



25th April 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely Easter and enjoyed the sunshine particularly in the first week. It has been lovely to be back at school and the children seem to have settled down really well. It was lovely to show Pauline Cuddihy (The Northampton Diocese Director of Education) around school yesterday. After about 5 minutes, she commented on how well behaved the children are and also about how eloquent they are.


It was really sad to hear the news of Pope Francis' death on Monday and we started the term by praying for him and for the future of the church. Although it is only opinion, Pope Francis is by far my favourite Pope and I hope the Holy Spirit guides the Cardinals to choose someone as visionary as him for the next Pope. However, the one thing that we can be sure of is that we can trust in God's plan.

Federica is in Rome at the moment as she was there for the Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis. I know she will be praying for Pope Francis but also for us and it is nice to think that a part of our community is there representing us.

Finally, I hope you have seen the invite to Mass here at school next week to mark the Jubilee Year of Hope. It will be lovely to have the Bishop visiting and celebrating Mass with us again.

Have a lovely weekend

God Bless

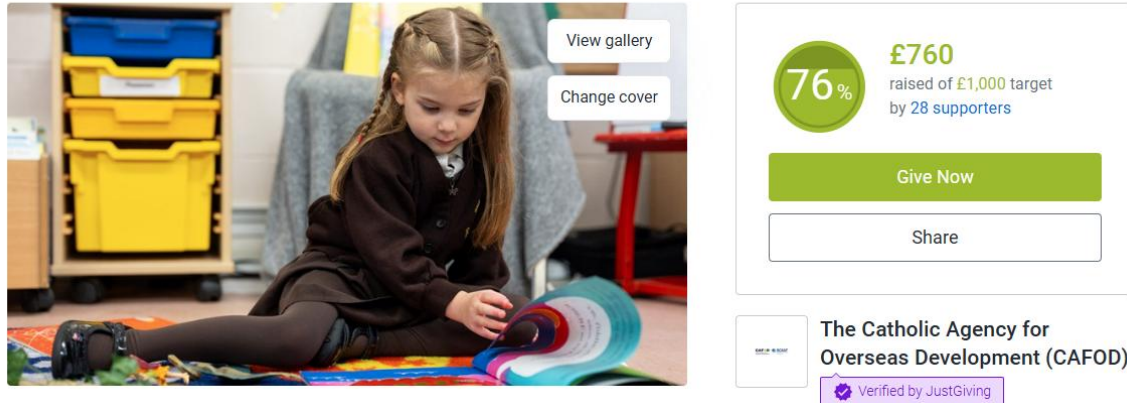
M. Hold 

CAFOD Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has donated already for Lent. It is still not too late and we have nearly reached our target.

[Fundraising for The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development \(CAFOD\)](#)

Our Lady's Catholic School Lenten Big Read(CAFOD)



The above figure doesn't include £158.75 Gift Aid which has been donated on top of this.

Year 3 also raised £530 from the Easter Egg raffle which I am reliably informed by Mrs Gardner is a record.

And on top of that, Year 5 and Reception raised £70 by organising a joint talent show.

