



*Christ is our light*

All Souls' Catholic  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

6<sup>th</sup> September 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## Welcome Back

We were delighted to welcome back our children on Tuesday, following the Summer break, and this week has been an extremely positive start to the academic year. I'd like to extend an especially warm welcome to the children and families who have joined the All Souls family this year and I look forward to getting to know you all in the days and weeks to come. There will likely be a number of important communications from school during this early part of the academic year, so please look out for these as well as regularly checking the school website where you will also find class pages and blogs which aim to keep you informed on what the children have been up to in school. The whole staff team are extremely optimistic about the year ahead and we look forward to working in close partnership with yourselves in order to provide the best possible educational experiences for your children.

## Meet the teacher

After school on Wednesday 11th September, we will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' event for parents of children in Years 1-6. These will take place in the year group classrooms at the following times:

3:25pm - Year 1

3:50pm - Year 2

4:15pm - Years 3 and 4

4:40pm - Years 5 and 6

The sessions will give you the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, discuss the expectations of their year group and find out about the curriculum this year. It will also provide you the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. A number of Year 6 children will be on hand should you need help navigating through the school. We look forward to seeing as many parents at these sessions as possible.

## Art Projects

During the summer the children were set the task of completing an art project linked to our parish church. Many of these have been returned to school this week and we are really impressed with the overall quality. Can any projects yet to be returned please come in on Monday or Tuesday as we will be taking them up to be displayed at church on Tuesday morning, before our start of term Mass.

## School Family Masses

As you will be aware, the 9:30am Mass of the first Sunday of every month is designated a 'School Celebration Mass' at All Souls Church. Where these fall during school holidays, they move to the following Sunday. This means that this Sunday (8th September) is our first School Celebration Mass of the academic year. Whilst for practising Catholics, weekly attendance at Mass should be the norm, we ask that children and families make an extra special effort to attend these once a month celebrations to nurture your faith and ensure that strong community of All Souls, which includes both the school and the church, remains. The dates of these are on the calendar on the school website.

## Start of term Mass

Our children in Years 1-6 will be celebrating our first whole school Mass on Tuesday (10th September) morning at the 9:30am Mass at All Souls church. As always, parents and relatives are most welcome to attend.

## Attendance

The first week of the academic year has seen very disappointing whole school attendance. From next week we will, once again, include weekly statistics on whole school and year group attendance and punctuality. The Governing board will be asked to ratify the school's updated attendance policy next which, which we will then update on the school website and share with yourselves.

This year there will be a significant national focus on school attendance and the DfE have published updated guidance and legislation including additional expectations on school to challenge low attendance at the earliest stages. This is because research and statistics continue to show such strong links between attendance, achievement and well-being. We would like to draw your attention to the following documents and websites which detail these changes and expectations:

[Working together to improve school attendance - August 2024](#)  
[Coventry Local Authority attendance information](#)

In recent months the school has received record numbers of requests for children to be granted leave under 'exceptional circumstances'. Please note that, whilst every request is considered on its own merits, the school does not, in general, consider holidays and trips which are of a recreational or leisure nature 'exceptional circumstances'. We therefore are unable to authorise such requests and follow the local and national guidance in relation to any additional action the school should take, including the request for penalty notices to be issued. Please remember that it is a legal obligation for children to be in school each school day the school is open from the term after a child's 5th birthday until the last Friday in June in the year that they turn 16, unless they are too ill to attend or have received advanced permission from the school ([School attendance and absence, Government website](#)). We can't stress enough, how important school attendance is and the impact that even missing a few days can have on children's achievement and overall development.

## Uniform

It's great to see how smart many of our children look as they return for the new school year and we're very appreciative of the effort many parents have made to ensure that this is the case. The current uniform policy has been included as an attachment to this week's newsletter as a reminder of the school's expectations. Please also make sure that all of your children's belongings are clearly labelled with their name and encourage them to take responsibility for their own items. Doing so greatly reduces the likelihood of items going missing. Please also note the school's expectations around jewellery, hair and make-up and items (including pencil cases and stationary) which should not be brought into school. Thank you.

