



20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents,

There is no better place to be the week before Christmas than in a primary school. There are so many moments filled with absolute joy! The two highlights for me have been the Key Stage 1 “It’s a Miracle” performance and then a beautiful KS2 Carol service at St Aidan’s church yesterday evening. I challenge anyone not to feel the Christmas spirit after those performances.

I would like to thank everyone who donated to the Caritas Northampton collection at all of our events. It is a great way of really living the true meaning of Christmas: “That God sent His Son to help us to be kinder, more peaceful and to show more love.”

Finally, I’d like to thank the PTA who have been very busy over the last few weeks. There was the Hollberry boogie and then, last week, the Hollyberry Fayre. I look forward to hearing how much money they have raised but, more importantly, it is great for the school community. Schools are communities and this is one full of extremely joyful families.

I hope you have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone on the 6<sup>th</sup> January!

God Bless

M. Howarth



## **Attendance Reports**

Today, every child will get their attendance report. This lets you know what your child's current attendance is and what it will be like if they are in school everyday for the rest of the year. It also tells you what their career attendance (whole school attendance) is and what it would be if they came in every day until they left Our Lady's school. Obviously, the younger they are the more influence you have on that but often poor overall attendance just creeps up on people so it is important that you have all the information.

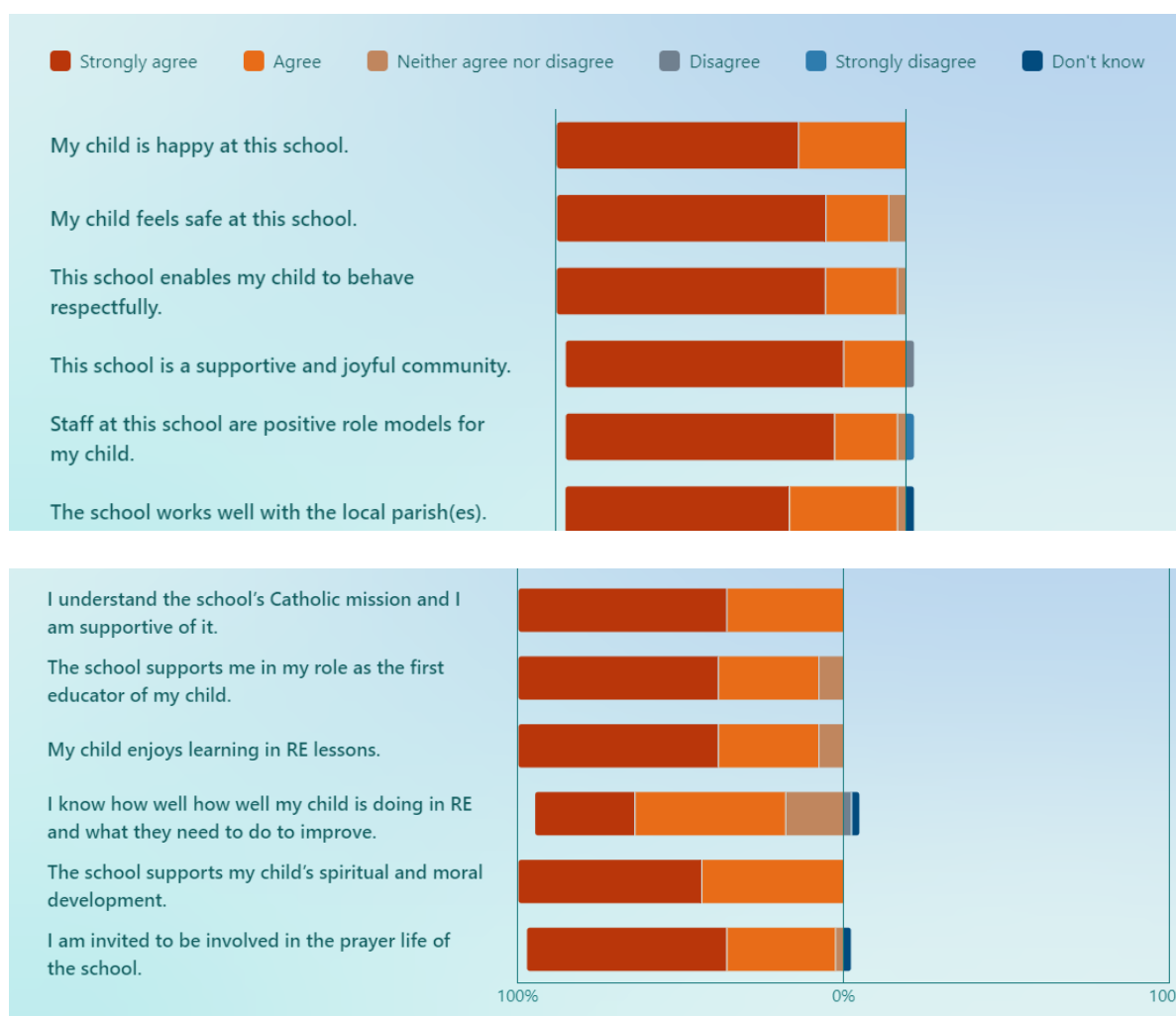
The current school attendance is in the top 10% of schools (probably the top 5%) however it is always a little lower in the last few weeks of term. It is important to remember that someone else pays for our children's education which costs **£28.70** a day. It is really important we take advantage of every opportunity.

