

Our Lady's Primary School Newsletter September 2026



Welcome

We were really pleased to see all the children return to school safe and well and looking forward to the new school year! It was lovely to see them come through the gates; as always, the children are a credit to you and this school. The curriculum, as always, is a priority, it will continue to be broad and balanced, focusing on: developing all children as active, independent and reflective learning champions; growing our approach to outdoor learning, ensuring children use their multiple intelligences and school values; providing wellbeing for all. Our theme for this year is based on teaching and learning practices – how we know our pupils, understanding the barriers to learning, how modelling and scaffolding supports learning opportunities, the importance of assessment and vocabulary and how we help each other to understand our emotions and use them to the best of our abilities.

A particularly special warm welcome to our new staff and pupils, we wish them great success and happiness.

Here is a reminder of timings. We will continue to zone off the playground at pick up times, staff will be there to guide you if you are not sure. If you have children in both EYFS/KS1 and KS2 please do not be late when picking up the younger children. We will be operating the same system as last year, and any EYFS/KS1 that are not collected on time will need to be collected from the front office.

	EYFS (Reception Class) from 28/09/26 KS1 (Years 1 & 2) from 04/09/26	KS2 (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6)
Drop off	8.25am-8.40am	8.25am-8.40am
Pick up	3.05pm	3.15pm

Communication

Parents are welcome to briefly communicate with staff during collection. The main means of communication remain: contact books, telephone calls to the front office or email headteacher@our-ladys.kent.sch.uk If there is a need for you to come to the front office, communication will mainly be via the intercom and please note that toilets remain out of use. **If you wish for us to complete official paperwork, please give at least two weeks' notice. Please note that the office will close at 4pm and telephone calls will not be dealt with until the following day; if it is urgent please leave a message.** Thank you.

Meet the teaching staff

We are re-introducing 'meet the teaching staff' for Years 1-6. This will be a meeting directly after school where staff will share expectations and curriculum approaches. **All meetings will take place in the classes from 3.25pm to show the curriculum in action. To ensure parents clearly understand expectations, staff will look after school aged children during these meetings.** Staff will share the year group booklet with parents and you can take these booklets home. We look forward to seeing you. Below is the timetable of meetings.

Dates	21/09/26	22/09/26	23/09/26	24/09/26	25/09/26
Year Groups	Year 4	Year 2	Year 1	Year 3	Year 5 and Year 6

Forest School Inspired Learning

We will be continuing with forest schools this academic year. **Sessions for Years 1 – 6 will commence week beginning Monday 21st September and Reception Class from Monday 5th October.** Please note that there is a uniform for forest schools as children do love to explore, jump in puddles and roll/slip in mud. Pupils in all year groups (Reception, Y1, Y2, Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6) need to come to school in their forest school uniform. Please find below the uniform list and timetable for forest schools.

FOREST SCHOOL UNIFORM	
Black/navy jogging bottoms and sweatshirt	Also during Winter months: Hat, Scarf & Gloves
Black/navy T-shirt	Thick socks and wellington boots
Black/navy coat	

Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Year 2		Reception Class		Year 4
PM	Year 6	Year 5	Year 1	Year 3	

Prayer and Reflection Corner

We begin the year with our school creed prayer.

School Creed

Our school, where we forgive and care for others

As we build lasting relationships.

We will forever keep God's love in our hearts

Because He has always shown it to us.

Together, we will ask for Our Lord's guidance throughout our young lives,

Helping us to prepare for our future.

Let us respect, admire and celebrate our different cultures and personalities.

Let Jesus be at the heart of all we do, work and play.

May we always try to learn from our mistakes

And be proud of our own and others' achievements.

Do not waste this day, be productive and reach for the stars.

Remembering, it takes us all to build this school.

School Lunches

Please note that we are a servery school for offering lunches. This means we are unable to make our own lunches to serve to children. Therefore, if you do not book your child a meal on Caterlink via ParentPay, you will need to provide your child with a packed lunch. The school is unable to provide food.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

Birthday Celebrations

Please note that due to the increasing number of children who have either mild or severe food allergies, food for birthdays should not be brought into school or given out on the playground. If families wish to participate, a birthday book for the class would be a lovely present. The birthday child could write a message in it to their class and then it could be wrapped; the birthday child opens it in front of the class and reads them their message. The book would then stay in the classroom for the children to read.

Mission Statement

This is the Mission Statement of the school. It is at the heart of all we do and believe in. It is important that all in the school community understand its significance and how it drives school improvement. Alongside our core values and vision, it determines and guides our expectations. It further supports our commitment to the teaching of the curriculum.

Our Lady's School is founded on faith in Jesus Christ and the life of the school community is centred in His presence.

