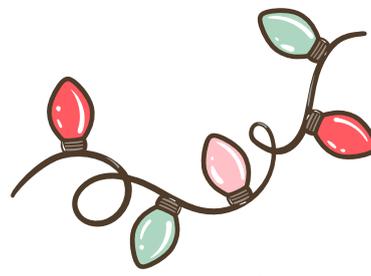


CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families,

As we approach the final few days of our first term, I want to thank you all for your fantastic support. Now in my second year as Headteacher, I continue to feel humbled by the partnership we share. OLOR is a vibrant school full of enrichment, and this term has been incredibly busy. We have been so proud of the children, as I am sure you would agree, their personalities and confidence have shone in every Christmas performance!

This term has been filled with achievements and successes, and I hope you enjoy reading about them below. I was particularly moved by the response to our Advent appeal for Caritas. It is truly humbling to see our children, guided by you as parents, give so generously to those less fortunate. Your support has helped them live out the true meaning of Advent, bringing our Jubilee Year of Hope to a wonderfully meaningful close.

A special thank you must also go to our newly formed PTA for all their help with the Christmas events. We are grateful to every family who supports their events and fundraising. Your generosity directly enhances the experiences we can offer our pupils at OLOR.

During the holiday period, I encourage you to take time with your children to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to spread joy where you can, one of my favourite images that helps me to remember this is below "Find the silence through the noise"

Thank you for supporting me and all the staff at OLOR this year, who work tirelessly to create such a positive environment for your children. On behalf of the Staff and Governors at OLOR, we wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 5th January and can't wait for another year of making memories!

Best wishes and Happy Holidays!

Mrs Groves



This Term:

Advent

Robin Wood

The Jubilee Year

The Month of the Rosary

The Orangutan Visit

Eco- Team News

Rock Steady

PE News

Nursery News

Harvest / Carnival Day

Remembrance

History Week

SEND

Attendance

Thank You

Updates

Advent Events



Nativity Plays

Well done to all of our children who took part in the fabulous Nativity Plays.



Santa Dash

Many thanks to all the children, parents and staff who joined in with the dancing before school. It was a great start to the day!



The Travelling Nativity

Our children have all taken home our Travelling Nativity where as a family they say a prayer and write their own family prayer in the book. At this time of the year we come together as one family in the preparation for the coming of Jesus.



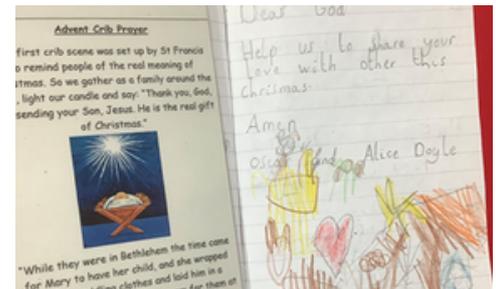
Christmas Dinner

Our children enjoyed our annual Christmas Dinner. There were lots of festive jumpers, Christmas music and fun! Thank you to Julie and Ellie for making such a wonderful dinner for us all.



Cartias

Thank you to all the families who have donated so much throughout the month of December.





Robinwood

Our Year 5 children visited Robinwood centre in Wrexham, where they put our school value of resilience into action during a range of outdoor tasks. From challenging climbs to teamwork-based activities, the pupils pushed themselves, supported one another, and grew in confidence. It was a memorable trip that strengthened their independence, resilience, and teamwork skills.



The Jubilee Year



As part of our recognition of the Jubilee Year of the Church, schools across the Salford Diocese are taking part in a special pilgrimage of the Anchor of Hope. Throughout the year, the anchor was passed from school to school as a symbol of strength in faith and hope for the future. We received the anchor on Wednesday, 26th November.

To acknowledge the day, children took part in some hope-themed activities and were invited to come to school in their own clothes, wearing the colours of our Jubilee Year of Hope: blue, green, yellow, or red.



THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY



Throughout the month of October we celebrated the month of Our Lady. Each day we prayed the Rosary and on each Monday of October we welcomed families into school to pray the Rosary with us. The GIFT Chaplains did a great job of organising and leading this.

THE ORANGUTAN VISIT

We were delighted to welcome a visiting orangutan in a real-life costume from Teach REX, who taught us all about the issues facing rainforests, the impact of climate change, and how we can make the world more sustainable. The session was engaging, inspiring, and led to a range of planned writing activities across the school. The children loved the experience and left with a deeper understanding of how their actions can help protect wildlife and the environment.



ECO TEAM NEWS

Our Eco Team had the privilege of working with Bob from CAFOD, who educated them on COP and the importance of global climate action. Bob supported the pupils as they began developing our school's Climate Action Plan, helping them understand how everyday choices can protect the planet. The team showed real passion and commitment as they explored practical steps to make our school more sustainable.



Rock Steady



Well done to all of our children who performed in the Rock Steady concert. It was wonderful to see all of the children display their musical talents! Thank you to the parents who came to support their child in their first Rock Steady concert.

PE news



Our sports teams have had an exciting and successful start to the year at OLOR! Both our Handball and Athletics teams secured impressive second-place finishes in their Trafford Schools competitions, while our dance team shone on stage at Trafford's Got Talent. Miss Wrigley leads the dance troupe and continues to deliver weekly lessons to year groups across the school, as well as hosting a weekly dance club before school.

A huge thank-you goes to Mrs Dada for her fantastic coaching of the girls' football team. So far, the girls have played four games, winning two. We are also celebrating a brilliant start to the netball league, with our A team winning all their games so far. Our Year 5 Sports Leaders have started their training at UA92 and will be delivering games sessions to our younger year groups throughout the year. This term, coaches from Brooklands Sports Club delivered weekly lacrosse sessions to our Year 5 pupils. We have welcomed children from Years 3 - 6 to Longford Park for our two cross-country meets this term, and we look forward to seeing even more children participate in the final Longford Park run on 17th January 2026.