## Home/School Agreements

At the beginning of each academic year, we renew and reissue our Home / School Agreement as a way of re-establishing the partnership between the school and yourselves. This very important document outlines how we as a school will work with you and your child to ensure that their social, emotional, academic and spiritual needs are met. In signing the agreement we are each making a commitment to fulfil our responsibilities and play a critical part in your child's development, recognising that without this partnership, it isn't possible.

This week class teachers have reintroduced children (Years 1-6) to the Home / School Agreement and discussed the roles and expectations detailed. They have signed two copies of this agreement together, both of which should have come home with your child. We ask that parents also read through this with children and then sign and return one copy to school, retaining the other copy for reference at home.

If you feel unable to sign the agreement, please discuss this with your child's class teacher. We're sure that you'll agree that a happy and successful school can only exist with extremely high levels of trust between children, parents and staff. Thank you.

## Nut Allergies

Please keep in mind that we have children on site with severe nut allergies. We would be grateful if you can ensure your child's lunchbox/snacks do not contain nuts, i.e., peanut butter sandwiches, snack packs containing whole nuts. Thank you for your support.



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# TERM DATES: 2024-2025

**September 2024**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**October 2024**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

**November 2024**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**December 2024**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**January 2025**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**February 2025**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

**March 2025**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**April 2025**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

**May 2025**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**June 2025**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**July 2025**

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Term time 

Holiday 

Bank holiday 

Teacher training 

## Forthcoming Dates for your Diary – those next week are in **bold** type:

Date(s):	Time(s):	What:
<b>08/09/24</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>School celebration Mass</b>
<b>10/09/24</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Whole School (Years 1-6) Start of term Mass</b>
<b>11/09/24</b>	<b>After school</b>	<b>Meet the teacher events (see newsletter for times)</b>
18/09/24	9:30am	Years 1 and 5 Class Mass
24/09/24	9:30am	Years 2 and 4 Class Mass
02/09/24	1:30pm	CAFOD Day (details to follow) including harvest Mass (Years 1-6)
03/09/24	All day	School photos day (individual photos)
06/10/24	9:30am	School Celebration Mass
13/10/24	9:30am	Year 3 First Holy Communion Commitment Mass
14/10/24	9:30am	Years 3, 6 and Reception Class Mass
20/10/24	9:30am	Year 6 Confirmation Commitment Mass
22/10/24	After school	Open evening for parents to meet teachers (details to follow)
23/10/24	After school	Open evening for parents to meet teachers (details to follow)
25/10/24	All Day	Teacher Training Day – School closed
26/10/24- 3/11/24		OCTOBER HALF-TERM
4/11/24	9:30am	Whole School Mass (Years R-6)
10/11/24	9:30am	School Celebration Mass – Remembrance Sunday
12/11/24	9:30am	Years 1 & 5 Class Mass
16/11/24- 20/11/24	All day	Year 6 Residential Visit to Plas Dol-y-Moch
24/11/24	9:30am	Reception Welcome Mass
01/12/24	9:30am	School Celebration Mass (Start of Advent)
4/12/24	9:30am	Years 2 & 4 Class Mass
10/12/24	10:30am	Adoration and Confession for Years 4-6
15/12/24	9:30am	Bambinelli Sunday – blessing of Baby Jesus
16/12/24	6:30pm	Community Carol Concert (Details to follow)
18/12/24	9:30am	Whole school (Years R-6) end of term Mass
21/12/24- 5/1/25		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
6/1/24	All Day	Teacher Training Day – School closed

### School clubs (Year 1 to Year 6)

Our school clubs have now been emailed out and will go live from 6pm – Mrs Rae will need to release each club manually one by one so please refresh the page if you cannot see the club you wish to book. All bookings must be made via School Gateway. The intention of our clubs is to enrich our children's educational experience and are not on offer to provide a cheap childcare option. Many of our clubs are ran voluntarily by our staff and in return they expect the children to be committed. Therefore, please only book your child on to a club if you feel they will show a genuine interest in wanting to take part in the activity.

### Excess waste on site

Please can we apologise for the build-up of waste around our bins and skip. Unfortunately, our current waste disposal provider has failed to collect our rubbish for a number of weeks. We are extremely frustrated as the children, staff, and particularly Mr Gale, our Caretaker, take great pride in keeping the school site tidy and clear of litter/debris. Mrs Rae is working hard to get this resolved and is hopeful things will look much better by the end of next week!