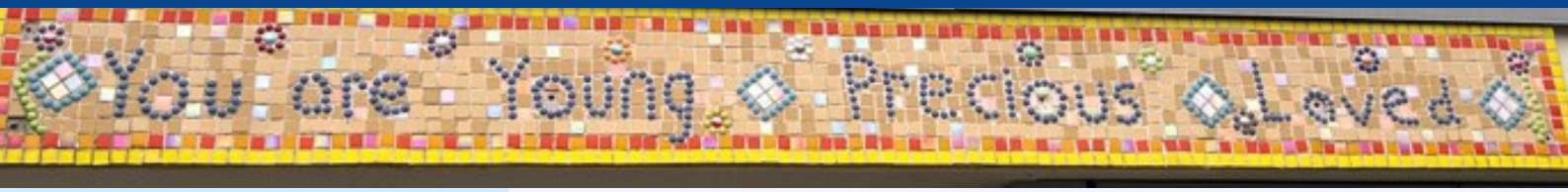
Our Lady's News
The RUAH



Friday 13th November 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,

This week in school has certainly been a busy one! Some of our children had the wonderful opportunity to visit the theatre to watch Matilda the Musical, which was a truly special experience. We also welcomed Science Oxford into school on Wednesday, providing children in Early Years with some fantastic hands-on opportunities to explore, investigate and develop their curiosity about their topic 'Starry Night.'

We also enjoyed celebrating Children in Need with our fabulous pyjama day today. It was wonderful to see so many children (and staff!) arriving in their cosy pyjamas, all supporting such a worthwhile charity. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.

As we reflect on such a busy and enjoyable week, we also take time to remember. Remembrance Day this week was an important opportunity for us to pause, reflect and give thanks for the courage and sacrifice of all those who have served, and continue to serve, to protect others and bring peace. In our school community, we remember through prayer, taking time to think about those who have lost their lives, those who continue to suffer through conflict, and all those who work tirelessly for peace around the world.

As a Catholic school, we are reminded of the importance of prayer, compassion and living out Christ's message of love for one another. Let us continue to pray for peace in our world and remember that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a difference.

The next few weeks are going to be busy as we lead up to Advent and then Christmas.

Please put all of the important dates in your diaries as you don't want to miss out! On Monday we will launch the annual decorate a Christmas tree decoration competition. Try and encourage the children to make decorations from used materials at home - let's be more sustainable!

Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing the Christmas tree decorations coming into school by Friday 27th November.

With best wishes
Ms Davies and all the staff

News from the classrooms

Sapphire Class Make World Record History!

We have some very exciting news to share! Our very own Sapphire Class have officially been part of a Guinness World Records achievement!On Thursday 8th October, the children joined thousands of people from across the world in a special reading challenge, organised by the National Literacy Trust and the British Council.

The challenge was to achieve the greatest number of people reading online within a 12-hour period, celebrating the joy of reading and bringing people together through books and stories.We are delighted to announce that the record was successfully achieved, with an incredible 153,862 people taking part!Even more excitingly, we have now received our official Guinness World Records certificate, recognising Sapphire Class's contribution to this fantastic achievement.

What a brilliant opportunity for the children to be part of something on such a huge scale! It is wonderful to see our pupils sharing their love of reading while helping to make a little bit of history.



A huge well done to everyone in Sapphire Class – you are officially world record holders! What an achievement to celebrate!

Celebrating Michael Rosen Day in Sapphire Class!

As part of our poetry learning journey, Sapphire Class joined a special live Zoom session with the wonderful Michael Rosen! The children enjoyed listening to his entertaining poetry performances, exploring how expression and actions bring poems to life, and joining in with recitals of their own. With our own poetry anthology taking shape, it was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the fun, creativity and power of poetry. A morning full of words, laughter and inspiration!



Celebrating the Oxfordshire Book Awards! 📚🏆

Some of our children had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Oxfordshire Book Awards at Magdalen School!

It was a wonderful celebration of reading, bringing together young book lovers from across Oxfordshire to celebrate their favourite stories and the talented authors behind them.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we hope it has inspired them to discover their next great read!



News from the classrooms

Remembrance Day 2026

A Visit from the Mayor's Cadet-Maisie

We were delighted to welcome Maisie, the Mayor's Cadet, who visited our school to talk to the children about the importance of Remembrance Day and why we continue to honour those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom.

Maisie explained her role as the Mayor's Cadet, including supporting the Mayor at civic events, representing young people in the community and attending important occasions such as Remembrance services.

The children learnt about the significance of the two-minute silence, why we remember at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, and the meaning behind the Last Post and Reveille. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the importance of remembering those who have served and those who continue to serve our country.

