



Our Lady of Lourdes

RC Primary School



Half Term News

13th February 2026

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Friday 13th February, 2026

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe we are reaching the halfway point in the academic year. Friendships are flourishing and our younger children have settled into our school community; many of the Reception children come into school independently making use of what I am told is called the 'bye bye' gate.

On a daily basis Miss Crampton and I are inspired, by the ways that people interact, by the way that children respond and grow and how members of our community find solutions to problems or ways to balance perspective to keep what is important to us at the centre of our hearts and minds. Hearing the children literally skip past my office just now, watching them at playtime and listening to them read, write and consume mathematical or an intellectual challenge is both humbling and inspirational.

From Nursery phonic parent workshops, special assemblies, whole school and year group Masses, Open Days, parent consultations, trips and workshops, this half term has been busy and the children have continued to flourish.

There is a great deal to look forward to as we approach Easter and with Lent fast approaching in half term, it is a time to reset and reflect on our achievements and spend time with our families.

Have a happy and safe half term.

Mrs Boon
Head Teacher

Feast Day.

During our final week at school this half term, we have enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate our feast day.

Our Lady first appeared to St. Bernadette on 11th February in 1858 in the small village of Lourdes in the south of France. She appeared repeatedly to this special girl giving her instructions on how to call people to prayer and to pilgrimage to celebrate their belief in God.

We are honoured to be named after such a wonderful example of faithfulness and love. Our mass on Wednesday marked this occasion with a reminder that Mary is a mother to all of us.

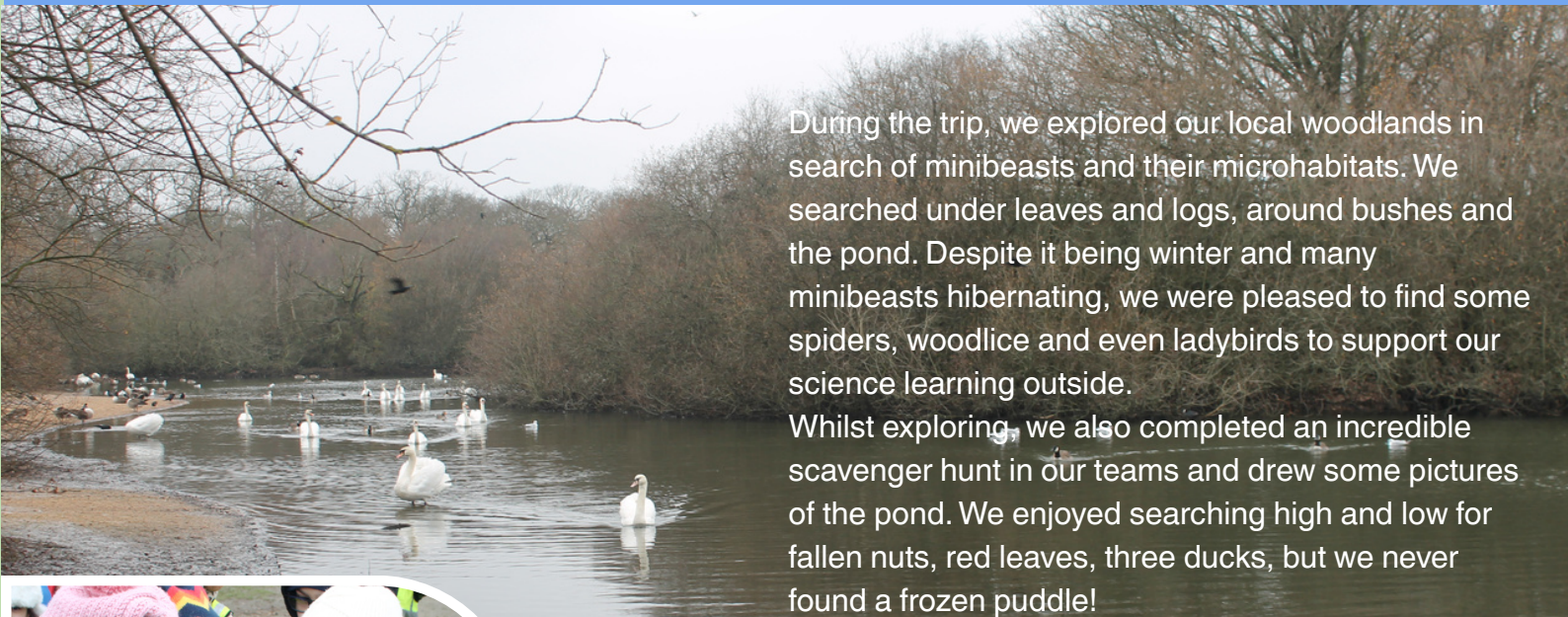
We call Our Lady to be part of our journey today and always.