This is our mission:

***O**ur faith and love for God is cherished and developed by opening our hearts to God's love through worship, prayer and forgiveness.*

***U**nderstand how to guide others to have a more active relationship with Jesus, celebrating us as Mission Makers and Servant Leaders.*

***R**espect and involve our parents showing them how we learn, how we use our Multiple Intelligences and how we become Learning Champions.*

***L**ive, learn and love, creating a caring, safe and friendly environment where all are welcome.*

***A**lways represent the school by being a great role model.*

***D**evelop our community by working in partnership with everyone to become active global citizens. (School, Home, Church and surrounding Community)*

***Y**earn to show others empathy and compassion by listening to others and by understanding their feelings.*

***S**trive to be the best that we can be by being independent and resilient and by encouraging others to do the same.*

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Uniform

Thank you for sending your children back to school looking so smart in their uniform. Please remember to clearly label all winter uniform (even shoes for infants) otherwise we cannot reunite lost property with its owner. The school will not be held responsible for any lost uniform and please respect this. **There are no lost property boxes kept in school.** Children need to be encouraged to be responsible for looking after their uniform and not constantly leaving their jumpers and coats behind! All shirts should be tucked in. Shirts should not have 'Velcro' top buttons as after wearing them for a very short time the 'Velcro' does not work and the children look untidy. I am aware that this is a difficult task but children have to get used to fastening their top button as it helps them to develop their fine motor skills. All children in KS2 must be wearing the proper school tie, not one with elastic.

COATS MUST BE NAVY OR BLACK, NO PATTERNS.

Shoes

Black, brown or navy, but must be low heeled. No flashing lights or glitter please! Trainers are not acceptable school wear other than for P.E. lessons. In the rare event that a child is without shoes for a few days because their older ones have broken/become too small, the child must wear their black plimsolls in school.

Hair

Hair that is longer than chin length must be tied back for health and safety reasons with white, navy or red bands, clips, bunches or ties. Hair bands can have a small bow or flower on them but only in school colours. No coloured hair bands or hair bobbles please. No extreme hair styles, no hair dyes please - shaved logos are not allowed. **If hair is braided it must be natural hair colours not blue or white. HAIR BEADS MUST BE SCHOOL COLOURS: BLUE, RED AND WHITE (these can be clear white as well).**

Jewellery

NO JEWELLERY MAY BE WORN. Rings, necklaces, bracelets and earrings present health and safety hazards in school. KS2 children can wear a watch if they can tell the time. Make-up is not allowed, this includes nail varnish. **ANY EARRINGS FOR NEW PIERCINGS ONLY NEED TO OUT BY Friday 25th**

SEPTEMBER.

PE Kits

PE kits should consist of a plain white t-shirt and navy shorts, no SKORTS. From October, children can wear plain navy tracksuit bottoms and a plain navy sweatshirt if they wish. If PE takes place on the playground – children should wear plimsolls, for PE on the field – trainers should be worn.

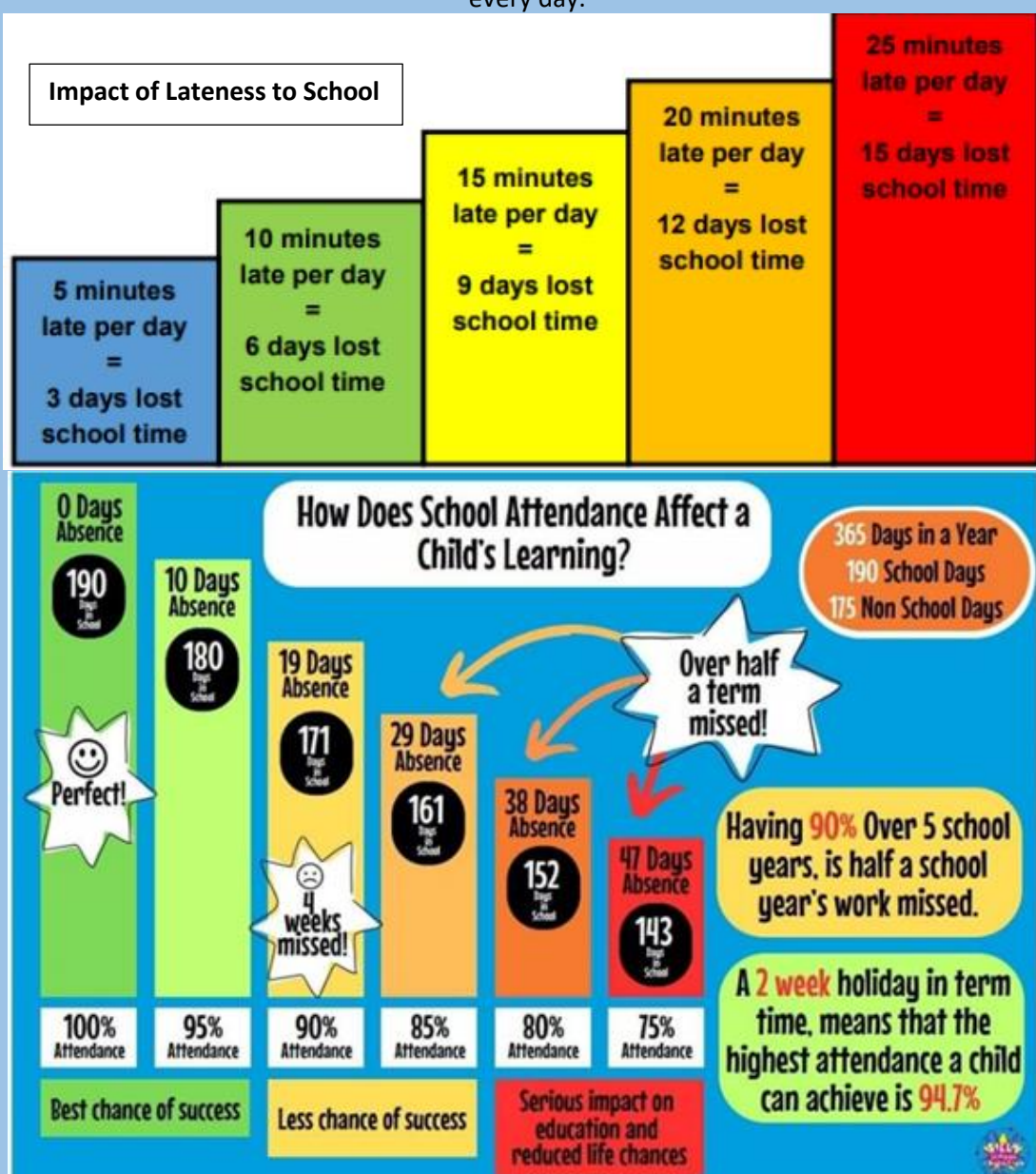
Here is the PE timetable that will start week beginning Monday 21st September. PE kits for KS2 children need to be in school from Monday and children should take them home on a Friday. Please note that Year 6 will be swimming on a Thursday in Terms 1 and 2 starting on Thursday 17th September.

