NEWSLETTER

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Nursery and Primary School

ISSUE: 7	DATE: 23rdOctober 2026

Headteacher Thoughts

We have reached the end of our first half-term, and I would like to thank everyone who has helped make these past eight weeks such a happy and rewarding start to the school year. There is so much to celebrate: new friendships, discoveries in the classroom, challenges overcome and countless acts of kindness that show our Catholic values in action.

Above all, we are proud of our children. They have settled into new routines, approached their learning with enthusiasm and shown care for one another. Some achievements have been big and others quieter, but every step forward matters, and the children deserve to finish this half-term feeling proud of themselves.

Thank you to our dedicated staff for their hard work and care, and to our families for your continued encouragement and support. The partnership between home and school helps our children grow in confidence, develop their gifts and know that they belong.

Next half-term brings much to look forward to as we prepare for Advent and the celebration of Christmas. Amid the excitement, we will make time to reflect on the hope, peace, joy and love at the heart of this special season, keeping Christ at the centre of our celebrations.

For now, I wish all our families a restful and happy half-term, with time to recharge and enjoy being together. Stay safe, have fun and remember to take a book along on your adventures! Our Extreme Reading Challenge awaits, and I cannot wait to see your imaginative photographs.

If your child is in Year 6, please remember the deadline for High School applications is 31st October 2026.

Also, please could we have a big push on the Blue Tokens for Tesco in Formby! We are currently in 2nd place! Please tell everyone you know to donate their tokens and let's get them deposited!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **2nd November**, refreshed and ready for all that the new half-term will bring.

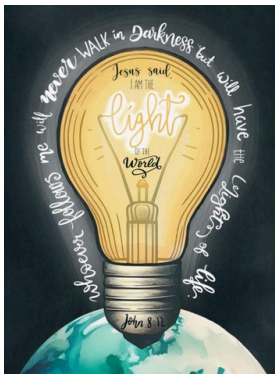
May God bless you and your families over the break.

Mr D McCann

NEWSLETTER

Celebration of the Word

This week we listened to Jesus' words, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). We talked about how Jesus guides us, helps us, and brings joy to our lives. We also thought about how we can shine our own light by showing kindness, love, and care to others, just as Jesus does.



Pope Leo's Thought for the Week

I would like to thank all those who have prayed for me in recent days. I wish to express my particular gratitude to the doctors, nurses and all the staff of the Gemelli Hospital. This experience has made me feel particularly close to all those who are living with illness or infirmity. Now that I have overcome this delicate phase, I will gradually resume my activities, always with God's help and your prayers.

LiveSimply

Keep Pope Leo and all those who are sick in your prayers.

Weekly Gospel Resource for Families



Looking for a quick, creative way to explore the Sunday Gospel with your child? Deacon Justin Malewezi provides fantastic, free weekly resources including:

- ⏱️ 1-minute video homilies created especially for children
- 🖨️ Free printable activity worksheets to colour, solve, and discuss

Take a minute to watch and print out this week's activity sheet at:
👉 https://malewezi.com/childrenshomilies/

NEWSLETTER

OLOL Shoutouts

If your child or your family have done something you are proud of outside of school and you would like us to give them a 'Shoutout' please send an email to school with details by lunchtime each Thursday to be included in the Newsletter. The school admin email address is:

admin@olol.pfcmat.org

Congratulations to Eva who competed in a National Gymnastics Competition and secured 2nd place. An amazing achievement!



Also, a Shoutout to Nelly who has moved up from Level 6 to Level 7 in just two weeks! Very well done.

High School Applications

It is an important decision for many families when considering which schools to apply for when your child is starting school in reception or transferring to secondary school Year 7 from primary school Year 6. Sefton Council has prepared information which provides parents/carers with lots of helpful and important information to guide you through the school admissions process. Please click on the link below.

https://www.sefton.gov.uk/childrens-services/schools-and-learning/school-admissions/starting-primary-or-secondary-school-in-september-2027/

Closing date for applications to start Secondary School is 31 October 2026.

Closing date for applications to start Primary School is 15 January 2027.