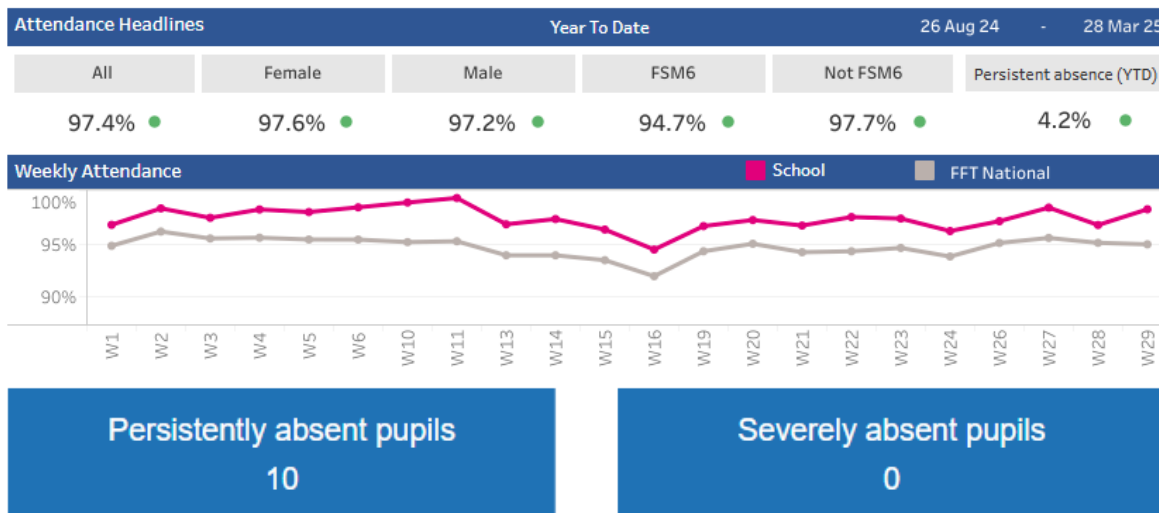
So we have already raised over £1500 but there is still time to donate if you haven't had the chance yet.

Thank you

Morning Drop Off

Please can I remind parents that the doors open at 8.45am when the children can come in and that there is no supervision on the playground before school. If your child is dropped off before 8.30am they should be in breakfast club. The charge for breakfast club is £6 a session.

Attendance



Just a reminder that children who are persistently absent from school each year will miss more than **266 days** of school which is basically about **a year and a half**.

News From The Parishes



ST COLUMBA'S (Chesham):

Parish Priest: Fr Eustace Durugbo

email: freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org

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

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

IHM – Great Missenden

Parish Priest: Fr Eustace Durugbo

email: freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org

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

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

Our Lady's and St Aidan's parishes

Priest: Father Roy

Sunday Mass times:

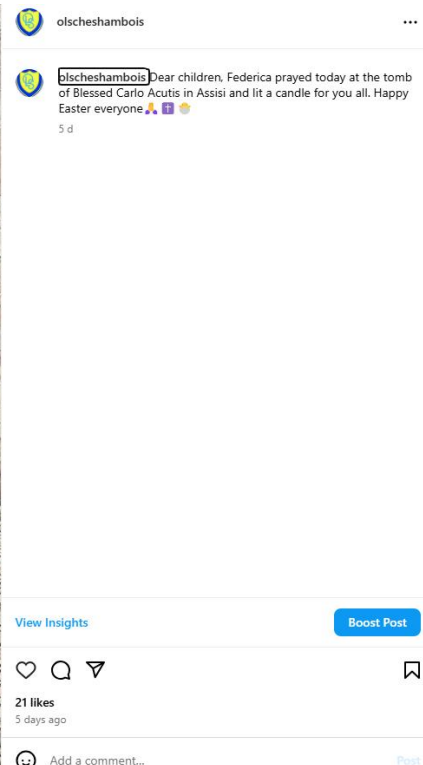
Our Lady's - Saturday 5 pm; Sunday 9 am (with children's liturgy and a choir for children in Year 3 and above - all welcome to come and sing, and there's a brief practice after Mass)

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

Children are the future of our Church and are always welcome at Mass, but parents often worry about small children getting restless and disturbing other members of the congregation. As well as children's liturgy at the 9:00 Sunday Mass, Our Lady's Church now has a speaker set up in the guildroom. This allows you to continue to follow the Mass if your toddler needs a break from sitting still.

#OLScheshambois

Here is a quick snapshot of our learning this week:





olscheshambois

olscheshambois I've just seen some amazing writing about the children's holidays #OLSYear1 #OLSLiteracy
1 d

[View Insights](#)[Boost Post](#)



11 likes
1 day ago

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



olscheshambois

olscheshambois Year 1 enjoying some outdoor learning. Using a View Finder to sketch our school building. #OLSYear1 #OLSGeography
17 h

[View Insights](#)[Boost Post](#)



Liked by hawridgeandcholesburyce and 15 others
17 hours ago

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



April 2025

April this year includes the last few days of Lent, leading to Holy Week and the celebration of Easter. So it seems fitting that the last of our Lent series of Celebration of the Word Assemblies, inspired by the [Jubilee Year](#), explores the theme of 'hope'.

