



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

5th January 2024

A very Happy New Year to you all from everyone at Our Lady of Good Counsel. The children have returned to school with great enthusiasm and joy. Once again, it is going to be a busy term in school. Please make a note of the diary dates and remember to look out for further details of these and other events.

Feast of the Epiphany

Deacon Tony joined us in school today to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Thank you to both him and the Year 6 children who lead us in worship to celebrate this feast day.

Parish News

Sunday 7th January: Little Church. —10.00 Mass.

Wednesday 10th January: Requiem Mass, Pauline Hanley RIP. 11.45 a.m.

Monday 15th January: First Holy Communion instruction resumes –Parish Hall, 15.30

Sunday 21st January: Little Church 10.00 Mass.

Ecumenical Service Riverside Church 18.00

School Virtues

Self-control Courage Hope

Love Justice Solidarity

To love, live and learn in the light of Christ

This term's virtue is Justice.



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Star of the Week

Reception	Ellis	Excellent effort in English this week.
	Tasnim	Wonderful singing when learning a new song this week.
Year 1	Niamh	Super sentences recounting what she did at Christmas, using our Rainbow Grammar structure.
	Logan	Excellent maths, understanding and explaining how to make ten and knowing his number bonds to ten.
Year 2	Emma	Being an amazing adjective spotter during English lessons. Emma is also keen to include adventurous adjectives in her handwriting.
	Bella	Always putting 100% effort into her learning. Bella always listens carefully and joins in class discussions.
Year 3	Poppy	Approaching every maths lesson with a positive attitude.
	Leah	Coming into school each day with a positive attitude.
Year 4	The whole class	A fantastic start to the New Year. Year 4 have all been active learners, shown tick behaviours and settled back into school fantastically. Year 4 impressed all the adults with their swimming, using manners to the public when walking and being polite to their swimming instructors.
Year 5	Ashlea	Returning to school with a positive attitude and renewed confidence towards her work.
	Lily B	Understanding and confidently explaining to others long multiplication using both the column method and the area model.
Year 6	Matthieu	Being an excellent helper in maths and French giving descriptive explanations and translations.
	Maja	Being an active learner in lessons this week and following the tick behaviours. A great role



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Diary Dates

Date	Event
January	
Friday 12th	Network Rail working with Key Stage 2
Friday 19th	CAFOD Brighten Up Day—details to follow
February	
Thursday 8th	Celebration of Learning assembly
Thursday 8th	Last day of term
Friday 9th	INSET day
	HALF TERM BREAK
Monday 19th	Return to school
Friday 23rd	Celebration of Learning day
March	
Tuesday 19th	Parents evening
Wednesday 20th	Parents evening
Wednesday 27th	Celebration of learning assembly
Thursday 28th	Easter Presentation
Thursday 28th	Last day of term
	EASTER BREAK
April	
Monday 15th	INSET day
Tuesday 16th	Return to school



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A fond farewell and good luck

Today we bid farewell to Mrs Allen who is leaving the team at Our Lady of Good Counsel to begin a new adventure. Mrs Allen has been a valued member of staff in school for many years and she is going to be greatly missed by pupils, parents and staff. She has an unwavering passion for the pastoral aspect of education and the role this plays in helping children to develop and achieve their full potential. She will be taking up the role of Pastoral Lead at Leasingham St Andrew's Church of England Primary School. We would like to wish her all the very best for her new role and know that she is going to be a huge success.

Mrs Allen shared this poem with the staff and would like to share it with the wider school community.

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."

A final thought ...

May the Epiphany bring you the wisdom of the wise men, the inner child of baby Jesus and
the light of God to lead your way.

Have a great weekend.