Celebrating 90 Years of Our Lady of Lourdes



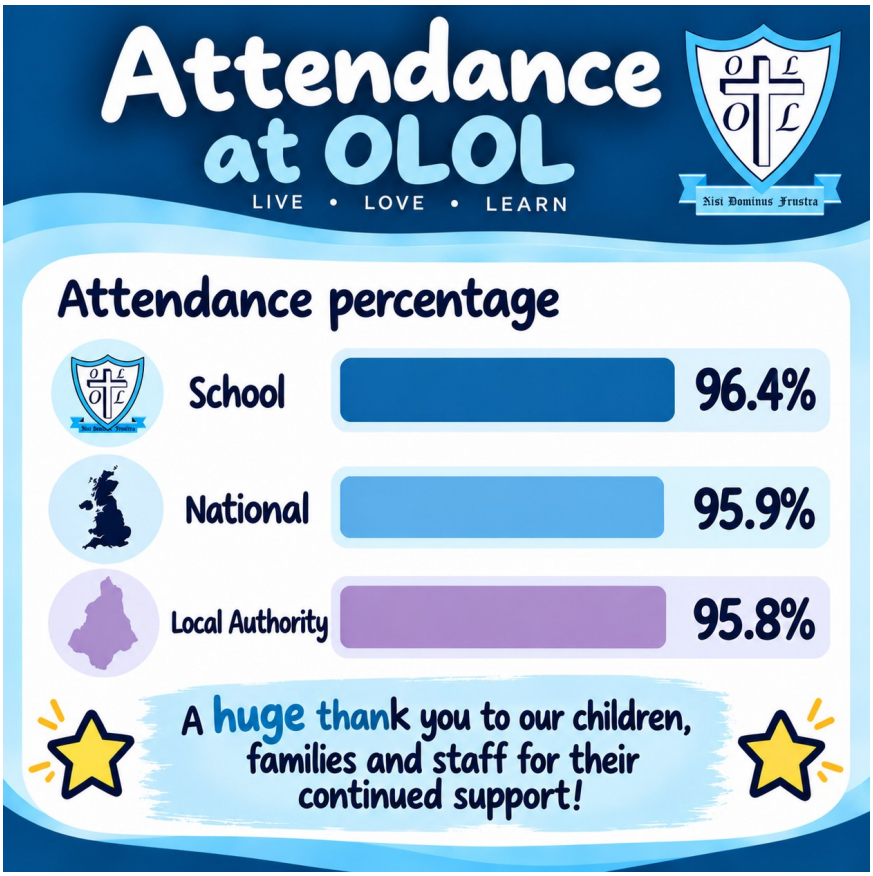
Our school community came together for a joyful Mass of thanksgiving to celebrate our school's 90th anniversary, marking nine decades of faith, learning and love.



Our heartfelt thanks go to Fr Atli for celebrating this special Mass along with Deacon Dennis Jones, and to our governors and special guests for joining us on such a memorable occasion. We are deeply proud of our rich history and grateful to the generations of pupils, families, staff and parishioners who have helped shape our school. With Christ at the heart of our community, we give thanks for the blessings of the past and look forward with hope, committed to nurturing faith, sharing God's love and helping every child to flourish.

NEWSLETTER

Attendance



Extreme Reading Challenge

Our annual **Extreme Reading Challenge** is back for October half-term! We would love to see photographs of your child enjoying a book in an unusual place or an unusual position, the more creative, the better, but please keep it safe! The challenge is a lovely way to encourage children to take a book with them when they are out and about, rather than always reaching for a device. Please email your entries to **safeguarding@olol.pfcmat.org**, letting us know whether you are happy for Mr Gallagher and I to share your photographs on the school's social media. A winner from each phase, EYFS, KS1 and KS2 will enjoy a special trip to a bookshop, where I will buy them a book of their choice. Good luck, everyone, I know how competitive some of you are, and I cannot wait to see your wonderful ideas!