During Mrs Groves' weekly assembly, we celebrate achievements across all year groups in a variety of sports. Children at OLOR continue to excel in sporting activities outside of school and are always encouraged to bring in medals, trophies, and certificates to share with the school.

Bitesize Bootcamp continues to deliver excellent PE lessons to Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Our children also continue to amaze us with their daily mile efforts each day. We look forward to more exciting sporting events and achievements in the New Year!

Nursery News



This half term, the children have been learning all about celebrations and the different ways people mark special occasions.

We began by exploring Diwali, the Festival of Light, where the children learned about light, colour and why this celebration is important to many families. We then talked about birthdays, sharing how we celebrate them and what makes each child's day special. The children also enjoyed learning about Bonfire Night, discovering some of the traditions people follow and the history behind the celebration. To finish the half term, we focused on Christmas. We talked about why Christmas is celebrated, whose birth it marks, and how families around the world celebrate in different ways.

The children have shown great enthusiasm and enjoyment throughout this topic, and it has been lovely to hear them share their own experiences and traditions.



Harvest Day



We were delighted to celebrate OLOR's Annual Harvest Festival. The afternoon was a wonderful occasion. Each class performed a beautiful harvest song, and it was lovely to see so many family and friends joining us for this special service. As part of our celebrations, we collected generous donations in support of Cornerstone and Stretford Food Bank, which were delivered by members of our GIFT Chaplaincy Team. We would like to thank everyone for their kindness and support in helping those in need.



Carnival Day



We concluded Black History Month with a wonderful Carnival-themed day. The children looked fantastic in their bright carnival and traditional outfits, bringing lots of colour and excitement to the school. A prize was awarded to our best-dressed children.

Miss Wrigley led lively carnival dancing and music at the front of the school, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We were also delighted to welcome parents who joined in and helped make the day such a fun and memorable celebration.



Remembrance Week



This year's Remembrance Parade was a meaningful occasion, with over 40 families proudly turning out at the Urmston parade to show their respect. Pupils and families stood together to honour those who served and sacrificed in past conflicts. It was a powerful community moment that encouraged reflection, gratitude, and unity.



History week



Children enjoyed History week and learning about the past. The week ended with the children dressing up in their historical costumes.



Attendance at OLOR

Thank you to all our families who have supported attendance this term

To recognise those pupils that achieved 100% attendance for this term, pupils were given 2 hole punches and a sticker.

Please can we ask that you take a look at our Attendance Policy to familiarise yourselves with our procedures. This can be found on our website.

Class	Attendance
Nursery	95.5%
Reception	96.5%
Year 1	95.9%
Year 2	98.1%
Year 3	96.2%
Year 4	98.5%
Year 5	97.0%
Year 6	95.4%

SEND at OLOR

This term we welcomed Jackie Tarpey from SENAS for our coffee morning to share her experiences of working with children and families with Autism. This was incredibly insightful and informative.

Dates for your Diary:

IEP Meetings: 4th March

SEND Coffee morning: TBC



Thank you!

THANK
YOU!
😊

- Harry in Nursery's dad for bringing the real-life orangutan in for our incredible workshop on sustainability and climate change, at no charge
- Mr. Olive for organising the delivery of new sustainable recycling bins as part of our Climate Action Plan. These were kindly donated by his company.
- Mrs Dada and Mr. Groves (coaches from Urmston Meadowside) for volunteering their time to run after-school football clubs to support the school.
- Felicity Bailey's Grandma for her Morrisons voucher donation
- The PTA team for all their hard work coordinating the Christmas markets and the tea towels.



Updates

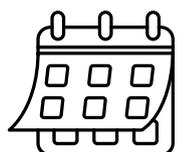


- Miss Cook will be retiring at the end of this academic year, bringing to a close 26 years at OLOR. Miss Cook has been a significant part of life at Our Lady's for the past 26 years, dedicating her career as a Year 5/6 teacher and, for the past 15 years, as Deputy Head. She has been most famously known for coordinating music and drama across the school and for bringing an enormous amount of creativity and passion to school life.
- Les, our highly valued crossing patrol, will be retiring at Christmas. He has been a significant part of daily life at OLOR for the past 13 years, and the children are extremely fond of him. He has always shown great dedication to keeping everyone safe.
- Beginning in January, Mrs. Weinberg will be supporting English Martyrs Primary School for two days per week. She will continue to be based at OLOR from Monday to Wednesday and will work at English Martyrs on Thursdays and Fridays.

The school calendar

If you previously subscribed to our calendar through our old website (before September 2025), please note that this calendar is no longer syncing correctly. Any new dates or updates added are not appearing on the old calendar. To ensure you receive all current and future updates, you will need to delete the old calendar subscription and subscribe to the calendar on our new website.

Thank you for your understanding and for taking the time to update your calendar so you don't miss any important dates.





Useful information



We would like to welcome Mrs Grace who has been successfully appointed as our new admin assistant from September. Mrs Grace will be working in Reception each day 8:30 -11:30.

I have questions about...	Who you need to talk to...
Your child's learning / homework / class activities /	Your child's class teacher
Attendance and Absence Requests	Please send an email outlining your request to admin@ourladyrosary.co.uk
Immediate Safeguarding concerns	Mrs Groves (or another member of the Safeguarding Team)
Bullying and Behaviour	Your child's class teacher
Special Educational Needs	Mrs Weinberg
Before and After-School Club	admin@ourladyrosary.co.uk