



School Newsletter

Friday 20th December 2024

For parents, carers, staff, pupils, governors and parishioners

Term 2 Highlights!

Trips to Aerospace

Earlier this term, Years 2 & 3, and Years 1 & 4 all visited Aerospace to explore the museum and participate in different educational workshops. Creating more opportunities for children to learn outside of school and supplement their classroom learning with enriching experiences and opportunities is an important focus this year. The children very much enjoyed their outing.



Kingswood Park Tree Dressing

Year 4 were a great help to the community earlier this month when they linked up with Kingswood's Town Council to visit Kingswood Park. During their visit, they did a winter-tree recognising hunt and made decorations with hopeful messages to inspire future visitors!

Choir Visit to Avon Valley Care Home

A small group of children across a range of classes spread some Christmas cheer last week by visiting Avon Valley Care Home and singing

some Christmas songs and spending some time with the residents. The children were amazing and it was really well received!

KS1 Nativity and KS2 Christmas Celebration

For those able to join, we hope you enjoyed the KS1 Nativity and KS2 Christmas Celebration this week. The children have been working hard over the last couple of weeks to prepare this gift for you – and we hope it has helped get you into the Christmas spirit!

PTFA



The PTFA continued their busy start to the school year and have, as always, helped to raise some funds for the school and add experiences for the children. The Christmas Discos were a hit, the Secret Room for Christmas gifts was popular and children have also enjoyed Lego Club in recent weeks. They also provided wonderful prizes for the winners of their Lego 'Creative Build' competition that ran for the last couple of weeks. Well done to Ralph (1st) and Effa (2nd) in KS1 and

Harley (1st), Penny (2nd) and Joseph (3rd) in KS2 for your wonderfully, creative ideas that you submitted!

A massive thank you to all the adults involved in planning and volunteering their time to make all these special events and initiatives happen – it is much appreciated!



Looking ahead to Term 3

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

We have worked really hard to improve our school attendance figures over the last year. For much of this academic year so far, we have been close to National and Local Authority wide averages of 95%, however this has dropped to just under 94% at the end of this term. Whilst there has been a lot of sickness around the place in recent weeks which has contributed to this, it is also the case that there is an increase in absence requests and term-time holidays which are more avoidable.

School absence is a huge barrier to academic progress, social connections and emotional wellbeing, and we urge you to consider the impact of lost school days on your child when deciding not to send them to school.

In a similar way, children arriving late and being picked up before the end of the school day has become a significant concern and is very disruptive to school routines.

For children in full-time education, they should be arriving to school before 8.55am (gates/doors open at 8.45am) and leaving at 3.15pm.

Missing the beginning or end of the day might only seem like an insignificant amount of time, but 15 minutes in a day adds up to over an hour across a week – and six hours across an average term. This is significant and will ultimately hamper the child's education and cause them to miss important class moments.

It is also highly disruptive to the office team, who can find themselves up and down and back and forth around the school collecting children prior to the end of the day.

For the reasons above, you must log your child arriving late or leaving early outside the office hatch, stating clearly the time and reason for this.

Punctuality, along with absence concerns will need to continue to be monitored by the school and by the Educational Welfare Officer, and followed up with action if necessary, in order to improve school attendance.

Attached to this newsletter is some further information from the Local Authority regarding attendance, punctuality and potential penalty notice fines.

We thank you for your anticipated support with this.

TERM DATES 2024-2025

Term 1	Wednesday 4th September 2024 – Thursday 24th October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4th November 2024 – Friday 20th December 2024
Term 3	Monday 6 th January 2025 – Friday 14 th February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 th February 2025 – Friday 4 th April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 – Friday 23 rd May 2025
Term 6	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025 – Tuesday 22 nd July 2025

Please note, the school will be closed on **Friday 7th February 2025** as one of our allotted INSET days for the year. Apologies that it took longer to communicate this date than the others, but we were trying to organise some shared training with other school, which has now been confirmed.

Please be directed to the school calendar on our website for other key dates for the diary next term.

[Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School: Our Events](#)

INSET DATES 2024-2025

INSET 1	Monday 2nd September 2024
INSET 2	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
INSET 3	Friday 25th October 2024
INSET 4	Friday 7th February 2025
INSET 5	Monday 2 nd June 2025



I hope you all have a happy and healthy Christmas with your families. We'll see you back on the 6th.

O. Bell