



Our Lady's News

The RUAH



Friday 22nd
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@ourlady-scowley.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,

We knew that cultures' week would be good but this week, there has been an extra special sprinkling of magic in our school. From listening to a range of Spanish, Irish, Bollywood, African and Polish music at lunchtimes to art projects from the different continents, we have truly celebrated who God made us to be - unique individuals with so much culture to offer to our friends.

Today we celebrated the feast of Our Lady Help of Christians with Mass in our school. The children sang brilliantly and the hall was filled with vibrant colours from the children's clothes that represented every nation. A child asked me this week, "Does Our Lady only help Christians?" The answer is a confident 'no' - Our Lady is there to look after everyone. There is a special feeling within our school; I vividly remember it from my days as a pupil at Our Lady's. That feeling is still here and many visitors comment on it. When I hear this I always return to the same thought: that Our Lady is constantly looking after our school and that is what the 'feeling' is.

Next week is half term and I hope that you have a wonderful week as a family. School holidays are the time to make memories as the time when the children will be able to make their own decisions will creep up very quickly. Part of RUAH is *Humour* and we always say, '*because life is just too serious sometimes.*' Now is the time to make the most of each and every day. For those travelling either abroad or within the UK, safe journey and we will see you on Monday 1st June 2026. The children must return on this date! Don't forget that school starts at 8.40am.

Our Lady Help of Christians
Pray for us

With best wishes
Ms Davies and all the staff

Respect, understanding, affection, humour

Cultures Week 2026



Exploring African Music Through Djembe Drumming 🎵

Sunshine Nursery explored African music and took part in a hands-on djembe drumming session. The children really enjoyed experimenting with the different sounds they could create and worked together to produce some wonderful rhythms.

Understanding Sikhism In Indigo:
Kalyan and Gurfateh shared insights about Sikh headcoverings and answered questions about the Sikh religion. It was an engaging and informative question-and-answer session.



Emerald has been exploring and creating beautiful Aboriginal dot art!



Celebrating Our Cultures in Ruby Class

We used clay to create pieces of art that symbolize parts of their own culture. Once the pieces are dry, children will paint them and display the art proudly in Ruby class as a celebration of our different cultures.



Respect, understanding, affection, humour

Cultures Week 2026



Culture Week at Our Lady's was a great success! Students and staff celebrated different cultures through food, music, traditional clothing, and presentations. It was a fun and exciting week that brought our school community together and helped everyone learn more about each other's backgrounds and traditions.

Thank you to everyone who took part and made the week so special!

Gaelic football

A group of our Year 5 and 6 children took part in the Gaelic football competition at Harpenden Rugby Club.

They represented our school brilliantly, showing excellent skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

What a fantastic opportunity for our children to showcase their talent and school spirit!



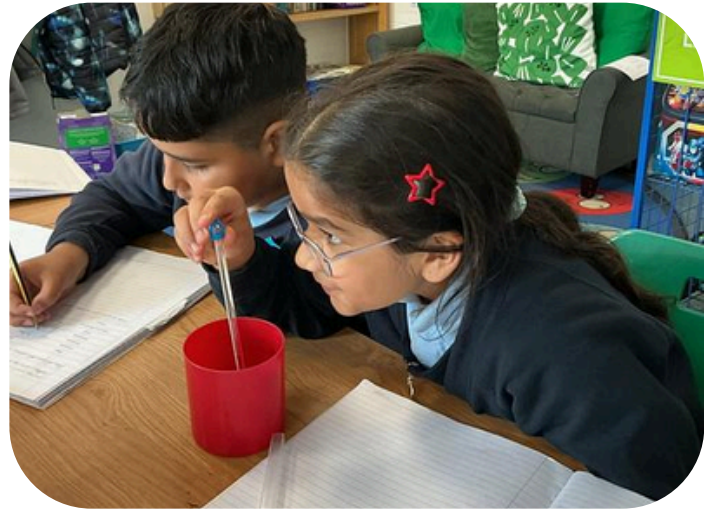
Well done!

News from the classrooms



Reception Fruit Salad Fun

We had a fantastic time making a delicious fruit salad in Reception. The children engaged in lots of conversation throughout the activity, sharing their thoughts on the colours, textures, and smells of the different fruits, as well as discussing which ones they had tried before and their favourites. They also showed great recall of why fruit is an important part of a healthy diet. We were particularly impressed by their enthusiasm to try fruits they hadn't tasted before, with plenty of "yums" all round.



Year 3 Scientists in Action!

