



Friday 21st July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

September 2023

As we arrive at the end of term and the school year, we have been reflecting on the successes and the challenges of the school year. There have been many successes and moments of joy, many of these stem from your wonderful children and your support!

Following a successful Catholic School's Inspectorate Inspection, which celebrated our wonderful strengths, we look forward to starting September with a clear focus for improving the school even more!

We are also celebrating improved National outcomes for EYFS, Phonics, Year 2 and Year 6, which is down to our wonderful staff, children and your continued support at home.

We are so incredibly proud of all of the work and dedication that our school community has put into achieving these and it gives all of us the boost we needed to keep striving for success!

We have also had lots of opportunities to compete, develop and perform, including the following:

- ✚ We have 4 children who made it to the County Finals following school sport competitions.
- ✚ 175 children have had 7 weeks of swimming lessons.
- ✚ The whole school went to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Castle Theatre
- ✚ 8 children represented us at the Catholic Education Schools' Mass in Dunstable
- ✚ Our school choir performed at Church, at the Castle Theatre and The Derngate
- ✚ The children who are learning to play the violin, viola and cello have performed to parents and at Masses throughout the year.
- ✚ A wonderful Activities Week – that the children have said they loved!

From September, we will be looking to offer as many opportunities as possible for our children to embrace new experiences and bring their learning to life!

Safeguarding arrangements for the holiday

Throughout the summer, we will be on hand to support with Safeguarding concerns. If you have any worries, please do not hesitate to contact us via email. In order to ensure your email is picked up, please include Miss Gribble, Mrs Connor and Miss Bedford in the email so that one of us can pick it up.

DSL: Miss Elise Gribble

Email: egribble@ol.well.olicatschools.org

DDSL: Miss Aimee Bedford

Email: abedford@ol.well.olicatschools.org

DDSL: Mrs Sarah Connor

Email: sconnor@ol.well.olicatschools.org

If you feel that a child is in immediate danger you should call 99.

If you are worried or concerned about something that has happened to you, a friend or someone you know, please contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 0300 126 7000. They will be able to talk through your concern and advise what will happen next.

Moving forward there are a few areas that we need to improve on and we will definitely need your help with this. As these changes will require action on your part, we felt it was important to give you plenty of notice of these to ensure that any support or guidance can be offered before the term starts in September.

Attendance

Our school attendance is currently below the Department for Education's expectation. Overall, our attendance is 92.5%. The Local Authority expect this to be 95% or better. This impacts negatively on your children's learning, our ability to safeguard the children and will result in the school being unable to get a 'Good' or better grading with Ofsted for Behaviour and Attitudes.

The Ofsted inspection will consider if the school has:

- a strong focus on attendance and punctuality so that disruption is minimised.
- clear and effective behaviour and attendance policies with clearly defined consequences that are applied consistently and fairly by all staff.

In line with these principles, we will be reviewing our policy and as our whole school attendance needs to improve, including punctuality, we will be working with the Local Authority to challenge unauthorised absences and persistent absence and lateness.

During recent weeks, we have been receiving daily requests for holidays during term time, which does not constitute an exceptional circumstance. We are passionate about ensuring every child reaches their potential and personal best and absence impacts greatly on our ability to close the knowledge gaps that have occurred over the last two years of disruption caused by Covid.

We will continue to be issuing Penalty Notices to parents for:

- Non-school attendance - 5 days (10 sessions including the morning and afternoon register) or more unauthorised absences in a 6 week period. This could also apply to lateness, where this is a persistent problem.
- Term time absence - 5 days (10 sessions including the morning and afternoon register) or more of consecutive unauthorised absence.

Fixed Penalty Notices can give each parent a fine of £60, which rises to £120 each if you do not pay within 21 days.

Uniform

We will be ensuring that all children meet our Uniform expectations. This is actually covered under our current Behaviour Policy. Please see below our expectations for the School Uniform, footwear and PE Kits.

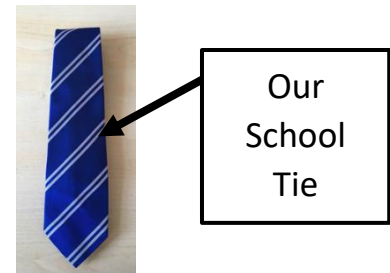
As we will be continuing to allow the children to wear PE Kits on PE days (this saves so much time during PE sessions), please ensure that your child's PE kit meets the school's expectations.

School Uniform

White Polo Shirt for EYFS and Key Stage 1 (EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2)
White Shirt and School Tie for Key Stage 2 (Year 3 – 6)

Grey Pullover/Cardigan
Grey shorts/trousers or skirts
White or Grey Socks

Black Shoes – Not Trainers



Light blue gingham summer dresses can be worn in the warmer months of the year.

PE Kits

White T-Shirt (we are moving away from our house colour t-shirts in order to keep costs down for you but we understand that you might want to let your children grow out of them before you replace them).

Blue Shorts/Navy Tracksuit Bottoms

Navy Hoodie/Jumper

Trainers

Uniform Items with the School Logo

We appreciate your continued support with regards to proper school uniform. Uniform items with the school logo are available from the Uniform Shop, Wellingborough. Ordering online from the Uniform Shop is simple and secure but you will need to create an account to be able to order.

[Click link: www.uniformshopwellingborough.co.uk](http://www.uniformshopwellingborough.co.uk)

If you have any queries please ring: 01933 426433 or visit the Uniform Shop, 8 Olympic Way Wellingborough. NN8 3QE

Staff Changes

We have some new staff joining our team, which is really exciting! We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Bouher, Mrs Cooper-Drake and Mr Todd into our school family. Your children have already met our new teachers and some of you may have as well!

Congratulations to Miss Goodman now Mrs Albarella, who will be returning from her Maternity leave in September!

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to some staff members at the end of the Year and we thank them for all of their hard work. They will always remain a part of our school family.

Mrs Dicken has taught at Our Lady's for many years and has always brought her creative skills and talents into her teaching! She has entertained us with Ukulele performances and helped to develop our teaching of French in Key Stage 2. She will continue to help out at Our Lady's so we will definitely see her again!

Miss Butorova will be relocating to Leicester, which is an exciting opportunity for her! We thank her for all of her hard work and dedication this year and wish her every blessing in her new school!

We look forward to welcoming your lovely children back on Tuesday 5th September and wish you all a blessed and restful Summer holiday!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Elise Gribble

Headteacher