



4th April 2025

Dear Parents,

It is the end of a very busy term. As you can imagine two inspections have made it seem very long and the staff are definitely ready for a break. I hope you had the chance to read Mr Richardson's letter regarding the OFSTED inspection earlier in the week. As you can imagine, he is involved in a lot of schools so it is lovely to know that he holds us in such high regard.

This week started with the sad news about Mr Hoff. The children have been amazing and I'd like to thank everyone who has sent messages of condolence. We are putting together a book of messages from the children for Mr Hoff's wife and I'll add some of the lovely emails I've had to that. I have been looking for a picture of Mr Hoff for the book and also to share with the whole community. Going through my Whatsapp messages, I've found that every photo he shared with me involved some sort of a glass of beer or wine. This is my favourite which he sent to me from France last summer when I was checking if he could do a couple of days of supply. It really does sum him up!




The highlights of this week have definitely been the Environment committee meeting HRH The Duke of Gloucester who was visiting a community tree nursery run by Chiltern Forest Rangers and The Year 2 Amersham Field Trip as part of their geography.

Finally, I just want to say a massive thank you to Federica who helped our children's involvement in a beautiful youth Mass at St Aidan's last Sunday. It was just one of three Youth Masses she helped with over the weekend. It is great to have someone working with us who knows how important it is to engage the young in the church. They are the future.

I hope you have a lovey Easter. Make sure you take advantage of the many opportunities in the local parishes. I have forwarded details of all the services to all parents earlier today.

God Bless

M. Hold 

Clubs


Just a reminder that the clubs finished this week and will resume again on Monday 28th April. A massive thank you to all of the staff for running clubs. It is such an important part of our offer.

CAFOD Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has donated already. We are over half way to our target but realise there are another couple of weeks of Lent to go.

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

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




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50%

£500
raised of **£1,000** target
by 20 supporters

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The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)
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cafod.org.uk/fundraise

We are there wherever the need is greatest to build a better world together

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 over £60 by organising a joint talent show.

So we have already raised over £1000 and with a few weeks left reading I'm sure we can raise nearly £2000 this lent.

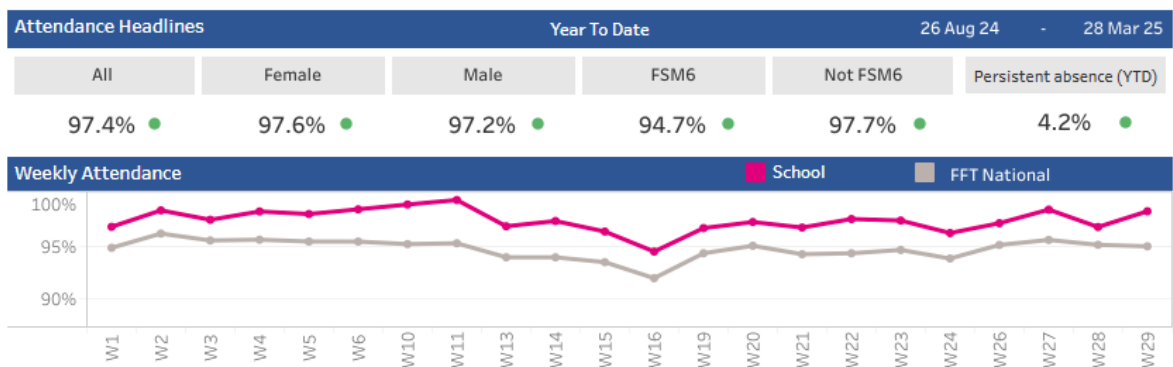
Morning Drop Off

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.

Car Park

This morning a car was damaged in the car park as a parent pulled in to drop off. Fortunately, we have identified the person but my real worry is that eventually it will be a child who is hurt and not a car damaged. Please remember not to use the car park without permission to keep our children safe.

Attendance



Every family will receive their child's attendance report today. This should hopefully help families to get an idea of their child's attendance not only this year but during their whole time at school. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance please feel free to contact us.

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
Jessica Reuben Alexander Rex Romeo Grace Maksim Oliver Rory Charlie Ayla Sofia Noelia Antonio	Sofia Arthur Rory Amelia Ruby Josephine Ann Juno Elena Megan Francesca Thomas Allison Roberto Zoe Zachary Arthur Ralph Niamh Olivia Caolan Eugenie Martha Peregrine Daisy Alex Nathan Mason	Keera Alyssa James Michael C Malwina Aoife Renske Michael F Joseph Mason Misha Victoria Hansini Cat Cat Julia Elise Xavier Sharvil Annie Klara Hannah Nikolay Maja	Tamsin Sienna-Rose Evie Giovanni Donnie Dominik Elizabeth Grace Liam Eleanor Jude Arthur Jacob Shanaya Aliza Thomas Hansika Florence Erin Hugo Emilio	Leo Mark Mia Ivor Ralph Spike Wanda Rebecca Charlie F Lola Parth Finley H Charlie K Michael L Michael M Finn O Evelyn Dominik Robert Joseph Adam Curtis Zuzanna
Year 1				
Aariv Theresa Manny Freddie Joseph P Gaia				

Gratitude Assembly Certificates



Last week's Gratitude Assembly Certificates:

Year 1	Mila-Rose, George, Filip, Zac
Year 2	Pola, Leon, Alex, Robyn
Year 3	Zoe, Rory
Year 5	Bianca, Shanaya

News From The Parishes



ST COLUMBA'S (Chesham):

New 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

New Parish Priest: Fr Eustace Durugbo

email: 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)

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

There will be Stations of the Cross for children during the Good Friday services at both St Aidan's and Our Lady's.

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.

