



Our Lady and St. Gerard's News



Week Ending:

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been delighted to welcome our children back to school for the start of a new academic year. It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces returning to their classrooms, reconnecting with friends and embracing new opportunities for learning.

During these first few weeks, our focus is on ensuring a calm, positive and settled start for every child. Establishing routines, building relationships and helping children feel happy, safe and confident in their new classes are all key priorities. These strong foundations will help our children to thrive throughout the year ahead.

We are incredibly proud of how well the children have returned to school and are already demonstrating our school values through their kindness, respect and enthusiasm for learning.

A few reminders: Jewellery is not allowed and children should wear black shoes in line with our uniform policy - no trainers unless children are in PE kit. We encourage water bottles filled with water only. Please ensure all items are named. **We already have around 50 jumpers and cardigans and lots of coats/bottles in lost property, which are not named.**

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, united in love and the light of Jesus, we look forward to a successful and rewarding year as we inspire one another to learn, grow and shine.

Miss Harvey
Headteacher

All Hallows Parent Meeting

Wednesday 16th September –Parents are invited to attend a special information evening at All Hallows which replaces the individual meetings normally held in each feeder school. This information evening is for Parents of children in Year 5 & 6 who are looking to start high school in 2027 & 2028. Please see attached flyer for further information.

Please note the full Open Evening is the following week.

Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 16th September - Drop in Session 3.30 – 4.30pm

Sacramental Programme 2026/2027

Information packs for the 2026-2027 Sacramental Programme will be distributed to Year 3 pupils during the next week. Forms can also be collected from the Church office. If you have any questions or queries, please contact the Church office.

ALL HALLOWS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
+
YEAR 5 & YEAR 6
PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING
Meet the Headteacher • Discover Life at All Hallows • Prepare for High School

Parents and carers of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are warmly invited to join us for a special Information Evening. Learn more about our outstanding Catholic community, curriculum, pastoral care and the exciting transition to secondary school.

WHY ATTEND?

- ✓ Meet the Headteacher and senior leadership team
- ✓ Learn about transition arrangements and student support
- ✓ Explore academic opportunities and enrichment activities
- ✓ Find out how we nurture confidence, faith and achievement
- ✓ Ask questions on key principles of school life

EVENT DETAILS

Date
Wednesday 16th September

Time
6pm

Venue
All Hallows Catholic High School

We look forward to welcoming you and supporting your child on the next stage of their educational journey.

Love, Inspire, Shine

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

Allergy Awareness

The school office have sent out medical forms via dojo following the introduction of Benedict's Law.

The information provided will help us identify any health needs, assess whether an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) is required, and ensure appropriate support is in place. **Benedict's Law** places a duty on schools to ensure staff are aware of and appropriately trained to support children with severe allergies and anaphylaxis. It is therefore essential that all medical information is shared with the school and updated if circumstances change. All information will be treated confidentially and stored in accordance with data protection requirements

To help us keep your child safe and ensure we can meet any medical needs whilst they are in school, please complete this form accurately.

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 Classdojo class pages.

We also share wider news via the 'School Story on Classdojo'. 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.

The next PTA meeting is on Monday 28th September 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 21st September close on Monday 14th**

Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

Free School Meals have been expanded over the summer to include more families such as those in receipt of Universal Credit. 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.

Nursery Places

It's not too late to apply for Nursery we still have some places available for school year 2026-2027. If you have a child that turned 3 at any point up to **31 August 26** they can start in our school Nursery class **NOW** or if they turn 3 **between 1st September and 31st December** they can start in **January 2027**.

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 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.

Find out more at: lancashire.gov.uk/childcare or contact the school office

School Admissions

Applications for Primary and High school admissions for **September 2027** are open from 1st September 2026. 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 **31st October 2026**. If you have a child who is due to start Reception class in September 2027 the deadline to apply is **15th January 2027**. **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

Mondays 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.

Autumn 1 Half Term – Year 3 & 4 Dodgeball

We also have additional paid for clubs and activities run by external providers.
This term these include:

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

Dates for the Diary – Autumn Term

Wed 16 th Sept	All Hallows Parents Information Meeting at All Hallows 6pm
Wed 16 th Sept	Meet the Teacher 3.30 to 4.30pm in school
Tues 22 nd Sept	Phonics Stay & Play
Mon 5 th October	Tempest Photography – Individual & Family Group Photos
Mon 28 th Sept	PTA Mtg 3.30pm in school
Mon 19 th Oct	Parents Evening
Wed 21 st Oct	Parents Evening
Thurs 15 th Oct	Year 6 London Trip Meeting for Parents 4pm
Thurs 22 nd Oct	School Close for the Half term holidays
Fri 23 rd Oct	INSET DAY
Half Term Holidays	Fri 23 rd to Fri 30 th October
Mon 2 nd Nov	School opens following half term break
Thurs 12 th & Fri 13 th	Y6 London Trip
Fri 13 th Nov	Flu Vaccinations
Wed 18 th Nov	Tempest Photography –Class & Group Photos
Mon 23 rd to Wed 25 th	Y5 Robinwood Residential
Mon 7 th Dec	KS1 Nativity in Church 2pm
Tue 8 th Dec	KS1 Nativity in Church 10.30am
Wed 9 th Dec	Reception Nativity 9.30am
Thurs 10 th Dec	Reception Nativity 2pm
Fri 11 th Dec	Nursery Christmas Sing-along
Fri 18 th Dec	School Closes for Christmas



Holiday List 2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026

INSET

School Opens

Half-term:

Close

INSET

Reopen

School Closes for Christmas

INSET

School Opens

Half term:

Close

Reopen

School closes for Easter

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Wednesday 2nd September 2026
(Years 1 to 6. Reception start Thurs 3rd)

Thursday 22nd October 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 2nd November 2026

Friday 18th December 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Tuesday 5th January 2027

Friday 12th February 2027

Monday 22nd February 2027

Thursday 25th March 2027

Summer Term 2027

School Opens

School closed for Bank Holiday

Half-term:

Close

INSET

Re-open

School closes for Summer

INSET

Monday 12th April 2027

Monday 3rd May 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

Monday 7th June 2027

Tuesday 8th June 2027

Tuesday 20th July 2027

Wednesday 21st July 2027

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, 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, phone 01772 335025 or come into the office and speak to 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
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
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 your child's teacher will be in class and not able to respond to messages. If urgent, please contact the office.**

ParentPay: 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 to ensure you don't miss out on important information.

Website: 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 or 01772 335025