Look out for Feast Day dance photos in our next newsletter.

Forest School



Year Two - Hollow Ponds Trip



During the trip, we explored our local woodlands in search of minibeasts and their microhabitats. We searched under leaves and logs, around bushes and the pond. Despite it being winter and many minibeasts hibernating, we were pleased to find some spiders, woodlice and even ladybirds to support our science learning outside.

Whilst exploring, we also completed an incredible scavenger hunt in our teams and drew some pictures of the pond. We enjoyed searching high and low for fallen nuts, red leaves, three ducks, but we never found a frozen puddle!



Year Two - Reading with the Nursery

Year Two pupils have been enjoying special reading sessions with our Nursery children. The older pupils loved sharing stories and helping to bring books to life, while the Nursery children enjoyed listening and joining in. These sessions have helped build confidence, foster friendships and develop a love of reading across both year groups.



Nursery & Reception

Making Music

Nursery have been making music and having lots of fun! We tapped along to the beat using our claves as we listened to the song "Music, Music, Music," filling the room with happy rhythms. We also practised singing 'Baby Shark' to get ready for our festival assembly. We enjoyed reading the story Night Monkey, Day Monkey, exploring the difference between day and night. Inspired by the story, the children painted beautiful pictures showing bright, sunny days and calm, starry nights. A lovely week full of music, stories, and creativity!



Reception visit to Father Martin

Cherry and Pear classes visited Father Martin at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. During our visit, we took part in a guided tour of the church and had the opportunity to ask Father Martin questions about his special role in our community. He showed us his brightly coloured vestments and explained when and why he wears each one during church services. We also looked closely at the baptismal font and learned about its importance as the way we enter the church family.



Houses of Parliament Trip



Year Five went to visit the Houses of Parliament. They gained a deeper understanding not only of the history of the buildings they were visiting, but also had the opportunity to witness live debates in the House of Commons and the House of Lords. This gave the children real insight into how laws are passed and a deeper look into one of our British Values - democracy.

Frederika - "The House of Lords is filled with experts who sit on red seats and the House of commons is filled with elected MPs who sit on green seats. New bills are debated in these Houses and sent between them in order to become a law. This is called parliamentary "Ping Pong."

Lochie - "The tour guide was very entertaining and taught us a song to remember the colours of the seats in each house and who was in those houses."



Sports Competitions & Junior Duke Update

Year Six Football Quarter Final

Our Year Six boys' football team gave an outstanding performance in their quarter-final match. In a thrilling and closely fought game, the boys battled until the final whistle but narrowly lost 4-2 to a very strong opponent.

From the first kick, the team showed tremendous enthusiasm, teamwork and perseverance. Every player gave their all and represented the school with pride, showing great sportsmanship throughout the match.

We are incredibly proud of the effort and commitment shown by the squad, and thank all parents and supporters who came to cheer them on. Well done to every member of the team — you have made us proud!

During the football match there was a lot of energy and positivity. Even though we lost we had lots of fun and I had a great time. Thank you for the responsibility.

Chace - Redwood

When I was at the football match everyone was excited and everyone was motivating each other. I also felt determined to win as everyone was cheering each other on.

Treye - Redwood

During the football match there was a lot of teamwork and determination, yet above all of that we were happy even though we lost. The team enjoyed every moment we played football. Thank you for being such a good coach to us.

Sol - Redwood

During the football match I felt really nervous at the start but then was really excited. The match was intense but left knowing we tried our best.

