



Ave Maria

Our Lady of Lourdes

RC Primary School



End Of Term

News

27th March 2026

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly rich and rewarding term at Our Lady of Lourdes. From trips and workshops as well as book looks, we have celebrated the children's learning and achievement. Science days and Book Week brought learning to life. Book Week culminated in our annual Picture Book Award being given to 'The Slightly Spooky Tale of Fox and Mole'. It also brought reading alive; it was lovely to see the children discussing their favourite books and authors as they celebrated the joy of reading together. We've been privileged to gather for special assemblies and year group Masses, welcoming parents and families, thereby strengthening our faith community and giving our children opportunities to grow spiritually.

As always, parental partnership is key for your child's success in school. Your engagement, both in and out of school, is paramount for the trust and partnership that ensures your child's happiness and success. Engagement in meetings such as parent consultations provide invaluable opportunities to strengthen the partnership and make a huge difference to your child's learning and wellbeing. Attending our workshops (such as our Phonics, Reading and Growth Mindset workshops) also support our partnership with you, ensuring better understanding of what is happening in school as well as some of the initiatives and research that informs our outstanding personalised curriculum.

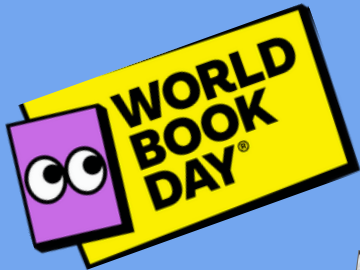
Enrichment is a huge part of our discreet curriculum. In addition to the 40+ activity clubs we run each week; music recitals showcased the wonderful opportunities available. DT projects saw children designing, making and cooking with real enthusiasm and skill. Our sporting fixtures have given children opportunities to represent the school with pride, and trips both locally and in London and Essex opened young eyes to the world of art and culture.

A huge thank you to our PTA for their ongoing support through various events – your efforts directly benefit the children and strengthen our school community at a time when the budget is under strain and we worry about how we can pay for the projects that will benefit the pupils and school infrastructure.

All of the aforementioned created the energy of the school term and now, as Easter approaches, it is a time to reflect on the importance of our faith journey. At a time when life is so pressurised, it is easy to lose focus of the things that matter. But let us remember: We only get one life. We are preparing the children – your children – for a new world. We need to work in strong partnership, as together we hold the future of society in our hands. These are the pillars of our strategic vision that underpin our purpose and values.

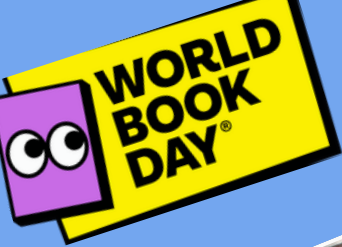
May I wish you all a peaceful and blessed Easter.

Mrs Boon
Headteacher



World Book Day 23rd March 2026





World Book Day



World Book Week

World Book Week was a fantastic celebration of stories, imagination, and our shared love of reading. This year's theme, "Go All In" and "Reading for Pleasure," was brought to life across the school. The children took part in a range of exciting activities, including paired reading sessions where older and younger pupils shared books together.

World Book Day itself was a highlight, with pupils and staff arriving dressed as their favourite book characters. We were so impressed with the creativity! We were also delighted to welcome back our much-loved storyteller, Pat Ryan, whose tales once again captivated the children.

To further promote reading for pleasure, children shared peer book recommendations, which are proudly displayed in classrooms to inspire others. It was a joyful week, full of enthusiasm for reading and we are so proud of how our pupils truly "went all in" to celebrate books:

Once again, the week ended with our picture book award. This year the winner was:



Charity Week

CAFOD Big Lent Walk and Easter Egg Raffle

This year, during Lent, we focused on thinking about others. It is important for us, as Catholics, to use this time of preparation for Easter, to think about how we can follow the example Jesus set for us. All the children in the school from Nursery to Year 6 took part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk. We spent time together walking, thinking of this special period of Lent and raising money for CAFOD.

The Easter Egg Raffle is always a popular event at school. On our last day of the Spring Term the children were able to win Easter Eggs kindly donated by all the adults in school.

So far our total is £750.00

Thank you to our Community Leaders for organising these events and all the parents who have contributed to our fundraising efforts.



KS2 Charity Craft Fayre

Our recent Charity Week Craft Fayre, held on Monday 23rd March, was a wonderful success and a fantastic celebration of creativity, teamwork and enterprise across the school. In the lead-up to the event, children worked hard in their groups to design and create a wide range of products, from handmade crafts to games and treats. A highlight of the preparation was when representatives from each group confidently spoke in assembly, promoting their stalls and encouraging the rest of the school to come along and support their ideas which provided an excellent opportunity to develop their speaking and persuasive skills.

