



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

"A place of learning – A community of Christ"

17th December 2021

Dear Parents,


It has been another incredibly busy week with the Key Stage 1 Christmas performance, the Reception Nativity and Christmas lunch. I am absolutely delighted that we have been able to have a much more normal school Christmas compared to last year. It is so important for the children to have these early school experiences which may only happen once in their life.

The performances were brilliant. All the children spoke so well and sang beautifully. I can't believe those Reception children have only been in school for one term. I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the staff; it is an amazing amount of work on top of their teaching commitment and I know they all have such high standards.

I'd also like to thank Mrs Burke, the midday supervisors and the parent volunteers for making the Christmas lunch for the children so special. They decorated the tables beautifully, got together some Christmas music, arranged crackers and generally made sure there was a lovely atmosphere. Thank you.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas. I really hope you have a relaxing few weeks and get to see the friends and family that you were planning to.

God bless,

M. Hold 



Attendance

After Christmas, I will be sending a letter home for every child in the school, so that all parents know what their child's attendance has been like since they started Our Lady's School. Attendance has been more difficult to monitor over the last few years because of the impact of COVID. However, we are starting to see a pattern of some children underperforming because they have missed so much school. This is time they have missed on top of lockdowns. I cannot emphasise the importance of school attendance at the moment especially when we don't know if we will be forced to isolate legally. It is very difficult for children to learn if they continually miss lessons. We just don't have the resources to keep going back over learning for children who have missed school. In January, we are starting to use a new software package called curriculum provision map which costs all our interventions and support. This will allow us to target our resources to maximise children's progress. However, we will prioritise children who we know are going to be in school otherwise it is waste of money and would be unfair on parents who understand the value of school attendance.

The letter I send to all parents will have a copy of your child's register over the past three years and will also tell you how many days your child has missed since starting at Our Lady's. I think parents will be surprised what the absence adds up to as there are some children who have missed more than a term of school. Moving forward we will alert parents once their children's absence goes beyond half a term, then a term and so on.

Please remember that 5 days absence includes 2.5 hours of phonics (KS1), 5 hours of literacy and 5 hours of numeracy. They will never get these back and it puts your child at an immediate disadvantage. The two most important indicators to children's academic achievement at GCSE is their reading level at age 7 and their attendance.

I understand that these are difficult times. However, children have already suffered enough and been asked to make incredible sacrifices. It is really important that parents don't compound this by not ensuring they attend school at every possible opportunity.

Reception Admissions 2022 - 2023

A quick reminder that admissions for Reception 2022 are open but close shortly after Christmas. Please remember that you need to fill in a form for school as well as applying in the normal way through Buckinghamshire Council. Forms are available in the school office, and in the local parishes.

Our Lady's PTA


The PTA have recorded a short thank you video which you can view following this link. However, I would like to say a massive thank you to them from the whole community. They have achieved an unbelievable amount under very difficult circumstances. We are all so lucky to be part of an amazing and incredibly vibrant community. The PTA are a massive part of that.


<https://youtu.be/BfIve54au2s>

@OLScheshambois





There has been lots of great stuff going on this week in school. Here is a quick snapshot





 **olscheshambois** ...

 **olscheshambois** Well done to the school netball team playing in the finals of the Chiltern League today #OLSSport
32 m

[View Insights](#)

4 likes
32 MINUTES AGO

 Add a comment... 



 **olscheshambois** ...

 **olscheshambois** This morning was our Reception Nativity #OLsReception #Advent2021 #OLsbuildingthekingdom
6 h


[View Insights](#)


   




19 likes
6 HOURS AGO

 Add a comment... 







 **olscheshambois** ...



 **olscheshambois** Year 2 and Year 3 had a great time yesterday building fires at forest school #OLsScience
1 d

 **teresawatson7**  
21 h Reply

[View Insights](#)

16 likes
1 DAY AGO

 Add a comment... 



olscheshambois ...

olscheshambois It is Christmas lunch time
1 d

teresawatson7 ❤️
1 d Reply

roo_and_lous_adventures Fab lunch! All the children were very excited! X
1 d Reply

[View Insights](#)

16 likes
1 DAY AGO

Add a comment... [Post](#)



olscheshambois ...

olscheshambois Christmas jumper, Christmas lunch and Accelerated Reader. Too much fun!!!!
1 d

teresawatson7 🙌❤️
1 d Reply

[View Insights](#)

22 likes
1 DAY AGO

Add a comment... [Post](#)



olscheshambois ...

olscheshambois Year 4 have been making Christingles as part of their RE #OLSRE #OLSbuildingthekingdom
2 d

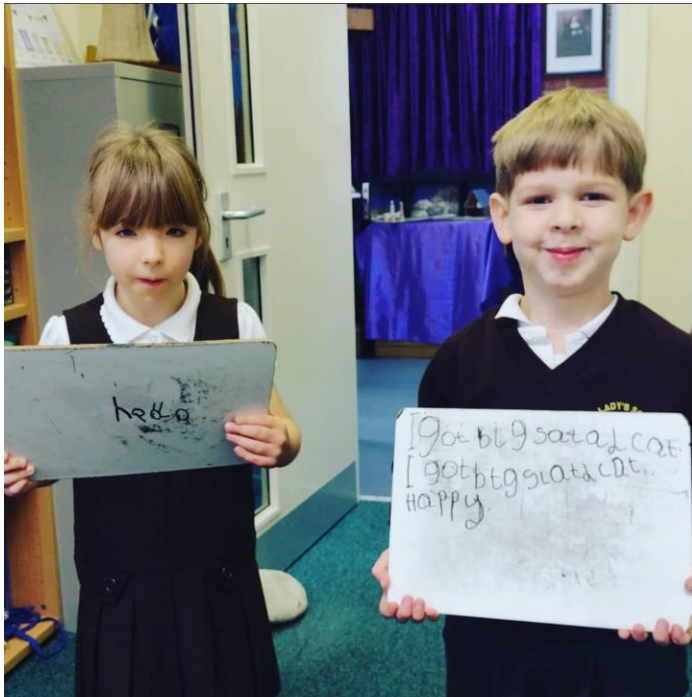
teresawatson7 🙌❤️
1 d Reply

[View Insights](#)

