



# Our Lady and St. Gerard's News

Week Ending:

12th September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a fantastic start to the new school year, and we're delighted to share how well the children have settled into Week 1. They've quickly adapted to their new classrooms, teachers, and routines, showing great enthusiasm and resilience. It's been a joy to see their smiling faces and eagerness to learn!

We're also excited to announce that our school field is now ready for use! This opens up wonderful opportunities to expand our outdoor provision, and we're planning lots of fun games and activities to make the most of this space. Outdoor learning is a key part of our approach, and we're thrilled to be able to offer even more of it.

Another exciting development is the launch of Forest School for our Reception and Year 1 children. This initiative will provide rich, hands-on experiences in nature, helping to build confidence, creativity, and teamwork. The benefits of Forest School are well-documented, and we're proud to be offering this to our youngest learners.

As we look ahead to the year, our school improvement priorities are focused on:

- Developing mathematical fluency across all year groups.
- Improving writing through enhanced sentence structure and punctuation.
- Increasing active learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom.

We believe that strong partnerships with parents are essential to achieving these goals. Your support, whether through engagement in your child's learning, attending school events, or participating in fundraising efforts makes a real difference. Together, we can create a vibrant and successful learning environment for all our children.

Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Warm regards,  
The School Team



## Roald Dahl Day – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September

The LCC School catering team are putting on a themed Roald Dahl lunch on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

If your child is in years 3 – 6 and you haven't already booked them in for a lunch for Monday, please email the office: [admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk) and we will add them on for you.

All school meals cost £2.90 each payable on ParentPay

## All Hallows Parent Meeting

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September** – Meeting at OLSG in the school hall for parents of year 5 & 6 children interested in sending their children to All Hallows in 2026 and 2027

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## Love, Inspire, Shine

*United in Love and the light of Jesus, we inspire one another to learn, grow and shine*

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## Severe Allergy Alert

We have children in school with severe allergies.

These allergies are caused by both touching and consuming certain foods. I am sure you will agree, that we need to work together to do everything possible to ensure the safety of any child who may become seriously ill as a result of being in contact with certain food products.

**ALLERGY ALERT**

**We need your help to keep these children safe and healthy and you can do this by not sending food that contains the following in your child's lunch box:**

- **Any food item containing nuts**
- **Chickpeas (including houmous).**
- **Sesame seeds - these are also found on bread buns.**

We would really appreciate your support in this matter and we ask that you do not send the above food items in even if your child is in a different class. **This allergy is life-threatening.**

To ensure that school is as safe as possible for our children, we would like to get everyone into the habit of sending food that doesn't contain nuts, chickpeas or sesame seeds. We appreciate your support in this matter.

## News & Updates

We try hard to keep our families informed of events and activities relevant to your child via Clasdojo class pages. We also share wider news via the 'School Story on Clasdojo'. This is news which we feel all parents would be interested in as it is usually news to celebrate something going on in our school, which we are proud of. We may also send messages via dojo or Parentpay if appropriate. Our website is updated regularly too with important information.

**Term Dates** – Our Term Dates are available on our school website please make sure you review these when making holiday plans as holidays in term time cannot be authorised. Our term dates are decided a year in advance through collaboration with our main feeder school and other partner schools to try to make it easier for families who have children in both primary and secondary schools. These are approved by the Governors.

**PTA** - We have a very active 'Friends of OLSG' group who regularly raise funds to ensure our children benefit from exciting resources and experiences. If you are interested in being involved, please contact school and we can provide further details. Your involvement could be by helping out at events when you can, or attending meetings to help with fundraising ideas – every little helps! We will soon be announcing the dates of our meetings and would love to see some of you there.

**This terms events: Welly Walk, Christmas Bingo & Christmas Grotto**

**The next PTA meeting is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 3.30pm in school**

## Breakfast Club & Dinner Booking Reminder

Please remember to book school meals and breakfast club via the ParentPay app at least a week in advance as bookings close. **Bookings for week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> September close on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>**

## Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

If your circumstances have changed recently it is worth checking if you are now eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium. If you claim certain benefits you may be entitled to free school meals for the whole of your child's journey through primary school.

To check you eligibility please go to <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/> school will be informed automatically if you become eligible. You can check eligibility at any time via this link.

## Nursery Applications

Our School nursery accepts children from the term after they turn 3, therefore we have an intake in September, January and April. We operate a waiting list so that you can apply from birth.

**All 3&4 year old children** in Lancashire are entitled to up to 15 hours per week (570 hours per year) funded by the government and for most working families this can rise to 30 hours per week (1,140 hours per year).

## Nursery Places

**It's not too late to apply for Nursery we still have some places available for school year 2025-2026.** If you have a child that turned 3 at any point up to **31 August 25** they can start in our school Nursery class **NOW** or if they turn 3 **between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> December** they can start in **January 2026**.

We have funded and paid for places available and Tax free Childcare or vouchers can be used to pay for paid for sessions. Please contact the school office by email: [bursar@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk) or by calling 01772 335025 for more information.

**If you need more hours than the government funds...** If you want to increase your child's hours or are currently paying for extra hours you may be entitled to further financial support from the government such as Tax Free Childcare or through Universal Credit.

Find out more at: [lancashire.gov.uk/childcare](http://lancashire.gov.uk/childcare) or contact the school office

## School Admissions

Applications for Primary and High school admissions for **September 2026** are open from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025. If you have a child in year 6 who will be moving up to high school next September, the deadline to apply for your child's high school place is **31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**. If you have a child who is due to start Reception class in September 2025 the deadline to apply is **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. **This includes children who already attend our nursery class.**

To apply for a school place for your child visit <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/apply-for-a-school-place/>

## Swimming – Monday Mornings 9am

Autumn	Year 5P and Year 6 Catch up – group will be notified
Spring	Year 5 Johnson
Summer	Year 4 – half a term each

## After School Clubs

Wednesdays are the Active Club days. Each half term, a different year group will be given the opportunity to attend a sports/active club led by a sports coach. Further information to follow.

