



Our Lady's News

The RUAH



Friday 24th April
2026

We are here to help. If you are struggling and need support, please contact your child's class teacher or speak to a member of school staff at the school gates.

If you have concerns about a child, please contact our school's safeguarding team without delay:

safeguarding@ourladyscowley.co.uk
or
visit the safeguarding page on our school website.



**Graded
outstanding in all
areas in our
Diocesan
inspection in
December 2024.**

A message from the Headteacher

It has been a very busy week in school this week. From exciting trips to Legoland and Pizza Express to the living eggs arriving, our school has been a hub of activity with RUAH at the centre of everything.

On Monday there was an issue with the coaches for the trip to Legoland and I would like to sincerely thank all parents of children in Years 3&4 for your understanding and support as the coaches arrived back a lot later than originally planned. We apologise for any disruption or inconvenience that occurred, however, our sole aim was to make sure that the children didn't miss out on a trip that they have been so excited about.

Also arriving on Monday were the living eggs. We are delighted to announce that 'Nugget' hatched on Tuesday morning and then Tenders, Strips, Dippers and Cajun hatched throughout the day on Wednesday. You have Year 6 to thank for the very thoughtfully-chosen names.....!

The newly-born chicks are a perfect reminder that Jesus rising from the dead gives us new life. This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and the Gospel reading tells us that Jesus is the patient shepherd who never gives up on us. I very much love the words of Jesus at the end of the Gospel and I encourage everyone in our school community, regardless of religion, to read and take notice:

***"I have come so that they may have life and live it to the full."
(John 10: 10)***

Life is too short so be positive, smile, do what you love doing and cherish every moment with your loved ones: **LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL!**

Have a wonderful weekend - the weather is forecast to be glorious!

With best wishes
Ms Davies and all the staff

Respect, understanding, affection, humour

Important News!

Essential Dates for Year 1, Year 4 and Year 6

Phonics Screening for Year 1: week of the 8th June

Multiplications Check for Year 4: starting Monday 1st June for 2 weeks

SATs week for Year 6: week of the 11th May

These are tests set by the government and children MUST be in school. If children fail to attend, senior leaders will visit your homes to collect children and bring them into school. Any unauthorised holidays during this time will result in severe consequences including penalty notices and referrals to the Local Authority Safeguarding teams for neglect.



Parish News

The Cowley Salesian Cooperators will be celebrating Holy Mass at the Parish Church of Our Lady Help of Christians to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Salesian Cooperators.

The Mass will take place on 23rd May at 12:00pm, with Fr Hugh Preston SDB and Fr Francis Preston SDB as the main celebrants.

The Mass will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians
All are warmly invited to attend.

Please come wearing your Salesian Cooperators badges with pride, and if you have one, a St John Bosco scarf.

Please join us with an open heart as we commemorate the dream and work that continues today through the legacy of St John Bosco. We look forward to coming together in celebration.

All are welcome.

Egg-citing News

Our chicks have hatched!



We are delighted to share that we currently have living eggs in school. We are all very excited to watch this amazing journey as they develop and hatch, transforming from eggs into fluffy chicks. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn about life cycles up close.



Respect, understanding, affection, humour

News from the classrooms



Reception had a lovely surprise when Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service came to visit!

The children enjoyed learning about fire safety and even had a tour inside the fire engine.

They also shared two important reminders:

Learn your home address in case you ever need to call 999

Ask adults to regularly test smoke alarms

A fantastic and memorable experience for everyone!



Ruby Class has started an exciting new DT topic! We've been exploring where some of our food comes from and had lots of fun sorting real food into two groups: food that comes from plants and food that comes from animals.



Aqua have begun exploring evolution and inheritance in science.

A big thank you to Eva F for bringing in a real ammonite fossil! We had just been learning about them, so it was especially exciting to see one up close.

Well done, Aqua Class future palaeontologists in the making!



Coral had a great introduction to our science topic of plant



Emerald had a fantastic (and slightly messy!) time in science today, exploring materials that can act like solids, liquids, and gases all at once.

We created a non-Newtonian fluid called oobleck using two parts cornflour and one part water it behaves like a solid when pressure is applied, but flows like a liquid when left alone.



We've been having an absolute blast learning the ukulele in our Lime Class music lessons this term strumming, singing, and even a few mini jam sessions!



Sunshine Nursery Admissions



We are now accepting applications for nursery places for September 2026, January 2027, and April 2027.

At Our Lady's Cowley, we are committed to nurturing every child in faith, learning, and personal growth within a caring Catholic community.

Rooted in our RUAH values Respect, Understanding, Affection, and Humour. We help children grow with kindness, confidence, and compassion, supporting every pupil to flourish academically, spiritually, and personally.

Discover what makes Our Lady's Cowley a special place to begin your child's educational journey, and see how we help every child thrive. Visit the school office to collect an enrolment



Internet Safety

Healthy Screen Time Tips

UK guidance recommends limiting screen use for young children.

Under 2s should only use screens with an adult, while ages 2-5 should have no more than one hour a day.