## **Key Stage 1 Phonics Reports**

As well as the attendance report, the Key Stage 1 and Reception children will also get their termly phonics report. Please remember to keep reading with them over Christmas!!!!!!!

# Catholic Life Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Catholic Life survey. We had responses from around a quarter of the school on behalf of 50 children.



As you can see there is some overwhelmingly positive feedback. The area that stands out the most is how we can help parents know how well their child is doing in Religious Education. At the moment we are taking on the new curriculum which all Catholic schools are meant to be moving towards. Once we have got our heads around it as staff, we will try and make sure that we provide parents with more information. Thank you to everyone who responded and please remember that my door is always open for feedback either positive or negative.

## 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 number 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.



## Clubs

Just to note that there are no clubs during 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 Nikolay Maja	Tamsin Sienna-Rose Evie Dominik Elizabeth Simeon Grace Eleanor Jude Arthur Jacob Erica Shanaya Lorcan Aliza Hansika Erin Chanuga Olive Hugo Emilio	Behtin Mark Mia Ivor Ralph 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 and Dominic in Year 6 who has read 1 million words.



## **RE Certificates**

This year we have introduced half termly RE certificates. Each half term we are giving one for presentation and one for effort. I go around a lot of schools in my work leading RE and Catholic life in the MAT and also as a Catholic Schools Inspector so I can safely say that our RE books look amazing at the moment. Being chosen for one of these certificates is a real accolade. The certificates for the last two half terms were awarded to:



Reception	<b>Patrick, Wilf</b>
Year 1	<b>William, Maisie, Iulia, Joseph</b>
Year 2	<b>Reuben, Maksim, Rory, Sofia</b>
Year 3	<b>Peregrine, Allison, Nathan, Juno</b>
Year 4	<b>Cat Cat, Joseph, Julia, Elise</b>
Year 5	<b>Nathan, Jaeda, Eleanor, Tamsin</b>
Year 6	<b>Zuzannah, Ivor, Michael M, Evie</b>

## **The Future of OLS**

Congratulations to Szymon and family who welcomed a December baby Tulia to the family. She was born on the 5th December. It is going to be a special Christmas in the Sziba family.

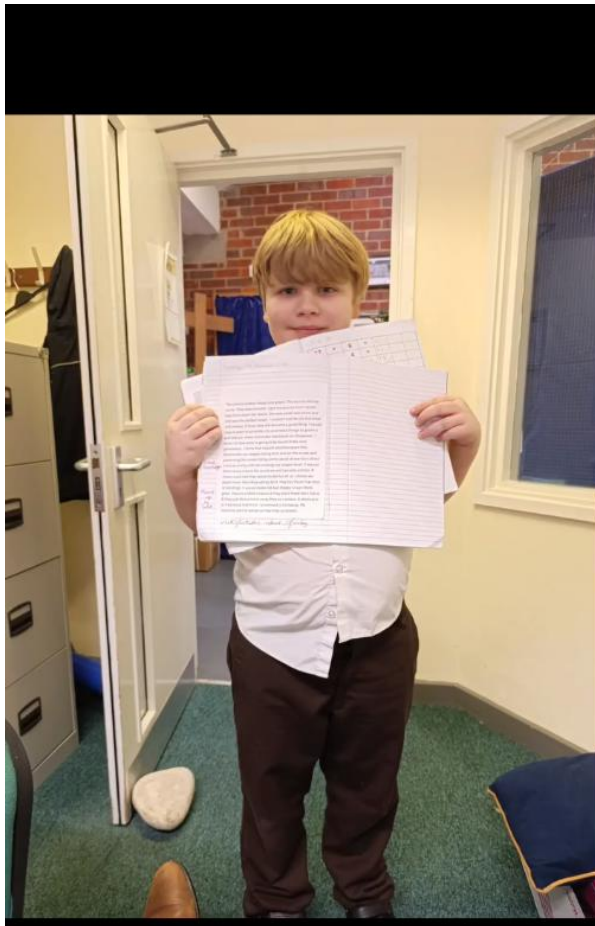


# #OLScheshambois

Here is a quick snapshot of our learning this week:







olscheshambois




olscheshambois Building up his independence using the Microsoft Office dictation tool #OLSLiteracy

1 d


View Insights


Boost reel








olscheshambois



olscheshambois Year 5 have been writing a missing scene in The Tempest. It is a conversation between Miranda and Prospero. I've really enjoyed reading them #OLSLiteracy @theliteracytree #OLSVear5

1 d







theliteracytree Amazing work from year 5 - plenty of playwrights in the making!

1 d Reply


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Liked by theliteracytree and 10 others

1 day ago





olscheshambois

olscheshambois Yr4 end of topic liturgy, Prophecy and Promise

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Liked by maria\_holds and 19 others






olscheshambois Afterschool club making key rings  
#OLSafterschool

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Liked by waterside\_pa and 16 others


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olscheshambois This young lady has collected all the Catholic Social Teaching stickers #OLSBUILDINGTHEKINGDOM


3 d

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Liked by hawridgeandcholesburyce and 14 others

3 days ago

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olscheshambois Retelling of the Jolly Christmas Postman

3 d

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22 likes

3 days ago



## 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**