Timings	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.10-10.10am	Year 3				Year 3
10.50-11.50am	Year 1			Year 5	Year 5
1.30-2.30pm	Year 4	Year 6	Year 2	Year 6	Year 4

We will be continuing with the uniform shop and this will happen after school and will be in the hall. Dates to be confirmed.

Attendance and Punctuality

Please help us to meet our DfE target by sending your children to school every day and avoiding holidays during term time. Thank you for your co-operation. The government target for all children is to have at least 96% attendance throughout the year. More than 10 days during the academic year will mean your child does not meet government expectations. Please note that I cannot authorise holidays. These are the regulations put in place by the Government. I will review each case separately, but sufficient notice must be given and there are forms that need to be completed which are available from the main office. Pupils' attendance will be taken into consideration and this includes attendance from previous academic years. Your child needs to be at school and in the classroom by 8.40am every day.



DATES

Key Dates for Term 1 & 2

- 17th September** – Year 6 Swimming starts
- 21st September** – (Week Beginning) Forest School starts for Years 1-6
- 21st-25th September** – Meet the Teacher for Years 1-6
- 30th September** – Welcome Mass at 9.30am at St Anselm's led by Year 6
- 5th October** – (Week Beginning) Forest School Starts for Reception Class
- 6th – 9th October** – Bikeability – Year 6
- 7th October** – Scriptural Rosary for Years 2-6 at St Anselm's Church
- 15th October** – Harvest Mass at 9.30am at St Anselm's Church – led by Y2
- 15th October** – Reception Class Reading Meeting for Parents at 3.25pm in the School Hall
- 16th October** – Individual Photographs – Whole School
- 19th – 22nd October** – Parent Consultations
- 23rd October** – Term 1 ends at normal times
- 2nd November** – Term 2 commences
- 2nd November** – Flu Immunisation for all year groups
- 5th November** – After School Enrichment Clubs begin
- 9th November** – (Week Beginning) Forest School Starts for all year groups
- 9-12th November** – Soundwrite Parent Workshops for Reception Class
- 30th November** – St Andrew's House Mass at 10am at St Anselm's Church and House Party from 2pm in School Hall
- 3rd December** – Enrichment clubs end for Term 2
- 4th December** – Forest School finishes for the term
- 8th December** – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass at St Anselm's Church at 9.30am led by Y4
- 9th December** – EYFS/KS1 Christmas Performance at 10am, KS2 Christmas Performance at 1.45pm in the School Hall
- 15th December** – Years 3 and 4 Christmas Party
- 16th December** – Reception Class, Years 1 and 2 Christmas Party
- 17th December** – Years 5 and 6 Christmas Party
- 18th December** – Advent Mass at 10am at St Anselm's Church led by Y5
- 18th December** – Term 2 ends – EYFS/KS1 at 1.20pm and KS2 at 1.30pm



PLEASE REMEMBER

No mobile phones or use of head phones/sets when on the school site.

THANK YOU!