The children listened attentively, asked some thoughtful questions and showed great respect throughout.

A huge thank you to Maisie for taking the time to visit us and help the children understand the importance of Remembrance. We will remember them. ❤️🌺





💙 Remembering Others – Aqua and Sunflower Classes 💛



Aqua and Sunflower Classes enjoyed a thoughtful and reflective time of collective worship focusing on the words remember and remembrance.

The children shared their understanding of how we all have happy memories that we look back on with a smile, but also recognised that some memories can be sad or difficult. We thought about how important it is to remember others, show kindness and offer support to those who may be going through challenging times.



News from the classrooms

Exploring Our Wonderful World!

Lime Class made a fantastic start to their new Geography topic, 'One Planet, Our World'! We explored globes and atlases, discovering different countries and locating their capital cities. A brilliant start to our geography learning journey. Well done, Lime! 🍋🌍🔍





🎭 Bringing the Stone Age to Life!

Emerald Class had a fantastic time exploring oracy, storytelling and imagination during English! The children worked in groups to create their very own puppet shows, using all their knowledge of the Stone Age to bring their stories to life. There were some wonderfully creative ideas and fantastic teamwork on display. Well done, Emerald! 💚🪨🎬

🚀 A Journey Through Space!

Sunflower Class enjoyed an incredible adventure as the planetarium came to our school hall! We explored day and night, discovered fascinating facts about the stars and the International Space Station, and travelled around our amazing solar system. Dan from Science Oxford brought space to life with fascinating stories and discoveries. A huge thank you to Science Oxford for such an exciting and memorable experience!

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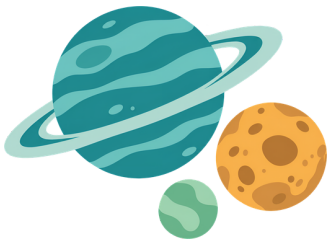








✍️ A Celebration of Poetry!

Indigo Class have been busy exploring poetry and creating some wonderful pieces of their own! We were so impressed with their creativity, imagination and thoughtful use of words. A fantastic effort from everyone! 💜📖✨

Experiences Beyond the Classroom

🎭 A Magical Day at the Theatre – Matilda the Musical! ✨

The children had a fantastic time travelling to Milton Keynes to watch Matilda the Musical! From the brilliant singing and dancing to the hilarious moments and impressive performances, there was so much to enjoy. The children were thoroughly entertained throughout and loved seeing Roald Dahl's much loved story brought to life on stage.

It was lovely to see their excitement as they watched the show, and there were plenty of favourite moments to chat about on the journey home!

We were incredibly proud of how beautifully the children behaved and how well they represented our school throughout the day.

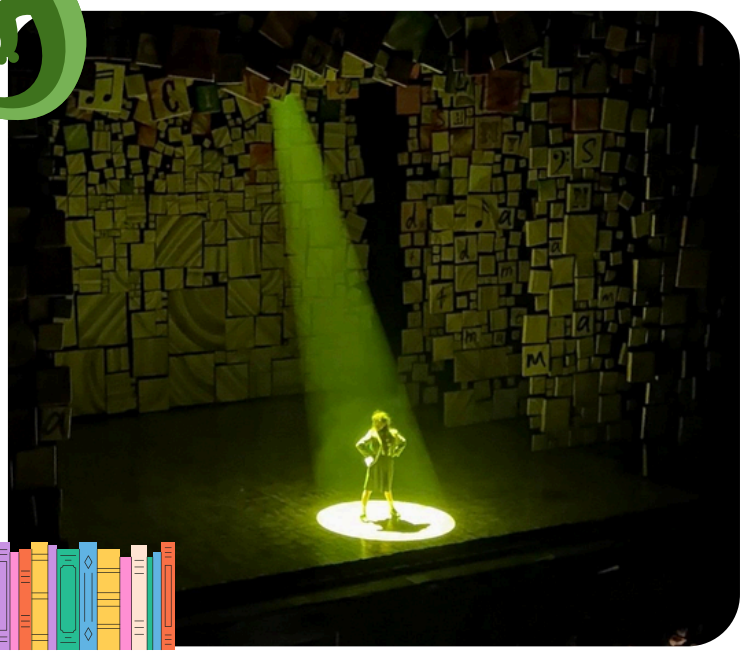
A huge thank you to all the staff who accompanied the children and helped make the trip possible.

A wonderful opportunity to experience live theatre and a day full of laughter, music and lovely memories! 🎶









Experiences Beyond the Classroom

Scarlet Class had a lovely day at Science Oxford this week! The children had a wonderful time exploring, experimenting and getting hands-on with lots of exciting science activities.