In Lent, we remember the hope that only Jesus can bring, and then we celebrate with faith when that hope is realised on Easter Sunday.

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

JUBILEE JOY: HOPE

Inspired by Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, this assembly reminds us to be hopeful and positive in our relationships with each other.

Through the image of the father, waiting for his son to return, children learn that even when we turn away from God and make choices that hurt ourselves and other people, God never loses hope that we will come back to Him. We can be hopeful, knowing that God is always ready to forgive us and welcome us back.

With your child/ren, you might like to...

- *Talk about hope - a positive feeling that encourages us. You might want to compare the hopes of different members of the family or talk about hope in different contexts e.g. hope in family life, hopes for the world, hope in our faith.*
- *Read the story of The Prodigal Son together ([Luke 15:1-3, 11-32](#)), and talk about the actions of the father and his two sons. The feelings of the faithful son who stays with his father might be interesting to explore, particularly with older children.*
- *Watch the **Together in Hope** video released as part of this assembly. You can access it via the [Prayer and Liturgy Online Parent Portal](#).*
- *Think about the part forgiveness and saying sorry has within family life, perhaps acknowledging that this can be challenging and needs to be practised. For older children, you might wish to discuss the Sacrament of*

Reconciliation as part of their Lenten preparations and perhaps plan a visit to church to receive this important sacrament.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

In the first of our Eastertide assemblies, we celebrate the hope, joy and peace of Easter. Children will consider the meaning of faith and belief through a dramatisation of Thomas' encounter with Jesus.

Jesus said that those who believe without seeing Him are truly blessed. Like the disciples, children learn that Jesus invites us to believe in Him and share His hope, joy and peace through our words and actions.

With your child/ren, you might like to...

- *Talk simply about belief and faith, maybe sharing some of your own beliefs and encouraging your child to do the same.*
- *With older children you might want to explore the common phrase - 'seeing is believing', and how we might come to believe in things that we cannot see e.g believing trusted sources of information. Then discuss what faith is and how we can grow in our faith.*
- *Listen to our Jubilee focussed prayer reflection song for the season of Easter - 'Give us Hope' by One Life Music. You can find the song in the [Prayer and Liturgy Parent Portal](#).*

HOPE FILLED FAITH

Faith is an understanding; being able to see in a spiritual way. It is not a leap in the dark but a leap in the light! The prayers for the first week after Easter invite the Holy Spirit to help children understand and see, in faith, the Hope of Jesus' Resurrection.

You might like to call on the Holy Spirit as you pray together:

**Holy Spirit,
Because of Jesus, I can see, speak, hear and know hope.
Help me grow in hope filled faith each day.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen**

MORE TO THE STORY

Jesus knows that we need help to understand God's way, so He taught using parables. During the week beginning the 3rd of March, in the Celebration of the Word Assembly, children will discover how Jesus' stories give us clues on how to live holy lives and love others like God loves.

You might like to take this opportunity with your child/ren to ...

- *Play a game of charades, acting out different fairytale stories and then talk about the moral or lesson that the story teaches.*
- *Use the Prayer for Peace in your family prayer time to invite God to help you love others, even when it is difficult.*

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
Amen**

JESUS, SHINE YOUR LIGHT

The prayers for the week beginning the 17th March use religious artwork to reflect on aspects of Jesus' nature. Inspired by the Transfiguration, where some of the disciples witnessed Jesus' face shining, children will consider how artists have expressed Jesus' divine, Godly nature through their work, to help others know Him.

Through exploration of the images, children ask Jesus - the King, our teacher and friend - to shine His light and enlighten our minds so we can understand more about Him.

You might like to use this prayer as you pray together:

**Jesus,
you are with me as I pray.
Shine your light on me today.
Amen**