



5th September 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a lovely summer holiday. The children seem to have returned refreshed and eager to learn. It has been lovely to hear about the fantastic experiences you have given them over the summer, as well as their hopes and dreams for this year.

We are also really fortunate to welcome new children and families. A new beginning and a new year is always an exciting time. I'd also like to welcome Miss Niesa, our new Year 3 teacher. Starting at a new school is always a bit daunting, but she seems to have made a great start.

I'm sure many of you will have noticed our new front entrance. It is much bigger, more spacious and lighter. However, the most important thing is it separates the children from visitors waiting for staff. There has been a lot of work going on in school over the summer to ensure that we meet more modern fire regulations. I am really grateful to Clarke from the trust who arranged it all, to all the workman who did a great job and to Miss Mansfield and Mr Barber who have been keeping an eye on things.

This week has been an induction week, which gives the teachers a chance to set up their routines. It has been lovely walking around the school. There is a lovely calm and purposeful atmosphere, which is a really good sign for the year ahead.

The rest of this letter is going to contain a lot of information. Apologies for bombarding you at the start of the year, but hopefully it will help you ensure your children are prepared for school, so that we can maximise their learning time.

God bless,

Mr Holdsworth

Early Reading and Phonics

Next week, the phonics groups will really get going. When they do, your children should be bringing three reading books home. They will all be matched to their phonics level. You will receive two books that the children use in their phonics lessons (the one they are currently working on and the next one). They will also have a book which they have chosen themselves. This is matched to the other books. It is important to remember that it is good practice to read these books multiple times. **Reading with your child every day will help to develop good reading habits.** These habits are the best indicator of how your child is likely to perform in their GCSEs and A-levels.

Equipment - KS2

This is just a reminder of the equipment that children need to have in school every day, as a minimum. It is really important that they come to school with the right resources so they are ready to learn. We do have a shop in school in case you can't get the equipment elsewhere.

- School handwriting pen
- Pencil
- Rubber
- Pencil sharpener
- 30 cm ruler
- Colouring pencils
- Small pair of scissors
- Glue stick
- Pencil case

The colouring pencils are particularly important as they really help the children make sure their work looks great.

Homework

We are revamping the way we approach homework this year, with less of it being online. You will still have access to Century until Easter, but homework will focus more on the overlearning of essential skills. At times, it may be repetitive from week to week to help transfer information into long-term memory.

The children will record the work they complete in a homework diary, which parents will be asked to sign. This isn't a record of what they are meant to do, but a record of what they have completed.

Please be patient as we transition to a new system and work out the most effective way of building great habits for the future!

Meet The Teacher



Breaktime Snack

Just a reminder that children are allowed fresh fruit at breaktime but they shouldn't have anything in packets. I don't want to be a school that bans crisps etc because I don't believe I want to become the food police. But these things should be part of their lunch meal and not a snack.

Thank you

Extra-curricular Clubs

The extra-curricular clubs will start on Monday 13th September. For information on how to sign up please see our website.

[Extra-Curricular & Sports - Our Lady's Catholic Primary School](#)

Start of School Day

Please note that the doors will close in the bottom corridor at 8.55 am. After that children will need to come through the front entrance. Could parents please avoid standing outside of those doors as it is quite busy for the children there anyway.

Thank you

News From The Parishes

Youth Masses

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)

First Holy Communion 2025/2026

Registration is now open for the First Holy Communion classes which begins in September and runs through to May next year. Please register your interest and to obtain a form by emailing either parish.stcolumba@northamptondiocese.org or parish.ihm@northamptondiocese.org

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

Our Lady's Church is having a birthday party for Our Lady after 9:00 Mass this Sunday (7 September), and the children are invited to come along and celebrate. We will be having Children's Liturgy during Mass as usual.

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 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. The first session for this term is on Friday 12 September.