We were so proud of how beautifully they behaved and the enthusiasm they showed throughout the day. It was lovely to see them asking such thoughtful questions, sharing what they already knew and showing such curiosity as they discovered new things.

There were plenty of happy faces, lots of excitement and some fantastic learning along the way. Thank you, Science Oxford, for such an enjoyable and memorable visit! 🔬🧪😊













Parent Code of Conduct

At Our Lady's, we are committed to fostering a positive, welcoming and respectful relationship between home and school. We have a Parent Code of Conduct which sets out the expectations for how all members of our school community work together. We ask all parents and carers to ensure that their interactions with school staff are always courteous, respectful and considerate. Our staff work incredibly hard to provide the very best education and care for every child, and they deserve to be treated with kindness and respect at all times. We recognise that there may be occasions when parents and carers have questions, concerns or frustrations and we encourage these to be raised through the appropriate channels in a calm and constructive manner. By treating one another with respect, we can continue to build the strong, positive partnerships that enable our children and our school community to flourish.
Thank you

Parking at our school

We would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of parking considerately and safely when dropping off and collecting children. Please ensure that you do not park or stop across our school gates at any time. It is essential that the vehicle gates are kept clear for staff access, deliveries or emergency vehicles if needed.

We ask that everyone is mindful of our neighbours and the wider community, showing consideration for those who live and work around our school and therefore, please do not block access to neighbouring properties or obstruct local residents' driveways, particularly residents of Bennett Crescent. Parking inconsiderately can cause frustration for local residents and create unnecessary safety risks for our children and families.

We share the frustrations about the lack of parking near our school and we are constantly trying to create solutions to the issue. I have arranged a meeting with our local councillor and this week raised concerns to the council about the suspension of the short-time parking bays on St Luke's Road. If you have any ideas or contacts in local businesses who will be willing to help us, please get in contact.

OPEN DAYS FOR 2027 ADMISSIONS

OPEN DAYS FOR 2027

November

6th & 7th 09:30am-10.30am

18th & 20th 13:30pm-14.30pm



A welcoming, Catholic school family where every child is precious and loved.

Come and discover why our school is one of top performing primary schools in the whole of Oxfordshire and understand how our children flourish as Individuals.

Our school has a nursery for children age 3 upwards and extended care facilities from 07:30am to 6.00 pm to support working families.

RUAH is at the heart of our school, guiding us to live out the values of Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour in all that we do.

OUR LADY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

YOUNG · PRECIOUS · LOVED

01865 779176

www.ourladyscowley.co.uk

You are young, you are precious, you are loved.

📱 Follow Us on Instagram!

@ourladyscowley

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram to keep up to date with all the latest school news, exciting events, important announcements and wonderful moments from across our school. We love sharing what the children have been getting up to!

Supporting Pupil Wellbeing and Mental Health

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ADVERTISEMENTS AIMED AT CHILDREN

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are particularly vulnerable to the persuasive effects of advertising because of their still-developing critical thinking and impulse control skills. Children are regularly and passively exposed to advertising online, whether through influencers, paid advertisements, or sponsored content. Although 92% of 12–17-year-olds felt confident recognising online advertising, only 37% correctly identified sponsored adverts in search results.

INFLUENCER MARKETING

Influencers are an increasingly prominent part of children's online experiences, with four in ten 3–17 year olds who watch online videos reporting that they watch influencer content as entertainment. Influencers can appear credible, relatable, trustworthy and aspirational. Although seven in ten 12–17 year olds recognised a paid partnership, some believed products were promoted because influencers liked or thought they were 'cool'.

PARENTAL PRESSURE TO PURCHASE

Children's exposure to online advertising can pressure parents to buy products they see advertised. When told no, children may feel upset, treated unfairly or left out when comparing themselves with peers. With children potentially seeing up to 40,000 adverts a year, parents cannot meet every request. This can lead to arguments and put strain on family relationships.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Advertising often focuses on the positive effects of a product, which can create unrealistic expectations among young people. Children may be particularly susceptible to these claims when they do not recognise the persuasive intent behind them. They may be more likely to believe that a cream will 'transform' their skin, clothing will help them fit in, or protein powders will quickly build muscle. Repeated exposure to adverts such as beauty content can normalise unrealistic expectations and create material dissatisfaction or body image concerns.

HARMFUL ADVERTISING

Children can encounter online advertising through games, videos, social media and links, meaning they may see content that is inappropriate for their age. This can include products or messages that influence attitudes towards body image, health or behaviours such as gambling. Repeated exposure to beauty content can normalise adult-oriented beauty routines and psychological pressure.