NEWSLETTER

First Holy Communion 2027

Greetings from church!
Thank you for signing up for the first holy Communion Preparation.
The preparation takes place monthly on Saturdays/Tuesdays.
Please choose to attend either Saturday or Tuesday. (If you miss the Saturday, you could come on the following Tuesday).
Each session will last about 45 minutes and no longer than an hour. You are welcome to stay with your child/children.
We look forward to welcoming you.
With my best wishes,
Fr Atli

The dates are as follows:
At St Joseph's 11am – 12 Noon
Saturday 7 November 2026
Saturday 5 December 2026
Saturday 9 January 2027
Saturday 6 February 2027
Saturday 13 March 2027
Saturday 17 April 2027

For those who cannot make Saturday mornings:
St Joseph's 6pm – 7pm
Tuesday 10 November 2026
Tuesday 8 December 2026
Tuesday 12 January 2027
Tuesday 9 February 2027
Tuesday 15 March 2027
Tuesday 20 April 2027

Date of First Reconciliation: Saturday 20 March (Group 1 at 11am, Group 2 at 12 Noon)
First Holy Communion Mass: 8 May and if numbers warrant a second Mass also 15 May.

Big Question of the Week!

'Does Mr McCann really look 90 years old?'

I would love to hear your answers! (Maybe this week I wouldn't!)

Books Alive

Stories are coming to life in Southport this October half-term! **Books Alive!** runs from **24–31 October 2026**, with a free week of activities for families and young readers. Follow *The Jolly Postman* Trail through the town centre, explore the Festival of Stories at The Atkinson and Southport Library, and discover book-themed events at venues across town. The full programme will be announced soon at Visit Southport.

NEWSLETTER

Diary Dates

OCTOBER

Day	Date	Event
Friday	23.10.26	INSET DAY
	26.10.26–30.10.26	Half Term Holiday

NOVEMBER

Day	Date	Event
Wednesday	04.11.26	YR5 Bikeability
Thursday–Friday	05.11.26–06.11.26	YR4 Anderton Trip
Wednesday	11.11.26	TEMPEST PHOTOS – Individuals and Families
Friday	13.11.26	Non-Uniform Day (Friends and Family of OLOL)
Tuesday	17.11.26	Governors Meeting – 4.30pm
Thursday	26.11.26	Year 3 trip to the World Museum

DECEMBER

Day	Date	Event
Wednesday–Friday	02.12.26–04.12.26	ROBINWOOD – Year 6
Tuesday	08.12.26	YR1 & 2 Nativity
Wednesday	09.12.26	EYFS Nativity – 10.00am and 2.00pm
Friday	11.12.26	Christmas Disco (Friends and Family of OLOL)
Monday	14.12.26	KS2 Carol Concert 9:15am
Tuesday	15.12.26	KS2 Carol Concert 2:30pm
Wednesday	16.12.26	Carol Concert – Grandparents 9:15am
Friday	18.12.26	CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY; Last Day – 1.30pm Finish
	21.12.26–06.01.27	Christmas Holidays

NEWSLETTER

WE NEED YOUR BLUE TOKENS!

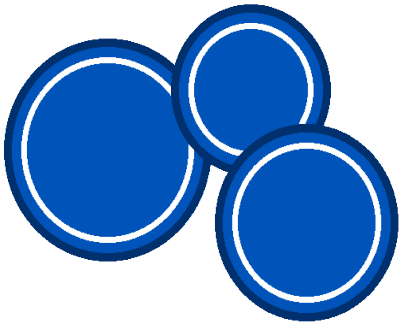
TESCO BLUE TOKENS
Do you shop at Tesco in Formby?

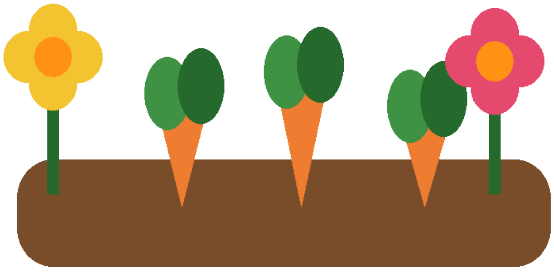
OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL
IS IN THE FINAL DRAW

Please support our Eco Group

We hope to grow our own vegetables and flowers

FOR OUR SCHOOL	FOR OUR COMMUNITY
Fresh produce and flowers to use and enjoy in school	Home-grown produce and flowers to share locally





USE YOUR BLUE TOKENS TO VOTE FOR US
in store at Tesco Formby

Every token helps our project grow