



## WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Welcome back to everyone! I hope you had a very peaceful and happy Christmas with family and wish you all a very Happy New Year! On behalf of all the staff and myself, many thanks for all the cards and presents we received for Christmas, you are very generous and we appreciate your support. We enjoyed a very busy last few days in school with our Christmas disco and Christmas dinner.

Many thanks to all of you who were able to join us in school for our Christmas Carol Service, it was a lovely end to our term.



We look forward to a busy term ahead. Please see the calendar on this newsletter outlining important dates for the term ahead. Children in year 5 will go swimming so need to bring their swimming kit each Wednesday. We celebrate our first school mass next Monday at 9:30am in church, families are welcome to join us.

**Please make a note of our remaining three INSET days this academic year. The first one is on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February when staff from all the schools within Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust will come together. The others are 26<sup>th</sup> June and 27<sup>th</sup> July. School is closed for all children on these days.** As always follow us on X [@olseacademy](https://twitter.com/olseacademy) and Instagram: [@olseacademy\\_nottingham](https://www.instagram.com/olseacademy_nottingham) for the latest news and photos.

## TRANSFER TO RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2026

### FINAL WEEK TO APPLY

**The closing date for applications is Thursday 15th January.** If you apply after the deadline this may reduce your chances of getting a place at your preferred school, particularly if it is popular. **Although your child currently attends our nursery, this does not guarantee you a place in Reception.** We have to follow the admissions criteria from the diocese so it is important you visit other schools and list them on your application too. Failure to do so will mean the City Council will place your child in a school where there is a place available and this could be further away for you to travel to.

## OLSE'S GOT TALENT 2026

Our House Captains are very keen to begin 2026 with our traditional talent show. Children can sing, act, tell jokes, perform magic tricks, dance, show off their sporting prowess – the list is endless! The children in each house will vote for their favourite act in EYFS / KS1 and KS2 and then the two House Captains can choose a wild card to go through to the final.

Auditions will take place on Friday 16th January and the winners will go through to the final on Friday 23rd January.

## WORD OF THE WEEK: EPIPHANY

2nd Sunday of Christmas

Word of the Week

# Epiphany

First Reading: *Isaiah 60:1-6*  
Gospel Reading: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. It is a time to reflect on the mystery of Christ's birth and to renew our commitment to following Him. For us, Epiphany is a time to recognise that Christ came for everyone and we see this reflected in the visit of the Magi and the gifts that they brought.

Hebrew Bible: *Psalm 67:1-7*  
New Testament: *Matthew 2:14-30*

What is a gift that you can give to others? Think of a way to share your gift with your community this week.

DAILY BREAKFAST CLUB 7:45- 8:45	EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	
Monday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Futsal (Year 4, 5 and 6)	3:15 - 4:30
Tuesday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Dance (Year 1, 2 and 3I)	All day 3:15 - 4:30
Wednesday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Futsal (Year 1, 2 and 3)	3:15 - 4:30
Thursday Breakfast Club	TB Sport: Badminton (Year 4, 5 and 6)	3:15 - 4:30
Friday Breakfast Club	No afterschool provision	

## ATTENDANCE SHOUT OUTS!!

Our Education Welfare Officer, Miss Bradshaw, monitors attendance daily and continues to make home visits to support parents to ensure their child attends school regularly and on time.

**Our target whole school attendance is above 97%. Last term it was 95.6% due to many children being poorly at the end of last term. Well done to Year 5, 4 and 3 who achieved 96.55%, 96.33% and 96.21% respectively.**

### School Matters!



Week beginning:	School Event	Assemblies/Services	After School
5 <sup>th</sup> January		05.01.26 Whole School COTW - Epiphany	EXTENDED SERVICES CLUBS BEGIN
12 <sup>th</sup> January	16.01.26 Talent Show Auditions	12.01.26 Mass to celebrate Feast of Epiphany 9:30am	
19 <sup>th</sup> January	23.01.26 Talent Show Final	19.01.26 Whole School COTW - Discipleship 20.01.26 Blessed Cyprian Tansi Feast Day	
26 <sup>th</sup> January	30.01.26 – Bread making afternoon with Aspens	27.01.25 20.01.25 Whole School COTW - Scripture	
2 <sup>nd</sup> February		02.02.26 20.01.25 Whole School COTW - Inspiration 06.02.26: Celebration Assembly	
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Children's Mental Health Week 10.02.26 Safer Internet Day 13.02.26 INSET Day	09.02.26 Whole School COTW - Diversity 10.02.26 Safer Internet Day Assembly 12.02.26 Achiever of the Half Term Assembly	
<b>16<sup>th</sup> February</b>		<b>HALF TERM</b>	
23 <sup>rd</sup> February		23.02.26 Whole School COTW – Prayer led by year 2 27.02.26: Celebration Assembly	
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	06.03.26 World Book Day	02.03.26 Whole School COTW – Fasting led by year 3	
9 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week 11.03 – 13.03 Year 6 visit The Briars	09.03.26 Whole School COTW – Almsgiving led by year 4 13.03.26 Celebration Assembly	
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Assessment Week	16.03.26 Lent Penitential Service led b Chaplaincy Team 20.03.26 Whole School COTW – Sacrifice led by year 5	18.03.26 Parents Open Afternoon 3:30 – 5:30pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	27.03.26 Class photographs	26.03.26 Achiever of the Half Term Assembly 27.03.26 Whole School COTW – Journey led by year 6	
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b>		<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>	