UNINTENDED PURCHASES

Online advertising can encourage young people to make purchases. Ofcom found that 58% of 8–17 year olds had spent money online, with 27% saying adverts encouraged them to spend and 22% influenced by influencer content. Despite this, a third of the children regretted an in-game purchase, while almost half said they were unclear about what they were buying. This can lead to children spending more than intended or making purchases without fully understanding the cost or product, adding pressure on parents to spend.

LACK OF ADVERTISING TRANSPARENCY

Advertising is not always obvious to children, particularly when influencers promote brands, products or services without clearly stating that it is an advert, or when advertising is embedded within entertaining content and uses positive language. Children may not realise that the adverts are promoting something, making the recommendation seem more trustworthy and more influential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO SPOT ADS

Help children to recognise when content is trying to sell them something. Teach them to look for signs such as '#ad', 'sponsored', 'paid partnership' as well as promo codes or product links attached. Explain to your child that these adverts can be embedded within videos, social media posts, games or influencer posts and are not always obvious to identify. Helping children recognise these advertisements can make them less likely to be influenced by them.

ENSURE PAYMENT DETAILS ARE LOCKED DOWN

Avoid saving your bank card details on children's devices, games or apps wherever possible. This can help reduce the risk of children making accidental or impulsive purchases following seeing an advert. Check the purchasing settings on games and social media accounts and use parental controls or purchase approval settings where possible. Talk to your child about the importance of asking before making a purchase online.

DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

It is important to encourage children to question what they see online rather than automatically believing it. Encourage them to stop and think before clicking. Have them ask themselves, 'Why am I seeing this?' and 'What are they trying to get me to want/buy?'. Remind them that adverts and influencers only highlight the positive aspects of a product. By developing these skills, children will begin to recognise, question, and respond to manipulative marketing practices.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

While it is important to set age restrictions on games and social media, inappropriate adverts can still slip through. Talk regularly with your child about adverts or influencer content they see online. Open communication makes it easier for your child to come to you if they have any questions about products or inappropriate content. It also helps you understand what your child is being exposed to online and where they may need support.

Meet Our Expert

Dr. Claire Sutherland is an education consultant and digital safety expert, with a background in primary teaching. She combines her PhD research in cyberbullying with hands-on experience, delivering impactful digital wellbeing workshops and policies for schools across Australia and now in the UK.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Let's Celebrate

Learner and Salesian of the week

	Learner	Salesian
Sunshine	Tia	Devadatta
Buttercup	Tayyab	Lucas
Sunflower	Hannah	Leo
Coral	Coral Class	Mohamad
Ruby	Ruby Class	Emy
Scarlet	Scarlet Class	Siún
Lime	Falisha	Maria
Olive	Ismail	Lewis
Emerald	Titania + Rivaan	Abanob
Indigo	Tosha	Maya
Aqua	Kalyan	Anya
Sapphire	Maya	Emanuel

Let's Celebrate

Caught being kind

Name	Class
Zenias	Lime
Maria	Lime

Attendance Award

Top attendance this week	
1.	Sunflower 99%
2.	Olive 98.2%
3.	Ruby 97.8%
4.	Buttercup 97.3%

⭐ RECEPTION ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 ARE NOW OPEN! ⭐

Is your child due to start Reception in September 2027? If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, now is the time to apply for their school place!

IMPORTANT!

📅 **Important Dates**

Applications now open

Application deadline: 15 January 2027

National Offer Day: 16 April 2027

⚠️ Please remember: Parents and carers are responsible for submitting their child's Reception application. Although schools will share information and reminders about the admissions process, applications must be completed directly by parents/carers through Oxfordshire County Council. Please make sure you submit your application before the closing date. Late applications are considered after those received on time and are significantly less likely to secure a place at your preferred school.

💻 Apply online here:
https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications/make-application

Please share this information with any family or friends who may have a child starting school in September 2027! 💛

Dates for your diary

November	
Monday 16th- Friday 20th	Anti-Bullying week
Wednesday 18th	Open Morning for 2027 Admissions 13.30-14.30
Friday 20th	Open Morning for 2027 Admissions 13.30-14.30
Thursday 26th	Cinema Night 15:10-17:00 Years 1-6
December	
Friday 11th	Christmas Bazaar
Monday 14th	Learning Showcase 08:45-09:15
Tuesday 15th	Advent Service 10:00-11:00 Reception Class Nativity 14:00-15:00
Wednesday 16th	iRock Concert 09:00-10:00 Christmas Dinner Day 🎄
Thursday 17th	Nursery Christmas Concert 11:00-11.30 KS1 Nativity 14:00
Friday 18th	End of Term 🎄 Nursery closes at 11.30 Reception-Year 6 closes at 12.30