On the day itself, the school was buzzing with excitement as pupils set up and ran their own stalls, demonstrating great independence and responsibility.

Throughout the afternoon, children enjoyed visiting the different stalls, spending their money and supporting one another's efforts, while parents joined us after school to take part in the lively atmosphere.

We are delighted to share that, through their hard work and enthusiasm, the children raised an incredible £780 for CAFOD. The event not only supported a great cause, but also gave pupils valuable real-life experiences in teamwork, problem-solving and handling money.

We are incredibly proud of the effort shown by all the children and thank our families for their continued support in making the fayre such a memorable occasion.

OLOL KS2 Craft Fayre 23rd March 2026



Ambassadors Update

Our School Supports the Pebbles Project

This term, our school community came together to support the Pebbles Project, a charity in South Africa that provides education and care for children whose parents are rural workers. To raise money, we held a special non-school uniform day where children were invited to wear the colours of the South African flag: red, blue, green, yellow, black and white. Throughout the day, every class helped to create a collaborative map of South Africa, adding colour and patterns inspired by the flag. It was wonderful to see the whole school working together on this shared piece of artwork.

Thanks to the generosity of our pupils and families, we raised £717.00 for the Pebbles Project. This money will help support children by providing education, meals and a safe place to learn and grow. A big thank you to our School Ambassadors, who led the assembly and helped organise the event. We are very proud of how our school community came together to make a difference.



Community Leaders Spring Term

During the Spring Term the Community Leaders have helped develop the school's community spirit. They have lead assemblies, explored saints and their lives and created fundraising opportunities for the whole school. Their biggest events include the CAFOD Big Lent Walk and Easter Egg Raffle. Their encouragement of other pupils and dedication to supporting those in need has been a credit to them.

Look out for more events in the Summer Term from the Community Leaders.



Sports Update

Our team of Year Six 6 girls performed wonderfully in the Redbridge Champions Cup and were unlucky to lose on penalties in the semi-final after a tough group stage. The encouragement and resilience the team showed was amazing. We should be proud of how they represented our school and community.

‘It was nice to see us improve after every game, even the losses. I will remember it forever.’ Evangeline

‘I had a mixture of emotions throughout the day. We were nervous at the start, but grew in confidence after our first win and our improvement in performance. The penalties were heart-breaking but it was still a great experience.’ Clara

‘Winning our first game was a thrill and the support we gave each other after losing on penalties made us even closer as team.’ Caoimhe

We met a young lioness, Maria Mayers, who plays for England and Westham U16s and grew up in Snaresbrook. What an inspiration!

All



YEAR 3 RUGBY

‘I play rugby outside of school at Eton Manor and I learnt how to keep my passing crisp. The games were really fun and helped us learn.’ Oscar

‘I worked really hard in the rugby lessons this term and was rewarded with a badge for my hard work. I’ve never played Rugby before but I loved it.’ Forest

‘The agility and passing games really helped me to pass and catch on the move. It was lots of fun.’ Nidhi

YEAR 1 RUGBY TASTER DAY

The Year 1 children had a fantastic rugby taster session with the Eton Manor coaches. They developed their skills in throwing, passing, and running with the ball, all while taking part in fun and engaging games. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and teamwork—who knows, we may even have some future England players among them!



Science Day

We were thrilled to welcome Wonderstruck Science for their exciting “Bang! The Science of Movies” show, which brought the magic of cinema to life through real science. Pupils were captivated as the presenters demonstrated the physics and chemistry behind special effects, from explosive reactions and dramatic forces to the tricks that make scenes appear larger than life on screen. The interactive performance was full of energy, humour and hands-on demonstrations, sparking curiosity and plenty of “wow” moments across the audience. In the afternoon, Years 5 and 6 took part in engaging rocket workshops with the same team, where they explored forces, air pressure and design as they built and launched their own rockets—an unforgettable way to deepen their scientific understanding.



The following week, we continued the excitement with a fantastic Science Day, offering a full day of practical, hands-on workshops tailored to every year group. Reception children launched into a KS1 Rocket Challenge, where they explored forces and motion through exciting rocket-building and demonstration launches in the hall. Year 1 investigated “Surprising Sounds,” experimenting with vibrations and pitch to understand how sound is made and how it travels. Year 2 took part in “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle,” learning about sustainability and the importance of caring for our environment through interactive activities and discussions.



In Key Stage 2, Year 3 explored “Lovely Light,” investigating how light travels, reflects and helps us to see, while Year 4 got hands-on with “Electricity and Circuits,” building and testing their own circuits to understand how electrical components work together. Year 5 applied their knowledge of forces in the “Elastic Racers” workshop, designing and testing their own moving models powered by stored energy. Meanwhile, Year 6 engaged in a fascinating “Circulation and Heart Dissection” session, gaining a deeper understanding of the human body by exploring the structure and function of the heart in a safe and memorable way. The day provided a rich range of experiences that brought science to life and inspired curiosity across the whole school.



