



Our Lady's News

The RUAH



Friday 1st May
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

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a glorious week of sunshine that we have had. Let's hope that it continues through the bank holiday weekend!

We have been really busy in school this week. The children loved spending time with the week-old chicks in their classrooms and Year 6 have been a fantastic help cleaning them out every day. Thank you!

Ten children across Key Stage 1 attended an athletics tournament on Thursday morning. Even though there was no outright winner, we did win every race..... we will therefore claim the victory! Well done to all of the children who participated and represented our school in the RUAH way; we are very proud of you.

As the weather improves, the children are allowed to wear their summer uniforms. Please check the website for details but please note that black is not in our uniform policy and therefore children must not wear black trousers, shorts, skirts or any other item that is black; it must be navy blue.

The Gospel for this Sunday reminds us the Jesus is 'the way, the truth and the life.' (John 14:12). This means that he is the one who shows people how to live in a loving and truthful way, helps them understand what is right and leads them towards a full and meaningful life with God. Following RUAH as a school community helps us to do this but we must also remember that we are human and we make mistakes - even as a school we don't always get everything correct. What is important is how individuals work to make situations better and follow what is right.

We hope you have a lovely bank holiday weekend and enjoy the extra day as a family.

With best wishes
Ms Davies and all the staff



Respect, understanding, affection, humour

Learning at Our Lady's

Exploring Great Britain Through Reading

Our phase library is now filled with a carefully chosen range of books linked to our Great Britain topic. With both fiction and non-fiction covering history, geography, culture and more, there's something to interest every child.

It's been fantastic to see pupils so engaged sharing books, making connections, and enjoying reading together. These texts are helping bring learning to life.

We look forward to continuing our celebrations of the National Year of Reading.

Thank you for your continued support at home.

Happy reading!



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.

Respect, understanding, affection, humour

News from the classrooms

Emeralds Art Project Begins

This afternoon, Emeralds began creating the backgrounds for our upcoming art project, where we will be making stars inspired by Islamic art. We can't wait to show you the finished designs!



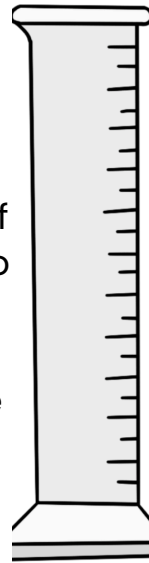
Ruby Class Exploring How Plants Grow

Ruby Class enjoyed learning about how new plants grow. We observed a variety of seeds and bulbs, carefully comparing their differences and similarities.

Outdoor Maths Exploring Volume Through Practical Learning

Lime took maths learning outdoors to explore measuring, adding and subtracting volumes of water. Working in teams, we filled containers to match the correct volume in order to solve given equations. We had to carefully decide whether to add or remove water from what we already had to reach the correct answers.

Well done, Lime!



Sunshine Nursery Special Visitors: Our Chicks

This week at Sunshine Nursery, we had a very special visit from our chicks! We were so excited to see how much they have grown during our spring season of learning about growth and new life!



Internet Safety

Understanding Social Media Algorithms

Social media platforms such as Instagram use algorithms to personalise what users see. These systems track activity such as who your child follows, what they search for and the content they like, watch, or share to build a feed tailored to their interests.

Why does this matter?

Algorithms are designed to keep users engaged. While this can make online experiences more enjoyable and relevant, it can also mean children spend longer periods on their devices.

What are the potential risks?

- Increased screen time: Content is selected to hold attention, making it harder to switch off
- Exposure to harmful content: Repeated suggestions can sometimes include inappropriate or negative material
- Echo chambers: Children may mainly see content that reinforces one viewpoint, limiting balanced understanding

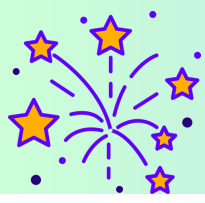
What can parents do?

- Talk regularly with your child about what they are seeing online
- Encourage breaks and set healthy screen time boundaries
- Remind children that what they see online is not always a complete or accurate picture
- Use parental controls where appropriate

By understanding how algorithms work, parents can better support their children in developing safe and balanced online habits.

For further information, resources from organisations such as BBC can help explain how algorithms influence online behaviour.





Let's Celebrate



Well done to the U7 boys at Our Lady's who won the local Football Festival!

A fantastic achievement showing great teamwork, effort, and sportsmanship throughout. They should be very proud of their performance and the way they represented the school.

Group phase		Phase 2		
Group 1		PLD	PTS	GD
1	Our Lady's	8	20	15
2	Wood Farm	8	15	3
3	John Henry Newman	8	13	2
4	Barley Hill	8	12	4
5	Windmill	8	10	1
6	St Michael's	8	9	0
7	St John Fisher	8	8	-4
8	Tyndale	8	7	-2

Caught Being Kind

Caught being kind and shining through our school values.

- Abdul - Aqua
- Kameela - Coral
- Susana - Sapphire
- Cecelia - Indigo
- Ilena - Emerald
- Cristabel - Emerald
- Morice - Emerald
- Beatrice - Indigo
- Anya - Indigo
- Mahnoor - Emerald



Let's Celebrate



Learner and Salesian of the week



	Learner	Salesian
Sunshine	Grace	Eric
Buttercup	Elvia	Basim
Sunflower	Hanna	Chimobim
Coral	Myra	Emil
Ruby	Isi	Ali
Scarlett	Rapunzia	Vivaan
Lime	Zarella	Maryam
Olive	Gustavo	Tosia
Emerald	Aimee	Farishta
Aqua	Yaeli	Daisy
Indigo	Laura	Corey
Sapphire	Ahyan M	Sebastian

Attendance Award:
Aqua

A big well done to all the children

Dates for your Diary

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 bingo night at 5.30-details to follow (<i>previously advertised as a quiz night!</i>)
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	Sacrament 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 9 th	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 16 th	Leavers Mass and picnic @ 1.30pm Parents and extended family welcome



Friday 17th School Finishes for the summer holidays at 12.30