### PUPIL VOICE

At the end of last term, the children enjoyed their Christmas disco. There were certainly some great moves on the dance floor.





## PARISH NOTICES:

**“Peace be with you all:** Towards an ‘unarmed and disarming’ peace” The theme of Pope Leo XIV’s Message for the World Day of Peace (1st January 2026) invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice. This peace bit.ly/mission-lab must be unarmed, that is, not based on fear, threats or weapons. And it must be disarming, capable of resolving conflicts, opening hearts and generating mutual trust, empathy and hope. It is not enough to call for peace; we must embody it in a way of life that rejects every form of violence, whether it be visible or systemic. The greeting of the Risen Christ, “Peace be with you” (John 20:19), is an invitation addressed to everyone — believers, non-believers, political leaders and citizens — to build the Kingdom of God and to work together to build a humane and peaceful future.

**Musically minded parishioners** may be interested in the ‘Meet the Director of Music’ event at the Cathedral on Friday 9th January where, in a presentation of both words and organ music, Peter Siepmann will share some of his own musical history, as well as some thoughts about Music at the Cathedral; admission is free, but those attending are asked to register online at <http://stbarnabascathedral.org.uk/what-s-on/upcomingevents/meet-the-director-ofmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk>

**The synodal parish:** Monday 12th January at 7.00pm. Join Canon Andrew Cole for the first diocesan Mission Lab of 2026. We’ll explore how listening, praying and growing together can release your parish for mission, bring a renewed sense of common purpose, and nourish community leadership. Register for the Zoom link at bit.ly/mission-lab

**The Diocesan Choir** will reconvene under the baton of the newly appointed Director of Music at Nottingham Cathedral, Peter Siepmann. An initial singing morning is scheduled for Saturday 31st January, 11am - 1pm in Cathedral Hall. Singers should register their intention to attend via email to [cathedralmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:cathedralmusic@dioceseofnottingham.uk) There will be a second session, devoted to preparing for the annual Chrism Mass, on Saturday 28th March.

**Neurodiversity Surveys:** The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you’re an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a Caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, we want to hear from you. Your experiences will help us to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and fill in our short surveys please look here: [www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/) by 12.1.26.

**Please pray for:**

- Filomena Di-francescomarino, funeral on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at Sacred Heart at 10am, reception into church on Monday at 5 pm.
- Beryl Donaghy, funeral Service on Friday 16th January 1 pm at Sacred Heart. May they rest in peace.

**This week:**

- Community Café at Our Lady & St Edward’s this Wednesday: 12 – 3
- Community Café at Sacred Heart Community Centre this Thursday 12 – 3 pm. All welcome.
- Meditation Group: our next meeting is this Thursday 8th January on zoom. Meeting ID: 517630879 Passcode: 6em01w at 7.30 pm. <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/517630879?pwd=UysvOEIKSTBkVHINM%20WtMRDdkMEpUZz09> All Welcome

**BAPTISM COURSE:** Our next course for those would like their child Baptised is Saturday 31st January 10 am - 12 at Sacred Heart Community Centre. Please register onto the course by completing and returning a Baptism Registration Form available from the back of church.

**Do you need help with your English speaking?** Free courses for Gedling Borough Residents. The classes are:

- Employability skills start 13th January 2026 Tuesdays 6 – 8 pm at Arnold Library
- IT skills start 14th January Wednesday 9.30 – 12.30 at Arnold Library
- Speaking and listening for beginners starts 14th January Wednesdays on-line 6 – 8 pm
- Get Creative starts 28th Jan Wednesdays 1-3 pm at Arnold Library

**HOLY FAMILY SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENT: RACE NIGHT** Saturday 7th February 2026 at Sacred Heart

Community Centre, 7 pm. If you haven’t been to one before, do come along and find out what it’s all about. If you want to know more beforehand, contact the office.