Music Achievements & Choir

It has been a wonderfully musical term, filled with inspiring performances and exciting learning opportunities for the children.

We were delighted to welcome the Redbridge Music Service woodwind quintet. Their engaging concert introduced pupils to a range of woodwind instruments including the flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon and French horn (brass).



A special highlight was a captivating cello performance by Morgan Key, which truly inspired our young musicians and gave them the chance to listen to and experience the timbre and expressive sound of the violoncello up close.



Year 4 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their African drumming workshop, led by Redbridge Music Service's African Drumming specialist, Mouhamadou Sarr. He has regularly been featured by Grammy Award winning British band 'Mumford and Sons'. In 2013, Mamadou had the enormous honour of being invited by the presidential delegation to perform for Barack and Michelle Obama when they made their inaugural visit to Senegal. The energetic sessions allowed our children to develop a deeper appreciation of world music traditions.



Our school choir has been very busy this term. They sang *Madre Fiducia Nostra* beautifully in Mass for the celebration of the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. In rehearsals, they have been developing their musical skills further by learning two, three and four part harmonies, including *The Lord's My Shepherd*, *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Oh Lovely Spring*. Well done to the children for their enthusiasm and commitment this term. They are preparing for singing for the residents at Cambridge Nursing Home on Wednesday 25th March. This is a wonderful opportunity for the choir to share their voices and singing with the wider community.



Pupil Achievement

Robert in Year One won first prize in the Knights of St. Columba Youth Painting Competition. This competition was for children aged 4 - 7 across the whole of England, Wales and Scotland. They were required to create their own image to honour the nativity story.

We are very proud of Robert's achievement and know he will inspire others to join in with similar events in the future.



Dinosaur Workshop & Fire Engine Visit



As part of our English curriculum writing, the children were very lucky to take part in a dinosaur workshop. They met a baby Tyrannosaurus Rex called Jam and were able to interact with him by petting him, playing games like hide and seek, and feeding him. They also met a group of baby dinosaurs—Baby Jam, Dinky and Roger—and had the chance to hold and pet them too.

The children ended the day by creating their own dinosaur film using green screen technology. It was a lot of fun!

Reception, concluded their topic on People Who Help Us with an exciting visit from firefighters from the local fire station. They were very lucky to sit inside the cab of the fire engine and even had the chance to use the fire hose in the playground.

During the visit, the children also had important discussions about who to call in an emergency and the importance of staying safe.



LOL Spring Term Chess Winners 2026

Year 1 & 2

1st Ada A 2H
2nd Eve A 1O
3rd Asad G 2C

Years 3 & 4

1st Patrick C 3R
2nd Rafe P 4A
3rd Hugo P 3E

Years 5 & 6

1st Vaughan W 6O
2nd Erik M 3R
3rd Filip M 6R

Star Author

Congratulations to Kian who wrote an article for First News.

Winter light spectacle

KIAN went to Canary Wharf in east London to witness a feast for the eyes, while the churros provided a feast for the belly! He tells us all about it.

by Kian Diep, aged nine

I visited the tenth edition of the Winter Lights festival, and it was truly amazing.

I went with my parents and my younger brother, and we saw all 16 light shows made by artists from all around the world.

After the excitement of Christmas, January was supposed to be a quiet month. However, the Winter Lights festival was crazy busy even in such windy, cold weather. It just shows how many people turn up when things are free!

It was special that each of the light shows had its own name like Forever More, Hula Hoop and Aether (my personal favourite). While we were watching the Hula Hoop, a seemingly random lady tapped my brother's shoulder, and I thought "what are you doing?!" Turns out, it was my grand aunt and grand uncle who had the exact same idea to come and watch the lights!

The Aether was my favourite because it uses some light-up nets combined with the screen, making it seem 3D and alive. It uses music and sound effects creating a really nice atmosphere. Aether translates music into hypnotic waves and

glow-in-the-dark fragments, and it looked like fireflies flying around, which was magical!

Another wonderful thing at the festival were the churros. The shop called Love London Churros was next to the ice rink and, despite the long queue, the churros were worth the wait. Yum!



Kian (second from right) with his family



'When I wrote for First News, I shared my recent experience at the Canary Wharf Light Show. I chose to write the article because I really enjoy reading First News and was excited about the chance to be featured in the paper myself.' Kian

Junior Duke Reminder



The Easter holidays are a great opportunity for children to make progress on their Junior Duke activities. Please remind them that the Summer term deadline is fast approaching—26th June. By this date, they will need to have completed ten challenges in order to receive their badge and certificate.

Stars of the Week & Birthdays

Times Table Challenge

Silver, Gold & Platinum Award


Imogen D 4S

Congratulations to this week's school 'Stars'.



