Diocese of Westminster
London Borough of Brent

OUR LADY OF GRACE CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 5
20TH NOVEMBER 2026

We are learning to grow and love like Jesus

Our Catholic Life and Mission at OLOG Infants



"Give something however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing."
Please see the attached link for the newsletter at St Marys & St Andrew's Church
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/dollishill/newsletters-2/

Dear Families,

Thank you to all our families who supported Odd Socks Day. It was wonderful to see so many colourful socks celebrating our message that everyone is unique and we can all make a difference. This reflects our school mission statement and our commitment to celebrating what makes each of us special.

Our most recent pupil survey shows that our children feel safe and valued at Our Lady of Grace." One child's comment particularly captured this: *"I feel safe and I belong."* This is at the heart of everything we do and we're so proud of the caring community we've built together.

Our recent visit to the Gurdwara was a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about Sikh beliefs and practices, developing respect and understanding for other faiths and cultures. One child shared: *"I learned that Sikhs share food with everyone, even if they don't know them. That's really kind."*

We would also like to thank the parents who attended our recent activities and educational visits to the Gurdwara and Wembley Stadium, our Autumn Walk and to Nursery's Stay, Share and Learn session. Your time and support help to bring learning to life and create meaningful experiences for our children.

Our St Vincent de Paul Remembrance Day assembly was another special moment, with the children demonstrating our SMART behaviours, particularly respect**,** as they remembered those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

As we look ahead to Advent, beginning on the 1st December, we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus. We look forward to sharing our Advent activities with you in the coming weeks.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful week.

Mrs P Bourne
Headteacher

Important Dates

Monday 23rd November **Year 2 Transition Meeting at 9.00am (OLOG Infants Hall)**
Sunday 29th November **Beginning of Advent**
Friday 4th December **Last Baby & Toddler Group before Christmas Break**
Tuesday 8th December **Year 2 - Christmas Play at 9.00am in School Hall**
Wednesday 9th December **Year 1 - Christmas Play at 9.00am in School Hall**
Thursday 10th December **Reception - Christmas Play at 9.00am in School Hall**
Friday 11th December **Christmas Panto for Whole School**
Monday 14th December **Year 2 Classes Christmas Disco at 3.00 – 4.00pm**
Tuesday 15th December **Year 1 Classes Christmas Disco at 3.00 – 4.00pm**
Wednesday 16th December **Reception Classes Christmas Disco at 3.00 – 4.00pm** ***Christmas Jumper & Dinner Day with Special Guest*** **(new date: updated since previous newsletter)**
Thursday 17th December **Last Day of term for Nursery children only**
Friday 18th December **Choir Performance & Christmas Share in School Hall at 9.00am** **Last Day of Term – Finish at 1.30pm**
Monday 4th January **Inset Day – School Closed**
Tuesday 5th January **Children Return**

Year 2 Transition Meeting



The Year 2 transition meeting will take place on **Monday 23rd November at 9.00am** in **Our Lady of Grace Infants School Hall.**

Safeguarding

The wellbeing of our children is of paramount importance to all staff. Should any person (parent or staff) have a concern regarding a child's wellbeing, please inform one of the school safeguarding team.

Mrs P Bourne	**Designated Safeguarding Lead**
Mrs P Geraghty	**Designated Deputy Safeguarding Lead**

In cases where school staff have concerns, they have a duty to discuss the issue with Social Services to seek further advice. This is the statutory obligation of all schools.

For any matters concerning safeguarding outside of school hours or during the holidays please contact

Brent Family Front Door

Office hours (Mon – Fri 9am - 5pm): Call 020 8937 4300 (option 1)

Outside office hours: Call the emergency duty team on 020 8863 5250.



Stars of the Week

The following children have received stars of the week for following our school learning behaviours

St Bernadette: ***Janice & Marcos***

St Peter: ***Patrick & Arabella***

St Martin De Porres: ***Grace & Danny***

St Faustina: ***Cecila & Zayann***

St Catherine Laboure: ***Aria & Liana***

St Vincent De Paul: ***Ayden & Jordan***

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Infant School QR Code

Please scan QR code to visit our School website for lots of information

A Reminder About Term Time Absence

Please be reminded that leave of absence for children during term time will not be authorised. Time away from school results in missed learning opportunities and can have an impact on children's progress and achievement. Please see the information provided by Brent Council regarding attendance expectations and fixed penalty notices for unauthorised absences.

https://www.brent.gov.uk/education-schools-and-learning/attendance-and-exclusions/school-attendance-and-absence?utm_source=chatgpt.com#whatisexpected

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

Good attendance and punctuality are vital. Missing time from school or arriving late affects children's learning, confidence and progress.

