christmas Holiday.**
	Christmas Holiday from Monday 21st December – Friday 1st January.
January	
Monday 4th	**INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**
Tuesday 5th	**INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**



£4,000 RAISED...

before the rain stopped play!

What an achievement!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Summer Fête!

The money raised will be used to pay for **RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES** for the children.

LAST YEAR, OUR FUNDRAISING HELPED PAY FOR:











These extras make such a difference to the children's experiences at school and create memories that last a lifetime.

BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Unfortunately, our PA is now a very small and depleted team, and without new team members and volunteers we will not be able to continue to raise the needed funds.

Our current team is very small and all KS2 parents, so we are particularly keen to **recruit KS1 and EY parents and carers.**

You don't need to commit huge amounts of time. Any help you can give would be hugely appreciated.

WE ALSO NEED PA CLASS REPS FOR NURSERY AND RJE

This would require you to pass on key PA messages to your class WhatsApp group.



Please complete our short form:

https://forms.gle/wBQdpYMeKFi7CeVMA

If you could help as a Nursery or RJE Class Rep, please mention this on the form.