



13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents,

This week has been incredibly busy but there have been three absolute highlights for me!

Firstly, Monday was our Feast Day, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The children had a great day and enjoyed doughnuts at breaktime. We finished the day with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Father Roy. The children were a credit to us all. They really are rising to all the opportunities they are being given to lead music, serving, reading and welcoming. It is an absolute a true joy and I know Father Roy is really impressed with how enthused the whole community is.


The next highlight for me was driving back from a meeting in Luton listening to the Year 6 children on Radio Christmas. The children were great although I was expecting to hear about something falling on a child's head, the fact Year 6 were "colouring" (that's not normal at Our Lady's) and that Mrs Cid-Fuentes had let them off homework. I'll have to remember not to go out too often.

Finally, this morning we had the Reception Nativity. It is always the highlight of the Christmas season in school. I don't know why but every year it amazes me how much the staff get out of the children. It really shouldn't surprise me because everything they do in the Early Years is just as professional.



There have been lots more great things going on this week: trips, performances etc. And we still have the exciting Hollyberry Fayre later this afternoon. A busy school is a fun school! Have a lovely weekend.

God Bless

M. Hold 

## **Catholic Life: Parent Survey**

It is this time of year when the governors use the Catholic Inspectorate questionnaire to get parents views on the Catholic Life of the school. Last year, we had feedback about inviting parents into school more for Mass and liturgies hence the Instagram posts that you may have seen. I am sure you will get to do this for the actual inspectorate over the next few terms, but we are always looking to celebrate our strengths and look for areas to improve.

Please spend a few minutes completing the following Microsoft Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/L9vtN0RYfz>



## **Chiltern League**

Yesterday, was the finals day for the Chiltern League netball season. The Chiltern League has been such a success, and it is great to be able to play competitive sport every week. The children played fantastically well this season and went into the finals day in third place in the league. Unfortunately, they still had some of the best teams to play and it was a tough afternoon at the office in tough conditions. However, Mr Weatherill said the children represented the school incredibly well and never let their heads drop. Well done everyone!



# **Reading**

## ***How long can your child sit and read for?***

As your child gets older, you will probably find you listen to them read less. It is still important to listen to them read on occasion. However, a good indicator for how well they can read is how long they can sit and read in one stint. It is very interesting when I go around the classes watching them during the accelerated reader time. Some children find it really difficult to sit and really get immersed in a book. This is something that the children have to develop and the only way is to make sure they have time every day away from distractions (the television or computer games) to read.





## Smartphones

There is a lot of evidence out there about the effects of smartphones on children and young people. In my time as headteacher, the numbers of children even at primary age who have a smartphone has soared. Many of you will have already bought your children a smartphone and some will be considering it. And all the time, your children will be trying to persuade you that everyone else has one. Well before you take the plunge, I definitely recommend that you watch the following documentary on Channel 4.



## Last Week of Term

KS1 Performance	18 <sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm	Key Stage 1
KS2 Carol Service - St Aidan's Church	19 <sup>th</sup> December 6.30pm	Key Stage 2
End of Term	20 <sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm	Whole School



## Clubs

Just to note that there are no clubs next week or the first week of next term. I'd like to thank all the staff who run the clubs. We have an incredible amount of free clubs and often we have more than half the school stay until 4.30pm. We are incredibly lucky with the staff we have as I know of many schools where they would struggle to get staff to run the clubs.

## Accelerated Reader

Well done to the following children who are reading above their reading target (the lower end of their **ZPD**) and are scoring above 80% in the quizzes.

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Reuben Rex Oliver Charlie Varun	Sofia Evie Arthur Rory Amelia Ruby Josephine Ann Juno Francesca Thomas Roberto Zoe Zachary Ralph Olivia Caolan Martha Peregrine Daisy Jan Nathan	Keera Alyssa James Renske Adam Michael Cuthbert Mason Misha Victoria Hansini Cat Cat Elise Xavier Sharvil Annie Klara Maja	Tamsin Sienna-Rose Evie Dominik Elizabeth Simeon Grace Eleanor Arthur Jacob Erica Shanaya Lorcan Aliza Hansika Erin Chanuga Olive Hugo Emilio	Mark Mia Ivor Spike Wanda Rebecca Charlie F Finley H Charlie K Michael M Evelyn Dominik Robert Joseph Curtis Zuzanna
Year 1				
Aariv				

Congratulations to Cat Cat in Year 4 who has already read over 2 million words this year.

## **Gratitude Assembly Certificates**



Last week's Gratitude Assembly certificates were awarded to:

Year 1	<b>Alex, Thomas</b>
Year 2	<b>Layla, Rex</b>
Year 3	<b>Alex, Jan</b>
Year 4	<b>Isabelle, Logan</b>
Year 5	<b>Elena, Evie, Aliza</b>
Year 6	<b>Mark, Archie, Rio</b>

# News From The Parishes



## ST COLUMBA'S (Chesham):

*New Parish Priest: Fr Eustace Durugbo*

*email: [freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org)*

Sunday Masses @ 9am (traditional choir) & 6pm (Youth Band/ Choir)

Polish Mass @ 12 noon (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month)

**Next YOUTH MASS – Sunday 15th Dec @ 6pm**

**Next MUSIC practice – Saturday 14th Dec @ 5-6pm**

**Next YOUTH CLUB – Saturday 14th Dec @ 6-7pm (for catering and safeguarding purposes please let Federica know if you are attending and if you have any dietary requirement)**

**Next FHC session – Saturday 14th Dec @ 4-5pm**

## **IHM – Great Missenden**

*New Parish Priest: Fr Eustace Durugbo*

*email: [freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org](mailto:freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org)*

Saturday Mass @ 6pm

Sunday Mass @ 11am (with children's liturgy), followed by refreshments in the hall.