Class	Name	Class	Name
Little Acorns N	Leni & Wilfred		
R Pear	Aalyana & Izumi	R Cherry	Lailie & Otilie
1 Maple	Thea & Tristan	1 Olive	Mia & Niamh
2 Chestnut	Ophelia & Sebastian	2 Hazel	Whole Class
3 Elm	Iris & Mary-Elise	3 Rowan	Evangelina & Muhammad
4 Ash	Hugo & Sofia	4 Sycamore	Nyla-Rose & Emmy-Ann
5 Cedar	Emilia & Finley	5 Fir	Isabel & Tabeeb
6 Oak	Albert & Vaughan	6 Redwood	Filip & Sudiksha

Birthdays




Shay
Yahya
Evangeline R
Sebastian W
Isabella A
Josef
Miles
Ashley
Harry P
Conor

Olivia
Rosie D
Josephine
Sebastian G
Oakley
Nea
Jessica
Qamar
Hayaa



Nyla
Ryan-David
Robert
Hector
Esha
Tian
Zoe
Angelo
Alexander
John Dale



Attendance & Punctuality Spring Term 2

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

We have noticed an increase in the number of children with **100%** attendance. Well done to everyone whose attendance has improved.

Here are some quotes about school attendance from our current Year Six pupils.

‘Attendance at school is very important because it allows us to have a good and thorough education. This education can provide us with excellent job opportunities in the future.’ Eva

‘Having good attendance is important because it means we do not miss out on crucial lessons and fall behind. It allows us to have time with our teacher, who can explain things we may find difficult.’
Kieran

‘Attending school daily gives us the best possible education and allows us to learn a variety of skills and lessons. Many of us have dream jobs and we need the lessons that we have learnt in school to help us achieve this!’ Lea

Overall attendance this academic year 2025/2026 to date is 97.0%

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
6 Redwood	96.7	6 Oak	96.0
5 Cedar	97.6	5 Fir	97.4
4 Ash	97.3	4 Sycamore	97.3
3 Elm	96.3	3 Rowan	96.9
2 Chestnut	97.3	2 Hazel	97.0
1 Maple	98.5	1 Olive	97.3
R Cherry	97.7	R Pear	97.2
Little Acorns	95.0	Whole School	97.0

Pupil Achievement



Kieran - 5th Place - All-Ireland Irish Dancing Championship & travelling to Chicago for the World Championships.

Kian - performance at the Mayors Community Awards ceremony.

Iris - medal at Irish Dance competition McGahan Lees Feis 2026 cut & donated hair to The Little Princess Trust

Nidhi - 2nd Hop jig, 4th Light jig, 4th Reel - awarded prizes at Irish Dancing competition

Jude - 2 Irish Dancing medals awarded at McGahan Lees Feis 2026

Roxy - awarded 5 trophies at Irish Dance competition

Aamaaya - Grade 1 piano- Merit

Elisa - Grade 1 Tap

Jacob - Grade 1 Tap

Coralie- Irish Dancing medal



OLOL Summer Term Calendar

Summer Term 1	
Friday 24 th April	8.55am Olive Class Special Assembly
Monday 4 th May	May Bank Holiday - School is closed
Tuesday 5 th May	10.45am-6.00pm Nursery Parent Consultations
Tuesday 19 th May	2.30pm Crowning of Mary Service
Thursday 21 st May	Class photos
Friday 22 nd May	INSET DAY- School is closed
Half Term - Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May	
Monday 15 th June	9.10am Nursery Sports Day
Tuesday 16 th June	9.10am Year 1 Sports Day
Thursday 18 th June	9.10am Year 2 Sports Day
Friday 19 th June	9.10am Reception Sports Day
Thursday 25 th June	10.00am Year 3 & 4 Sports Day Eaton Manor - please note changes in times 1.30pm Year 5 & 6 Sports Day Eaton Manor - please note changes in times
Saturday 4 th July	PTA Summer Ball, The Ballroom, Red Lion, Leytonstone
Monday 6 th July	6.30pm Year 6 Performance
Thursday 9 th July	6.30pm-8.45pm Year 6 Pupil Disco
Tuesday 14 th July	2.00pm Leavers Mass in school

Message from the PTA

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA this year so far.

Whether you've contributed to our Little Recyclers collections, made online purchases using Easyfundraising, volunteered behind the scenes or come along to enjoy our Christmas Fayre and St Patrick's Disco - every bit of support ensures that all OLOL children can benefit from brilliant experiences such as Skittleman, Christmas panto, Book Week activities, Windrush workshops and new library corners.

Please take a look at the update from PTA Treasurer Raf, below, and see exactly what was raised and when and how our funds are being spent.

None of the PTA's fundraising would be possible without the help and support of the whole school community, so thank you again.

Finally, we'd like to wish everyone a joyful and restful Easter.

See you next term!