This week, we are budding scientists in Year 3! This afternoon, we measured the temperature of ice as it melted to observe how materials change state. Afterwards, we used the Chromebooks to research the melting points of different materials. Well done, Lime class!

Maths- Grouping and Sharing

We enjoyed investigating groups in maths this week in Coral class. We shared counters and gems equally in groups.



Exploring Women of the Old Testament

In RE, the children role-played interviews with women like Esther, Ruth, and Deborah.

They practiced speaking, listening, and asking questions while learning about these women's courage, faith, and impact.



Respect, understanding, affection, humour

News from the classrooms

A Visit from the Mounted Police 🚔🐎

The whole school had a fantastic visit from the mounted police! We had the opportunity to meet the police horses and learned all about the important role they played in keeping people safe.

We discovered how the horses were specially trained for busy crowds and events, and we asked lots of interesting questions about their diet, training, and daily work. The highlight for many was getting to gently stroke the horses and seeing just how calm and friendly they were.





Let's Celebrate



Learner and Salesian of the week



	Learner	Salesian
Sunshine	Eric	Milo
Buttercup	Melvisno	Tita
Sunflower	Alice	Simran
Coral	Emil	Umaiza
Ruby	Reivan	Eloah
Scarlett	Khadija	Alice A
Lime	Maryam	Alice P (yes, all of the Alices in school)
Olive	Maya A	Philippa
Emerald	Manha	Dante
Indigo	Celina	Erwin
Aqua	Ilya	Lily
Sapphire	Rainha	Rainha (yes, two!)



Attendance Award Sunflower

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about — SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it *does* come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to *always* meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they *do* make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you *really* want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for FosterWid.



NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

INSPIRED FOOTBALL CAMP

AT TILSLEY PARK, 3G PITCHES

MAY HALF TERM

TUESDAY - THURS

26TH - 28TH MAY

10AM - 4PM

**£85
PER 3 DAY
WEEK**

**FOR UNDER
U8'S-11'S &
U12'S-U15'S
TRAIN SEPARATELY**

inspired
inspiredsport.org

**For more info & to book visit:
www.inspiredsport.org**



In partnership with





May Halfterm



PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) MAY HALF TERM 2026

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



ANGUS STEAKHOUSE

Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend

ASK ITALIAN

2 Kids eat free 27th March - 19th April 2026

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat free Sunday - Thursday

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult

BILLS

Kids eat free Mon 25th - Fri 29th May 2026

BREWDOG

Kids eat free 23rd - 31st May 2026

CAFE ROUGE

Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week

CHIQUITO

Kids eat free during all school holidays

COCONUT TREE

Kids eat free during half terms

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES

Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase

FARMHOUSE INNS

Kids eat FREE from 25th - 29th May 2026

FLAMING GRILL PUBS

Kids eat FREE from 25th - 29th May 2026

FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids eat FREE during school holidays

FRANCO MANCIA

Kids eat FREE school holidays Mon-Thurs

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 from 25th to 29th May 2026.

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

LAS IGUANAS

Kids under 12 eat FREE via the App

MARCO PIERRE WHITE

Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend

MORRISONS

Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day

PIZZA HUT

Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm

PREMIER INN

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult

PREZZO

Kids up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms

PUREZZA

Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal

SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

SIZZLING PUBS

Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm

TABLE TABLE

2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult

TESCO

Kids eat free May half term with any adult spend

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free Mon 11th - Sun 31st May (Via App)

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

TRAVELODGE

2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast

TURTLE BAY

Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend via app

VILLAGE HOTELS

Kids eat free weekdays via the village app

WHITBREAD INNS

2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays

ZIZZI

Kids eat free via app during school holidays

Dates for your Diary

May

Saturday 23rd

Celebration Mass in Church at 12.00noon to celebrate Salesian Co-operators. All Welcome

June

Monday 1st -Friday 5th

Year 6 PGL Residential
Year 4 Multiplication Checks begin-(Tested over 2 weeks)

Saturday 6th

First Holy Communion Mass at our Parish 10.am

Monday 8th

Phonics screening week for children in Year 1

Wednesday 10th

Cinema Night 3pm-5pm

Friday 19th

Fathers Day Gift Shop

Wednesday 24th

Greyfriars and Oxford Spires Transfer day for Year 6 children

Friday 26th

Greyfriars Transfer day for Year 6 children

Saturday 27th

Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish church-**Time to be confirmed**

Monday 29th

Open morning for children new to Reception and Nursery
9.00-10.30am

Tuesday 30th

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 12.30pm**