Rhys - Redwood

During the football match I felt a mix of emotions, very excited but also quite disappointed. It was a great experience that I will never forget. Despite the loss we worked well as a team and none of us gave up.

Kieran - Redwood



Tennis Festival

Year Three children were lucky to be able to experience a tennis festival held at Redbridge Sports Centre. They had a wonderful time practicing their footwork and racquet control before unleashing some dynamite forehands.



"It was the best day of the year!"
Axel - Elm



We are incredibly proud to share that our school has been recognised as an Equal Access School 2025 through the Barclays Girls' Football School Partnerships programme. This award celebrates our commitment to providing equal opportunities for girls to participate, compete, and thrive in football.

A special mention must go to our Year 6 girls' football team, whose enthusiasm, teamwork and determination have been outstanding. They have been fantastic role models, showing confidence, resilience, and a real love for the game.

"I could not stop smiling. Everyone on the team was so supportive."

Esme

"I love playing football, we have lots of fun working together."

Lea

"The experience was amazing. The best thing was that we had a great time and an amazing team despite the weather."

Rosie

"It was a privilege to go to a football tournament with your classmates and play for your school. I was nervous at first but as you play on you feel the spirit and team work."

Clara

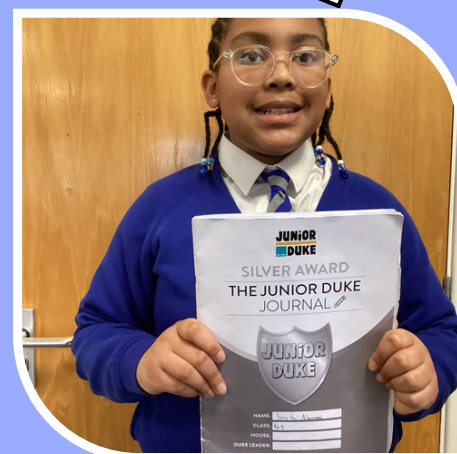


Junior Duke Update

We've loved seeing the fantastic enthusiasm for Junior Duke across Key Stage 2 over the last few months! The children have been busy completing a wide range of challenges, and all the teachers have really enjoyed assessing their efforts. From creative art projects and first aid to sewing and independence challenges, it's been wonderful to see the children so engaged in such a diverse range of activities. There's been a particular buzz around the cookery challenges, with lots of delicious creations brought in for Mrs Boon and Ms Crampton to sample – a definite highlight!

Every time a challenge is assessed, the children earn a much-coveted red sticky dot which is then displayed proudly in the hall, and as you can see from the attached photos, progress so far has been incredible. Just a reminder that children need to complete 10 challenges by June to qualify for their badge and certificate. Parents, please encourage the children not to leave it all until the summer term!

A huge congratulations to Emmy-Ann, who has already completed all 10 challenges – what an achievement, well done! 🌟



Ambassador Update & NSPCC Number Day

Our School Ambassadors have been incredibly busy, showing outstanding commitment, leadership, and a strong understanding of children's rights as part of our journey towards the UNICEF Silver Accreditation.

They have played an important role in raising awareness of children's rights by leading Rights in Focus moments during assemblies. Through these, they have helped pupils understand UNICEF articles in clear, child-friendly language, including the right to be safe, the right to be listened to, and the right to learn.

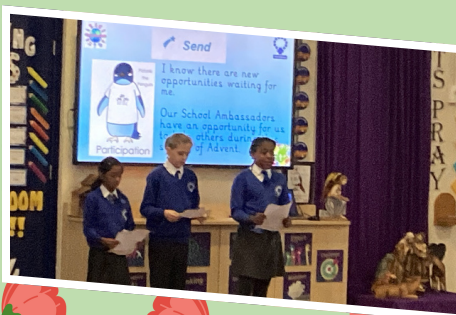
Our Ambassadors have also led and supported a range of school events and assemblies, including Black History Month, NSPCC Number Day, the Poppy Appeal, and the Christmas Food Donation Drive, among others. Their enthusiasm and teamwork has had a positive impact across our whole school community.