Polish Mass @ 12.15pm (2nd & 4th Sunday of the month)

### **CHRISTMAS EVE Family/ children Mass – 24th Dec @5pm**

## ***Our Lady's and St Aidan's parishes***

*Priest: Father Roy*

Sunday Mass times:

Our Lady's - Saturday 5 pm; Sunday 9 am (with children's liturgy and a choir for children in Year 3 and above - all welcome to come and sing, and there's a brief practice after Mass)

St Aidan's - Saturday 6:15 pm; Sunday 9 am (Polish Mass) and 11 am

### **Christingle Crafts & Music, 21st December, 3pm at Our Lady's**

We are planning a Christingle craft and music afternoon at 3pm, followed by a Christingle service at the usual time of 5pm on **Saturday 21st**

**December** at Our Lady's. We will be practicing some carols to sing in the Christingle service, where children and young people can bring their grown-ups and friends to listen to them! **Please join us for some Christingle samosa & mulled wine fun!**





# #OLScheshambois


Here is a quick snapshot of our learning this week:





olscheshambois

olscheshambois The last rugby club of the year. Very muddy children #OLSRugby #OLSport  
20 h

readyformenopause Love this photo! 🥰👍  
14 h Reply


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20 hours ago


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olscheshambois  
Original audio

olscheshambois We had a fabulous guitar and piano assembly this morning. Thank you Mr Sweet #OLSMusic  
19 h

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19 hours ago

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 olscheshambois

 olscheshambois Yr4 Science experiment - which material muffles sound the best #OLSVear4 #OLSScience


Edited · 19 h

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Liked by [hawridgeandcholesburyce](#) and 15 others


19 hours ago

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 olscheshambois

Original audio

 olscheshambois Thank you to all the children who took part in a brilliant Lamda assembly this morning #OLSDrama

19 h



 **olscheshambois**  
Original audio

 **olscheshambois** After school club having lots of fun burning off some energy last night #OLSafterschoolclub  
39 m



 **olscheshambois**

 **olscheshambois** Well I feel particularly Christmassy after Reception's wonderful Nativity this morning. #OLSReception #OLSdrama #OLSAdvent  
37 m

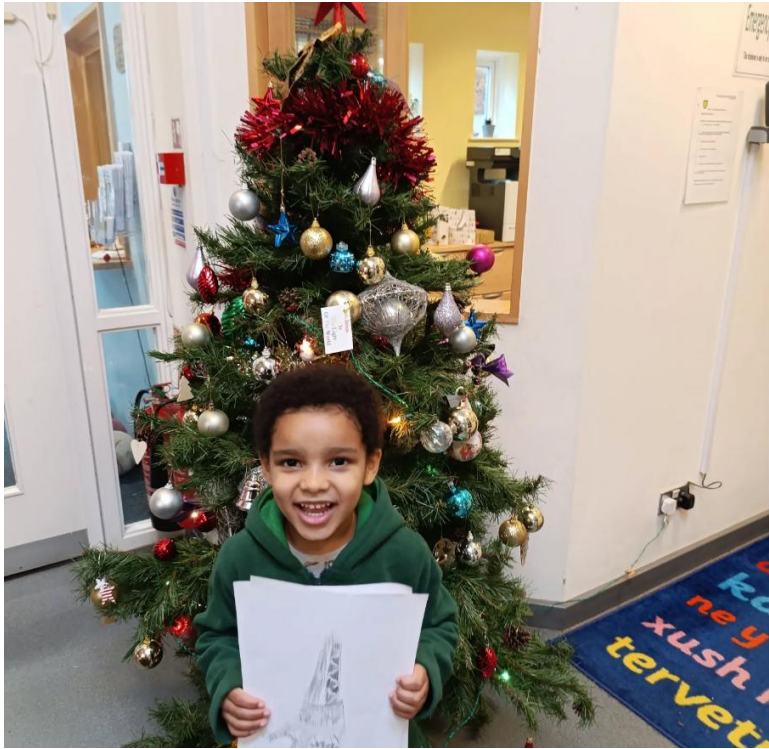
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 olscheshambois

 olscheshambois We have a budding artist in Year 1 #OLSArt #OLSYear1

36 m

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 olscheshambois

 olscheshambois Year 1 have just finished their RE topic. They are writing their end of topic Mission which says what they are going to do in their lives as a result of their learning #OLSYear1 #OLSRE

33 m

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Post







olscheshambois



olscheshambois Year 2 are learning all about exercise in Science. These children could tell me all about how it linked to Human Dignity #OLSCatholicSocialTeaching #OLSBuildingTheKingdom #OLSScience #OLSYear2


31 m

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olscheshambois



olscheshambois Year 2 are making clock towers #OLSOT

31 m

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## December 2024

November is a month of special feasts starting with the Solemnity of All Saints and Feast of All Souls and ending with the Solemnity of Christ the King which marks the end of the liturgical year.

Our November resources invite children to explore what is most important. The Gospels encourage us to prioritise God over all things and love our neighbour. Jesus explains that true generosity of heart means giving with the confidence to trust that God will provide us with all that we need and He is always there ready to help and guide us.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout November and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope it is a useful resource for your family prayer time.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

**Jesus,  
We want to be like you.  
Send your Holy Spirit to  
help us to be good leaders in all we do.  
Amen**