Avoid screens before bedtime and during meals, and choose calm, age-appropriate content. Encouraging balanced use helps support children's wellbeing and development.

WhatsApp Update: Parent-Managed Accounts

WhatsApp has recently introduced a new feature called Parent-Managed Accounts for children under 13.

This feature allows parents to:

- Control who can contact their child
- Manage group chat access (only parents can approve group additions)



Find out more:

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/894871699629864>

While these controls may be helpful, it's important to remember that WhatsApp may still not be appropriate for primary-aged children. We continue to receive concerns from families, particularly around group chats and communication between pupils.

We encourage all parents to carefully consider whether WhatsApp is suitable for their child.

For further guidance, online safety expert Wayne Denner explains more here:

<https://www.waynedenner.com/whatsapp-parent-managed-accounts-what-parents-need-to-know/>



Learning at Our Lady's

We are learning

Nursery

Main topic: Sunshine and Sunflowers

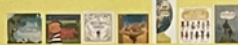
Key texts:



Reception

Main topic: Ready, steady, grow and Big wide world

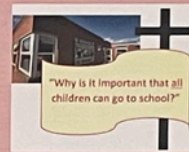
Key texts:



Years 1 and 2

Main topic: School Days

The Big CST Question:



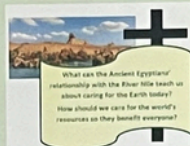
Key texts:



Years 3 and 4

Main topic: Ancient Civilisations

The Big CST Question:



Key texts:



Years 5 and 6

Main topic: Great Britain

The Big CST Question:



Key texts:





Let's Celebrate



Learner and Salesian of the week



	Learner	Salesian
Sunshine	Maila	Adele
Buttercup	Mia	Edward
Sunflower	Chaya	Zabian
Coral	Alex	Pedro
Ruby	Nathan	Owen
Scarlett	Alice	David
Lime	Nayan	Olivia
Olive	Miguel	Micheal
Emerald	Fridel	Sarah
Aqua	Eliza	Nilmar
Indigo	Kalyan	Celina
Sapphire	Ahad	Shaylon

Attendance Award:  **Buttercup!**

 **A big well done to all the children**

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 28th	Reception Class Writing workshop for parents 15.20-16.00
Thursday	PSA Meeting at 15:30-All Welcome
May	
Monday 4 th	School Closed Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th - Friday 15 th	Year 6 SATs Week
Friday 15 th	Quadkids Tournament for selected Year 3 and 4 children Group Photo's In school Family Quiz Night at 5.30-details to follow
Monday 19 th	Cultures Week in school
Tuesday 19 th	Touch rugby tournament for selected Year 5 and 6 children
Thursday 21 st	Gaelic Football tournament for selected Year 5 and 6 children In St. Albans Hertfordshire
Friday 22 nd	Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians-Whole school celebration
Saturday 23 rd	Celebration Mass in Church at 12.00noon to celebrate Salesian Co-operators. All Welcome
June	
Monday 1 st -Friday 5 th	Year 6 PGL Residential Year 4 Multiplication Checks begin-(Tested over 2 weeks)
Saturday 6 th	First Holy Communion Mass at our Parish 10.am
Monday 8 th	Phonics screening week for children in Year 1

Wednesday 10 th	Cinema Night 3pm-5pm
Friday 19 th	Fathers Day Gift Shop
Wednesday 24 th	Greyfriars and Oxford Spires Transfer day for Year 6 children
Friday 26 th	Greyfriars Transfer day for Year 6 children
Saturday 27 th	Sacrement of Confirmation in our parish church- Time to be confirmed
Monday 29 th	Open morning for children new to Reception and Nursery 9.00-10.30am
Tuesday 30 th	Open morning for children new to Reception and Nursery 9.00-10.30am
July	
Wednesday 1 st	Cheney Transfer day for Year 6 children
Thursday 2 nd	Cheney Transfer day for Year 6 children
Friday 3 rd	Sports Day for children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 at 1pm in school
Wednesday 8 th	iRock Concert at 9am
Thursday 9th	Transition Day!-Children will meet their new teacher School Reports will be sent home via Arbor
Friday 10 th	Learning showcase for all parents 08.30-09.15 Year 6 Special showcase End of Year festival 4pm-7pm
Wednesday 15 th	Sports Day for children in Years 2- 6 @ Horspath Athletic Track
Thursday 16th	Leavers Mass and picnic @ 1.30pm Parents and extended family welcome



Friday 17th School Finishes for the summer holidays at 12.30



Park Run

Sunday 3rd of May

I am inviting all OLC pupils to run Florence Park Junior Park Run with me.

Park Run is a free weekly initiative to get people running. Junior park run is for 4 to 14 years olds and 2K distance.

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>

Follow the link to register and get a barcode to bring on the morning.



inspired
presents

**WE
RUN**

POCA 018 019
116

2KM

ATLETISMOITA
SUN 3RD MAY

9:00AM

FLORENCE PARK

**All Our Lady's Students
Welcome to join**

**Sign up before to get personal
barcode**