The Ambassadors would like to challenge families to take a moment at home to talk together about children's rights. Small conversations like these help children understand that rights go hand in hand with kindness, responsibility, and respect for self and others..

We are extremely proud of our Ambassadors and the thoughtful, meaningful way they are helping our school community grow.

Charity Fund Raising

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal £668
NSPCC Number Day £517



NSPCC Number Day 2026



Number
Day 2026

Children's Mental Health Week

As part of Children's Mental Health Week, all classes took part in meaningful discussions about the importance of looking after our mental health and the different ways we can support our wellbeing.

In class, the children explored the theme of 'Speaking Up', learning that if they feel upset or worried, it is important to recognise our emotions, regulate them and share our feelings. They discussed how no problem is too small and why talking to a trusted adult can help them feel supported and understood. Working in groups, the children came up with kind and supportive phrases they could use to help their peers during difficult times, as well as ideas for keeping their minds healthy.

The children also revisited the idea of our five safe adults in school, reinforcing who they can go to for support whenever they need help or reassurance.

Pupil voice:

"At Our Lady of Lourdes, we learn about mental health in our RHE lessons where we talk about our feelings, healthy relationships and how to look after our mind and body. We also have five safe adults in school who we can talk to if we're worried, and we know that those adults will support us."

Emilia - Cedar

"In every classroom, we have worry boxes so we can write down our worries if we don't feel ready to talk about them. When we use the worry boxes, adults read them and help us by talking to us, finding solutions and making sure we feel listened to. We also have brain breaks in lessons to help us refocus, relax and get our minds ready to learn again."

Alex- Cedar

"At playtimes, OPAL helps us to be active, creative and have fun, which supports our mental health. We also enjoy our PE lessons because moving our bodies, working as a team and challenging ourselves helps us to feel good."

Kian - Cedar



- Body Image
- Gratitude & Reflection
- Dealing with Stress
- Mindfulness
- Positivity



- Role Models
- Motivation
- Emotions & Feelings
- Friendship & Teamwork
- Resilience & Tolerance

Smartphone Pledge

Following our parent meetings, we know that there is a very active community of parents who want to explore this option for their children and there has been a lot of recent information in the press. As one of the first local schools to introduce the pledge we are proud of how we have supported parents to have the discussion about mobile phones.

Before Easter, there will be an invitation for parents to take / renew their pledge. This is sent via WhatsApp by parents and there is an active campaign and lots of parent discussion.

Everyone is asked to re-pledge each year to keep it live and ensure numbers are accurate. It also gives people the chance to pledge up (i.e. Pledge to an older age- this happened with a number of families last year).

The link below is for the OLOL SFC WhatsApp group.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KoiZAluxqJjAfFjo7iBS7O>

Lenten Pledge at OLOL

Recently I saw the play This is England which was about the transformational changes that Gareth Southgate made to the England football team when he became manager. He created a sense of belonging, a common goal/ purpose and the developed clarity which led to a strong sense of team and partnership.

This made me reflect on our personal Lenten journey. Every year we give up the usual things such as chocolate and fizzy drinks. A few people pledge that they will eat healthily or exercise and we go on the journey of our pledge for Lent. However, following my letter last week we would love every child to work with their families to take our whole school Reduce Screens and Limit Online Gaming Pledge.

The half term is ideal as Ash Wednesday falls next week. We hope you will join us and invest this time in yourself and your child.

Community Leader Update

Our Community Leaders have worked hard this half term to spread the message about Catholic Social Teaching. The Catholic Social Teaching animals, who help us to understand our world as global citizens, are now very much part of the fabric of our school. We have made links between individual subjects and the ways in which we, as Catholics, can help each other.

The Community Leaders organised and prepared our Mass in January to start the new term with a theme of 'leading to Jesus'. This links so well with our Mission Statement, 'We Follow Jesus'. This wonderful group of pupils have arranged assemblies on a variety of themes with many more opportunities to follow.