**Second Collection** next Sunday for the Sick & Retired Priests fund.

**Sale of Cards and Religious items:** are now available from the churches. We stock, Holy Communion, Confirmation, birth and Baptism cards and items. Could you help at Our Lady & St Edwards for 15 minutes after Mass? If so, contact the office. Items are priced and are on sale in the café. Stock is bought centrally. On order are rosaries and Mass intention cards.

**Word of the Week: Epiphany.** Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus Christ to the world. It is a time to reflect on the mystery of Christ’s birth and to renew our commitment to following Him. For us, Epiphany is a time to recognise that Christ came for everyone and we see this reflected in the visit of the Magi and the gifts that they brought. What is a gift that you can give to others? Think of a way to share your gift with your community this week

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Huge congratulations to Diana, Clara, Otis, Janelle, Emmanuel, Eliash, Orlaith and Hannah who were our Achievers of the Half Term. **As it was the end of term, I also awarded a badge to Thea in Year 1.** Always child, enthusiastic, friendly, kind, independent, resilient and a role model are just some of the many qualities used to describe you all.



Well done to **St Joan of Arc house** who were our House Point winners for last half term.

Well done to Year 6 for their swimming success with 29 children achieving the expected standard for the end of Key Stage 2 – to be able to swim competently, confidently, and proficiently over at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively (front crawl, backstroke, breaststroke), and perform safe self-rescue in water.

128 children who were awarded at least 100 house points over the Advent Term and achieved their Bronze Award. Congratulations to: **Dinah, Chimereze, Michael, Asher, Jayden T, Amelia, Evangelina, Tiara I, Jason T, Issac, Rosie, Elisa, Temi, Harry, Blanka, Kaden, Livia, Kendrick, Ayla, Kezia, Freda, Hanani, Deaglan, Keisha, Lanaola, Lylly, Koby, Sophie, Chimmy, David, Tony, Thy Thy, Otis, Faustina, Holly, Orlaith, Emily, Evanna, Maria, Omolola, Nadia, Janice, Franklin, Shanelle, Olivia, Brenda, Alex, Mihret, Chicago, Luis, Oakley James, Julia, Anna, Havanna, Mila, Jolie, Imelda, Rylinn, Seweryn, Kevin, Imani, Nicole, Adiel, Alice, Colby, Jeremy, Joseph, Sinobi, Sam Z, Emmanuel, Joyce, Milan O, Alicija, Andrei, Anaija, Michal, Melva, Lisa, N'rayah, Amara, Sinead, Alex, Alessia, Liam, Kendall, Blanka, Eliash, Rey, Sophie, Rozalia, Elizabeth, Grace, Rebecca, Chiwetara, Mlat, Michelle, Chiamaka, Filip, Sophie, Eva, Oliver, Zofia, Ethan, Roman, Mark, Gabi, Dorian, Mailany, Daisy, Lily, Omobolaji, Evelyn, Eva-Joy, Filip, Evelyn, Scarlett, Pacem, Sienna, Emmanuella, Oskar, Cleondra, Valerie, Jessica, Timi, Matthew, Hanelle, Hannah and Thomas,**

Well done to each and every one of you!

**MASS TIMES & LITURGICAL CALENDAR**

Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Vigil Mass of the Epiphany</b>	7pm (OLSE)	<b>MASS</b> For the People
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January <b>The Epiphany of the Lord Holy Day of Obligation</b>	9.30am (STA) 7pm (SH)	<b>MASS</b> Eileen Elizabeth Forrester RIP Patsy Taylor RIP
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January <b>St Raymond of Penafort, priest</b>	6pm (SH) 7pm (SH)	<b>MASS</b> Exposition and Confessions Biddy Wilson RIP
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	9:30am (SA)	<b>MASS</b> Tim Mohally RIP
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	9:30am (SH)	<b>MASS</b> Mr & Mrs Cyril & Bernadette Duignan RIP
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> January		<b>VIGIL MASS</b>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> January <b>The Baptism of the Lord (A)</b>	9am(OLSE) 10.15am (SH) 11:30am (SA)	<b>MASS</b> For the People Lucyna Panasewicz Int Iain Canning RIP (6th anniv)

**FOOTBALL FUN**

During the last week of term, we were invited to take part in an Under 10's football tournament at Derby County Academy. The boys played well against some tough opposition and finished sixth overall.

Well done to Bryan, Daniel, Ethan, Filip, Liam, Medet, Oliver, Prince, Roman, and William. We know Mr Whittle and Mr Jessop were proud of you in the way you represented our school.

