



3rd October 2025

Dear Parents,

For me there have been two big highlights this week. Firstly, I took the Year 3 children on the first school trip of the year to the Chiltern Open Air Museum. We had a great time and were blessed with some beautiful weather. The children had hands on experience of what it might be like to live in the Stone Age and then the Iron Age. We made fire, butter, flour, bread, clay pots and much more. It was a great hands on experience which has hopefully brought the children's learning alive.

Then yesterday, we had our beginning of year Mass. It really was incredibly joyful, and it was lovely to be joined by so many parents. There are more and more children getting involved, which is great. During the Mass, Father Roy commissioned 38 children as Altar Servers, Faith Ambassadors and Minnie Vinnies. These growing numbers are real testament to the work being done by all the staff but particularly by Federica. I am sure you won't be surprised but the children's behaviour was immaculate.

God bless,

Mr Holdsworth



Cross Country

It was lovely to see so many children running cross country at Gayhurst last Saturday. It was a lovely day for running, and we had our best turnout at a cross country event for a long while with 37 runners. A special mention must go to Year 4 who had 17 runners – well done Mrs Mazzoni – and all to some very strong performances

Year 6 girls	4 th
Year 4 girls	3 rd
Juno	3 rd
Rory C	10 th
Joseph H	11 th
Jacob H	15 th

Well done to everyone who took part.

Chiltern League Football

Yesterday, the OLS football team faced Hawridge and Cholesbury in the Chiltern League — and what a game it was!

We made a strong start but just couldn't find the back of the net, and unbelievably, after about 10 minutes, we found ourselves 0–2 down.

Then came our super sub — Thomas Saller — who completely changed the game. Within minutes of coming on, he rifled the ball into the back of the net. At half-time, the magic oranges were brought on by Mr White — proof that not all superheroes wear capes! That must have been the turning point.

We came out really strongly in the second half, with another goal from Thomas, one from Liam, an amazing lob over the goalkeeper from Rory for his brace.

Although we conceded one more goal, we emerged victorious with a 5–3 win — our first of the season.

An absolute cracker!

Sad News about St Peters

Earlier this week, we had some sad news in St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust that St Peter's in Marlow will close at the end of next year. It is always sad when a brilliant Catholic school closes but unfortunately, with falling numbers in many areas this is the reality. St Peter's only have about 60 children at the moment which means it is about a quarter full and that really isn't sustainable.

This shows how important it is to make sure we fight for our schools and keep promoting them. Often people think you can only get into a Catholic school if you are Catholic and that really isn't the case. We are lucky at Our Lady's that we are almost full but we never know what the future holds so please keep telling people to come and visit whether they are Catholic or not. And please keep the community of St Peter's in your prayers.

Big Maths Homework

As we embed our new homework system, I just wanted to make sure people knew how to support their children at home without it becoming a battle.

First of all don't panic if your child can't do all of the questions right away. My advice is:

1. Let them have a go
2. Then choose one or two questions to work with your child

The thing is the questions will be exactly the same for the rest of term, just with different numbers. So, over the term we will be working on going back over some of the methods in school and hopefully you will be reinforcing that in school. Obviously, all the children are at different places in their journey. I wouldn't expect the children to be getting 100% now but hopefully by the end of term most children won't be far off.

Accelerated Reader

The children who are already above their target and are higher than 85% in their quizzes are:

Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Rory	Arthur	Keera	Tamsin
	Ayla	Rory	Alyssa	Elizabeth
	Noelia	Ruby	Chloe	Eleanor
	Varun	Josephine	James	Jude
	Tosia	Ann	Michael C	Arthur
		Juno	Szymon	Jacob
		Elena	Malwina	Shanaya
		Francesca	Michael F	Aliza
		Thomas	Cuthbert	Hansika
		Allison	Mason	Florence
		Roberto	Misha	Erin
		Ralph	Victoria	Olive
		Niamh	Hansini	Divine
		Caolan	Cat Cat	
		Eugenie	Julia	
		Genevieve	Xavier	
		Martha	Annie	
		Jan	Klara	
		Nathan	Hanna	
			Nikolay	

Attendance

I was writing a report for the governors this week and looking at attendance. It is great to see that last year's attendance was very nearly back to pre-COVID levels. It has taken a few years, but we are definitely on an upward trajectory. Well done everyone.

	Final
2024-2025	97.3%
2023-2024	96.0%
2022-2023	96.3%
2021-2022	94.8%
2020-2021	97.6%
2019-2020	96.6%
2018-2019	97.6%
2017-2018	97.7%
2016-2017	97.6%
2015-2016	97.6%
2014-2015	97.7%

Gratitude Assembly Certificates



Last week's Gratitude Assembly certificates were awarded to:

Year 1	Ariah, Leo
Year 2	Alexander, Maisie
Year 3	Leon, Tosia
Year 4	Evie, Nathan
Year 5	Logan, Joseph
Year 6	Emilio, Olive

#OLS learning



olscheshambois

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olscheshambois We had a lovely beginning of the year Mass today. The children were amazing and we commissioned over 38 children to be servers, faith ambassadors or Minnie Vinnie's. That is over 15% of the school. Absolutely brilliant! #OLSprayerandliturgy #OLSBUILDINGTHEKINGDOM

15 h

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Original audio

...



olscheshambois Well done to the school football team who came back from 0-2 down to win 5-3. This was an incredibly composed finish #OLSSport #chilternleague #OLSFootball

18 h

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18 hours ago



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olscheshambois Year five wrote, directed and performed play scripts set in a New York City newsroom on the day of an amazing event in 1975 when a French acrobat tightrope walked between the twin towers. #OLSLiteracy #OLSYear5 @theliteracytree #OLSPerformingArts

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olscheshambois Year 4 working on rounding to 10, 100 and 1,000 #OLSMaths #OLSYear4

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Symphonic Planet • Autumn Colors

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olscheshambois A beautiful morning for horse riding
#OLShorseriding #OLScurriculum

4 d

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olscheshambois Cross country was the winner #OLSSport

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News From The Parishes

Youth Masses

ST COLUMBA'S (Chesham):

Parish Priest: Fr Mirek Misiura

email: freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org

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

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

Next Youth Mass: Sunday 13th October @ 6 pm

Artwork will be displayed on Saint Carlo Acutis by the OLS children from all year groups

IHM – Great Missenden

Parish Priest: Fr Mirek Misiura

email: freustace.durugbo@northamptondiocese.org

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

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

Next Youth Mass: Sunday 5th October @ 11 am

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

Next Youth Mass: Sunday 8th November @ 6.15pm

For those of you with younger children, OLOPS Toddler Group runs in the guildroom at the back of Our Lady's Church on Fridays in term time for children aged 0-4 and their parent or carer. We have lots of toys to play with and always finish with a snack and singing. The official timing is 9:15 to 10:30, but you are welcome to come earlier if you're at a loose end after dropping your older child off at school.