♡ 🔍 🗑️ 🔖

25 likes
2 DAYS AGO

😊 Add a comment... 📌 Post



olscheshambois ...

olscheshambois These two have done some lovely warm up work in their Literacy #OLSliteracy
2 d

estheribbs Super work!! Well done 🥰
2 d 1 like Reply

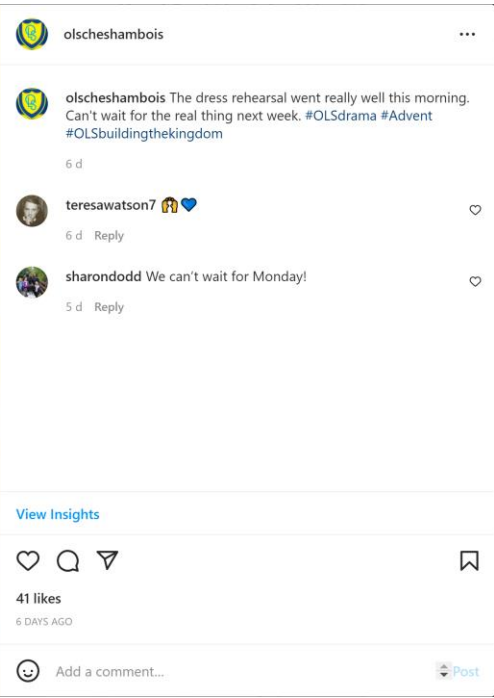
teresawatson7 🙌❤️
1 d Reply

[View Insights](#)

♡ 🔍 🗑️ 🔖

21 likes
2 DAYS AGO

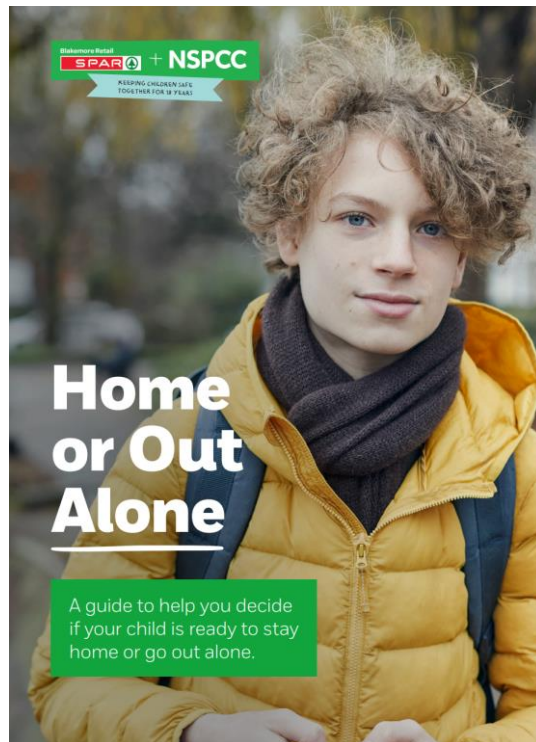
😊 Add a comment... 📌 Post



Safeguarding

As your children get older and moving towards secondary school you will need to start thinking about giving your child some more independence. Here is a guide from the NSPCC:

[Home or out alone \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)



Christmas Mass

Our Lady's, Chesham Bois

If you are planning to bring your children to the Christmas Eve Family Mass at Our Lady's Church and would like them to join in the nativity tableau and carols before Mass, please can they stay behind after 9:30 Mass on Sunday 19 December for a very short practice. The carols will begin at 6:30 on Christmas Eve, and Mass begins at 7:00. The children are invited to attend dressed as angels or shepherds. We are also still looking for children to read bidding prayers at this Mass – if your child is interested and you will not be at Mass this Sunday, please contact Liz McCarthy on 07973 715396.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Great Missenden

All families at Our Lady's school are invited to the children's Mass on Christmas Eve at 5pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary's church in Great Missenden. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr Alessandro and we look forward to seeing you there!

St Aidan's, Little Chalfont

Unfortunately, the team at St Aidans have decided to postpone the nativity for another year.



Accelerated Reader

Top readers this term

Words Read	
Year 6	8,191,747 words
Year 5	5,990,085 words
Year 4	5,655,006 words
Year 3	1,513,710 words

Millionaire Readers

Kaitlyn (Year 6)

Matilda (Year 4)

Harry (Year 4)

Year 2

Jude

Sabrina

Emilio

Luna

Alasdair

Year 3

Leo

Mark

Archie

Ivor

Ralph

Spike

Leonardo

Alma

Charlie K

Michael L

Michael M

Bea

Evelyn

Joseph

Emily

Year 5

Harry

Wiktor

Finlay

Lily

Louis

Florence

Lucy

Thomas

Alex

Amelia

Matthew

Esther

Year 6

Harrison

Jimi

Ruby

Zara

Kester

Mirella

George

Year 4

Leo

Pierce

Nathan

Tosia

Freya

Xavier

Ellie

Kome

Jordan

Ava

Stella

Ethan