Safer Internet Week

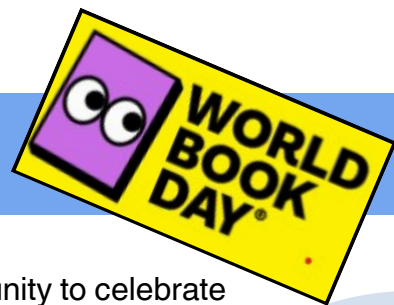
This week we have been marking Internet Safety Week. In addition to our usual curriculum provision, we hosted two assemblies for Key Stage 2 pupils focused on staying safe online and understanding the modern risks associated with digital activity.

In our first assembly, we explored the concept of our digital community and the role it plays in our daily lives. As digital citizens, our children benefit from many positive opportunities online. However, we emphasised that behaviour in digital spaces should reflect the same standards of kindness and respect expected in the real world. Kind communication helps ensure that online environments remain safe and enjoyable for everyone. We also reinforced that every child has the right to be treated with respect in all spaces and reminded pupils of the practical tools and strategies available to help them stay safe. This is a key life skill that many adult “keyboard warriors” would benefit from!

The second assembly focused on the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and developing pupils’ understanding of what AI is. While AI has existed for decades, modern Large Language Models (such as ChatGPT) are driving significant changes that young people need to understand. We discussed how these systems generate responses by recognising patterns in language rather than “thinking” independently, and we explored the importance of identifying AI-generated content. Developing this awareness is an increasingly valuable aspect of digital literacy.

We will revisit this after half term to consolidate the children’s understanding.

World Book Day



World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March. Book Week is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reading and to learn about different genres and authors. The focus is to further develop a love of reading.

During the week the children will enjoy a variety of year group and whole school activities.

Thursday 5th March:

- Children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.
- Each child will receive a £1 World Book Day voucher to spend on books of their choice.

What you can do at home:

Please help your child choose a character they love – costumes can be as simple or creative as you like! The focus is on celebrating stories, not expensive outfits. Ideally, we would like to steer the children away from football and princess outfits. Talk to your child about why particular characters are special.

We are looking forward to seeing all the creative costumes and celebrating our love of reading!

Look out for our separate World Book Day letter.

Star of the Week, Times Table Challenge & Birthdays

Congratulations to this weeks school 'Stars'.

Class	Name	Class	Name
Little Acorns N	Jibraeel & Jonah		
Pear R	Taimur & Victor	Cherry R	Ezra & Vincenzo
Maple Y1	Esme & Thomas	Olive Y1	Eden & Hiyaa
Chestnut Y2	Isaac & Millie	Hazel Y2	Luca & Gracie
Elm Y3	Halliday & Hugo	Rowan Y3	Helena & Stella
Ash Y4	William & Ava	Sycamore Y4	Bruno & Imogen
Cedar Y5	Ivanna & William	Fir Y5	Zakariya & Yesenia
Oak Y6	Janaya & Isabella	Redwood Y6	Ella & Olivia

Birthdays

Vivienne
 Andrei
 Evangelina
 Luca
 Felicia
 Amber
 Arrietty
 Frida Giulia
 Ruben
 Ada
 Mattia
 Grace G
 Millie G
 Luke
 Nephele
 Treye
 Byron
 Maisie G
 Liyanah
 Elyana

Times Table Challenge

Congratulations to those who took part this week.

Silver Award

Joshua D
 Jacob S
 Oscar H
 Valentina H
 Theo S

Gold Award

Conor M
 Sebastian P
 Ismael S
 Jacob S
 Kathryn T
 Leo V
 Majus V

Gold Award

Joshua D
 Oscar H
 Valentina H
 Theo S
 Lorenzo D
 Tobia G
 Arrietty H

Platinum Award

Tabitha A
 Tobias-Jaxon B
 Khachik B
 Oscar H
 Emmy-Ann N
 Thomas R
 Evelyn T
 Kofi W

Diamond Challenge

Congratulations to the following pupils for completing the 12 X 12 multiplication grid in the following times:

Year 6

Filip M 2 mins 26 secs
 Catherine R 2 mins 23 secs

Year 5

Frederika A 3 mins 9 secs
 Rohan M 3 mins 26 secs

Year 4

Ismael S 3 mins 21 secs
 Kaitlyn Kai-Lin H 4 mins 11 secs

Well done for the speedy Maths. Keep practicing everyone!