We also have additional paid for clubs and activities run by external providers.

This term these include:

Tuesdays	<b>Guitar</b> with Miss Galea – Tuesday afternoon (1:45, 2:15 and 2:45pm) <b>Singing</b> with Miss Galea – 3:15 to 4pm
Fridays	<b>Drumming</b> Lessons 10.00 – 11.30am

## Dates for the Diary – Autumn Term

Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept	All Hallows Parents Meeting in school Hall 6pm
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Harvest Celebration
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Tempest Photography – Individuals and Family Groups
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	PTA Mtg 3.30pm in school
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents Evening
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Y6 Taster Day – All Hallows
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Parents Evening
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Year 6 London Trip Meeting for Parents 5.15pm
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Oct	PTA – Sponsored Welly Walk



<b>Half Term Holidays</b>	Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> October
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	School opens following half term break
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tempest Photography – Team Photos
Tues 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Y5 Robinwood – Parents Meeting 5pm
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Flu Vaccinations
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Tempest Photography –Class & Group Photos
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 21 <sup>st</sup>	Y6 London Trip
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Mufti Day for PTA Christmas Bingo
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> to Wed 26 <sup>th</sup>	Y5 Robinwood Residential
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	PTA Christmas Bingo
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS1 Nativity in Church 10am & 1.30pm
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	EYFS Nativity 9.30am & 1.45pm
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	KS2 Carol Service in Church 2pm
Tue 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	All Hallows Christmas Roadshow
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	School Closes for Christmas



## **Holiday List 2025 - 2026**

### **Autumn Term 2025**

#### **INSET**

School Opens

Half-term:

Close

Reopen

School Closes for Christmas

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

(Years 1 to 6. Reception start Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025,

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### **Spring Term 2025**

School Opens

Half term:

Close

Reopen

School closes for Easter

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

### **Summer Term 2025**

School Opens

**School closed for Bank Holiday**

Half-term:

Close

**INSET**

**INSET**

Re-open

School closes for Summer

**INSET**

**INSET**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2026

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026**

# Our Lady & St Gerard's RC Primary School

## Communication & Contact Information



Welcome to Our Lady & St Gerard's RC Primary School. Our school uses a variety of different systems to communicate with parents such as Class Dojo, ParentPay, and the school website.

### If you need to speak to someone about:

- 1. Your child's learning, behaviour, or have class questions or queries** - Speak to the class teacher. This can be done at the door at the end of the day. If you need longer please message the class teacher on Dojo to make an appointment.
  - If you have spoken to the class teacher and feel you need to speak to someone further**, contact the school office by email [admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk), phone 01772 335025 or come into the school office and ask to speak to / make an appointment with a Senior Leader.  
Mrs Cowell - Deputy Headteacher & Phase Leader for Early Years & KS1 (Yrs 1 & 2)  
Mrs Pilkington - Assistant Headteacher & Phase Leader for KS2 (Yrs 3-6)

**For the points below (points 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6):** Please contact the school office by email [admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk), phone 01772 335025 or come into the office and speak to Mrs Richards or Mrs Pickering

- 2. Reporting your child absent, or to inform us of an appointment**
- 3. Someone different is collecting your child from school**
- 4. Information about the school diary dates or school event,**
- 5. Information about dinners or breakfast club, including assistance with bookings**
- 6. Your child's attendance** (If you are requesting special leave of absence please speak to us prior to booking and requesting time off)
- 7. If you need to speak to someone about Special Educational Needs** – Please contact Mrs Cowell on [r.cowell@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:r.cowell@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk)
- 8. If you have a Safeguarding concern about a child, family member or member of staff**, please call school on 01772 335025 and ask to speak to the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead).  
Our DSL in school is: **Miss Harvey – Headteacher**  
If Miss Harvey is not available ask to speak to a backup DSL:  
Mrs Berry – Child & Family Support  
Mrs Cowell – Deputy Headteacher, SENDCO, EYFS & KS1 Leader  
Mrs Pilkington – Assistant Headteacher & KS2 Leader
- 9. PTA Events and Information** please email [admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk)
- 10. School's Out After School Club** – Please call Angela Styles on 0770 400 3000

**The school office is manned from 8.15am to 1pm and then from 2.45 to 3.45pm daily during term time.** The telephone lines and email are always open for messages, however there are busy times when it is not always possible to speak to someone directly. Please leave a voice message and we will deal with your message as soon as possible.

**Class Dojo:** Your child's class teacher will contact you with information about how to join the class dojo. Dojo points are awarded for good work and behaviour throughout the week and we run a weekly competition and certificates are awarded. Dojo is also used for direct messages relating to your child or class and can be used to communicate with the class teacher. **Please note that during the teaching day you child's teacher will be in class and not able to respond to messages. If urgent, please contact the office.**

**ParentPay:** [www.ParentPay.com](http://www.ParentPay.com) School's online payment & communication system. We use ParentPay to send out emails and texts, you can pay and give permission for clubs & trips, book and pay for Breakfast Club and school meals and pay for Uniform & Nursery. We also use ParentPay to book parents evening appointments. Please complete your online registration as soon as you are sent your login details.

**Website:** [www.ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](http://www.ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk) Contains lots of useful information such as policies, forms, newsletters, holiday dates, class information, PTA and Governors.

**Should you have any problems accessing any of the above, please contact the school office on [admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ourlady-st-gerards.lancs.sch.uk) or 01772 335025**