There is no entitlement in law for students to take time off during the term to go on holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure or recreation. Education is vital in securing the very best future for children and this is impacted by prolonged absence. Children only attend school for 190 out of 365 days. There are 175 days a year which parents/carers can use for any activities other than school.

Term Dates for the academic year 2026-27 are available on our website. Please see the link below:

www.ologinfants.org.uk/News/School-Term-Dates/

EVERY DAY AND EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Pupil Survey

At Our Lady of Grace, we are committed to ensuring every child feels valued, respected and proud of who they are. As part of our journey towards achieving the Anti-Racist School Award, we recently carried out a pupil survey.

We were delighted that 99% of children said they feel they belong, 100% see different cultures and identities positively represented in our school, and 100% feel confident that adults would listen and help if they reported racism.

One child beautifully summed up our school community by saying, *"We all look after each other. We are like a big family."*

These encouraging results reflect the work we are doing to celebrate diversity, challenge stereotypes and promote equality. We will continue strengthening our anti-racism teaching and ensuring every child's voice is heard.

Guided by our mission, *"We are learning to grow and love like Jesus,"* we are proud to be building a school community where everyone belongs.

Every Minute Counts – Let's Be on Time



We would like to emphasise the importance of children arriving at school on time each morning. Punctuality helps children settle in, feel ready to learn and start the day positively alongside their friends without missing key morning routines.

Please allow plenty of time for your journey, accounting for unexpected delays like traffic, roadworks or parking.

Working together, we can give every child the best possible start to their day.

Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to help wrap the children's Christmas gifts from Santa on Wednesday 2nd December and/or Thursday 3rd December, from 12.00pm.

If you are available to lend a hand on either day (or both), we would be very grateful for your help.

Please email helpdesk@ologinfants.brent.sch.uk if you are able to volunteer.



Walking is a great way to keep little bodies healthy! It strengthens muscles and bones, improves fitness and coordination and supports children's mental wellbeing. Walking also gives children the chance to enjoy fresh air and arrive at school ready to learn. Why not make walking to school part of your daily routine.

Contact Details

Please email helpdesk@ologinfants.brent.sch.uk if your contact number, email address, home address or emergency contact details change, so we can keep your child's records up to date.

A Mini Vinnies

We are delighted to welcome our new Mini Vinnies, who will be commissioned at Mass on Tuesday 1st December and represent our school at the Carol Concert at Westminster Cathedral on Wednesday 2nd December. Inspired by Jesus, they will put their faith into action by supporting those in need, including children spending Christmas in hospital.

Alongside our School Council, they will also organise a 'Bring a Treat to School and Wear Your Own Clothes Day' in support of Brent Food Bank. Families will be invited to donate a festive treat to bring Christmas joy to those in need. Further details will follow.

We look forward to seeing our Mini Vinnies live out our mission, *"We are learning to grow and love like Jesus,"* through kindness, generosity and service to others.

Year Group Christmas Discos



Reception – Wednesday 16th December

Year 1 – Tuesday 15th December

Year 2 – Monday 14th December

You can book your child's year group disco through ParentPay for **£5.00** per child, from Tuesday 1st to Friday 4th December.

The ticket price includes a special Christmas goody bag. Children will go straight to the disco at 3.10pm, with collection at 4.00pm from their usual classroom. Please remember that children should wear their normal school uniform.

Reception 2027 Admissions

Deadlines for Reception 2026 Application Deadlines are:

Friday 11th December 2026

OLOG Supplementary Information Forms

Friday 15th January 2027

Local Authority E-admissions online Application

If you would like any help completing the admission forms, please contact the School Office.

Winter Illnesses

As we enter the winter months, children can usually attend school with mild cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or cough, provided they do not have a high temperature. For guidance on when to keep your child at home, please refer to the NHS advice on common childhood illnesses here:

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Uniform Expectations Reminder

- Trainers should be black, waterproof and have Velcro fastenings.
- Coats, hats, gloves and scarves should be navy or black.
- Please ensure all clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Thank you for your support.