Attendance & Punctuality Spring Term 1

Following previous correspondence, the Department of Education have given us a target to improve our school attendance by 0.3%. This means another 183 school days. Please help us to achieve this target and help your child to success at school.

Overall school attendance this academic year is 97.0%

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
Redwood	96.7	Oak	96.4
Cedar	97.4	Fir	97.5
Ash	97.0	Sycamore	97.4
Elm	96.2	Rowan	96.7
Chestnut	97.4	Hazel	97.1
Maple	98.3	Olive	97.1
Cherry	97.6	Pear	97.0
Little Acorns	94.8	Whole school	97.0

Message from OLOL PTA

St Patrick's Disco - Friday 13th March, 6.30pm to 9.30pm

The PTA St Patrick's Disco is taking place on Friday 13th March, 6.30pm-9.30pm.

As ever, we can't run these events without the help of you, our wonderful volunteers. Requests for help (on the bar, tuck shop, glow stick stall and toilets!) will be coming shortly after half term, but please note that all volunteers **MUST** have a ticket secured before they can sign up to volunteer. This is for health and safety reasons and keeping numbers within the limit allowed in the school hall. We appreciate your understanding with this and thank you for your support.

All the money raised at the St Pat's Disco (and all PTA events this year) will be going towards new much-needed tables and chairs for Year 5, library corners for Year 1 and Book Week workshops for all children.

Please see the flyer for more information.

Thursday 26th February - Next PTA Meeting

The next PTA meeting will take place on Thursday 26th February, 8pm at The Bull in Wanstead. We'll be discussing the St Patrick's Disco and other upcoming events.

All parents and carers are welcome - we look forward to seeing you there!

Spring Term 2 - School Calendar

Tuesday 23 rd February	9.30 -10.30am Nursery Open Morning Morning (Prospective parents booking required)
Tuesday 24 th February	Reception - LFB Fire Engine Visit 12.00-6.00pm Redwood Class Parent Consultations
Wednesday 25 th February	Redbridge Music Recital - KS1 2.00-2.30pm & KS2 2.30-3.00pm
Thursday 26 th February	12.00-6.00pm Oak Class Parent Consultations
Friday 27 th February	8.55am Hazel Class Special Assembly
Monday 2 nd to Friday 6 th March	Book Week
Monday 2 nd March	9.30am EYFS & KS1 Growth Mindset Meeting via Zoom for parents
Wednesday 4 th March	Rec - Year 1 - Dinosaur Workshop Year 3 Trip – The National Gallery – Colour Workshop
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day - Dress up 12.00-6.00pm Year 4 Parent Consultations
Friday 6 th March	Rec - Year 6 - The Dangerous Science Show & Workshop
Tuesday 10 th March	Rec to Year 6 - Science Day – Hands on Science Workshop 12.00-6.00pm Year 5 Parent Consultations
Thursday 12 th March	Ambassador - Non Uniform Day
Friday 13 th March	8.55am Chestnut Class Special Assembly OLOL PTA St Patrick's Day Disco
Tuesday 17 th March	Year 5 Trip - The Hive – Stream Measuring Workshop
Wednesday 18 th March	Year 4 - African Drumming Workshop 3.30-5.00pm Parent Book Look (Please arrive no later than 4.50pm)
Friday 20 th March	8.55am Maple Class Special Assembly 8.10am-8.35am Parent Book Look
Mon 23 rd to Fri 27 th March	Holy Week in School
Monday 23 rd March	Palm Sunday Reflection KS2 Charity Fayre
Tuesday 24 th March	8.55am Washing of the Feet Easter Service (children only) 2.30pm Year 5 & 6 Examination of the Conscience Service
Wednesday 25 th March	9.10am Stations of the Cross Service - Y4 to lead whole school (children only) 2.40pm Dance Assembly
Thursday 26 th March	10.45am End of Term Easter Mass
Friday 27 th March	9.30am Stations of the Cross Service Y4 to lead at Church (Parents welcome) 10.45am Easter Egg Raffle

End of term - Friday 27th March school finishes at 1.30pm.