Many thanks, and have a lovely Easter,
Liz

#OLScheshambois

Here is a quick snapshot of our learning this week:






olscheshambois



olscheshambois I've just seen some great writing about Jesus leading us on a path to heaven #OLSRE

23 h

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olscheshambois



olscheshambois The Environment committee meeting the HRH Duke of Gloucester #OLSpupilparliament #OLSPupilLeadership #OLSLeadingWithLove

21 h

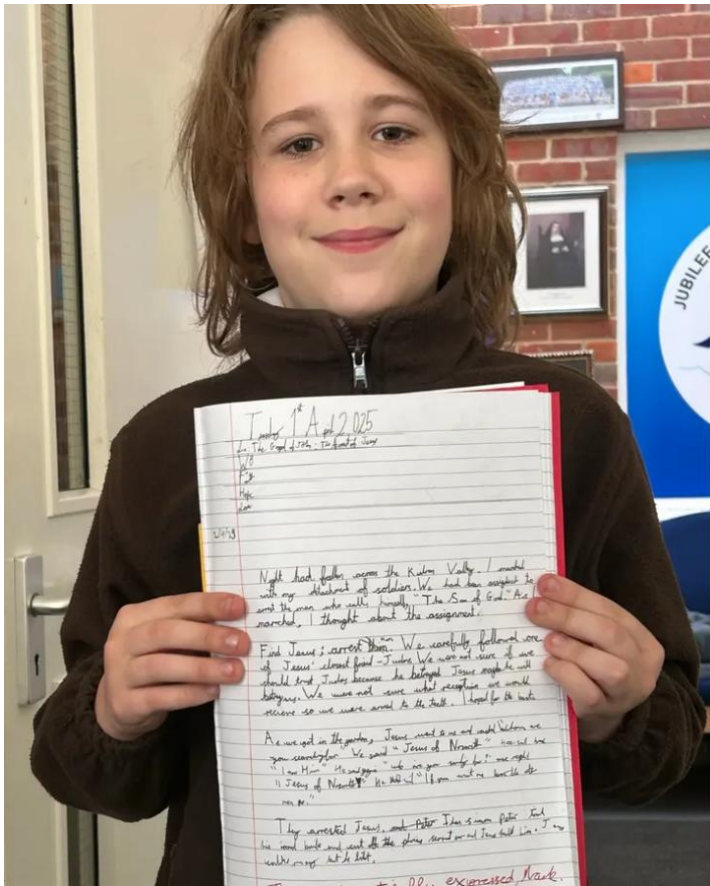
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olscheshambois

olscheshambois A haunting piece of writing, describing the arrest of Jesus from the point of view of one of the soldiers. #OlsRE #OlsYear6 #OlsWriting

20 h

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Liked by hawridgeandcholesburyce and 7 others
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olscheshambois

olscheshambois A great afternoon mixing with @chilternrangers and royalty #OLSpupilleadership #OLStewardship

20 h

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Liked by hawridgeandcholesburyce and 18 others
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olscheshambois




olscheshambois Year 5 had a peaceful reflection and some prayer time at church yesterday, following the Stations of the Cross. Thank you Federica, for leading us with love.
#OLSChaplaincy


18 h

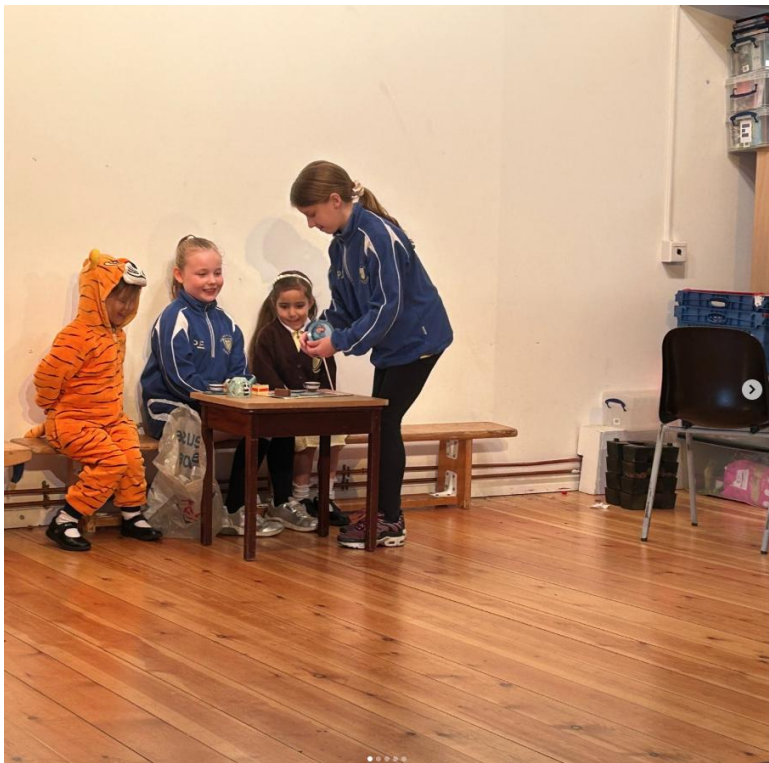
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Liked by [hawridgeandcholesburyce](#) and 13 others

18 hours ago

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olscheshambois



olscheshambois What a way to end the term! Year Five and their reception buddies joined together to perform in a fundraising talent show this morning. A special thank you to the backstage team! #OlsPerformingArts #CAFOD #OlsReception #OlsYear5 #OlsCatholicLife #OlsCatholicSocialTeaching

9 m

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olscheshambois



olscheshambois Year Two had an amazing time pond dipping and investigating animal habitats at Amersham Field Studies Centre yesterday! #OLSGeography #OLSScience #OLSTYear2

6 m

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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**