

OUR LADY & ST. EDWARD PRIMARY AND NURSERY CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

GORDON ROAD, ST. ANNS, NOTTINGHAM. NG3 2LG

TEL: 0115 9155800

WEBSITE: www.elseacademy.org.uk

X: @elseacademy Instagram: elseacademy_nottingham

Guided by Jesus in all that we do. Together, we are one school, one community, one world.



WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

Last week was very cold, if your child wears wellies to school when it is raining or snowing, please pack their school shoes for them to change in to. We know lots of children are wearing hats, scarves and gloves at this time of the year, please write their names in them so they can be passed back to them.

Last week some children bought home an attendance letter from Miss Bradshaw who is our Education Welfare Officer. We understand that there were lots of children who were poorly with the flu virus last half term who received the letter sharing that attendance had dropped below 90%. If your child is in school this term, their attendance will increase and they will no longer be classed as a Persistent Absentee (PA). Again, we ask parents to make medical appointments out of school time where possible this includes routine GP / dental check-ups and optician appointments. When this is not possible, we will expect to see evidence of appointment times to be able to authorise the absence from school. Children in year 5 will go swimming so need to bring their swimming kit each Wednesday. We celebrate our first school mass this morning 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 13th February when staff from all the schools within Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi Academy Trust will come together. The others are 26th June and 27th July. School is closed for all children on these days.

As always follow us on X @elseacademy and Instagram: [elseacademy_nottingham](https://www.instagram.com/elseacademy_nottingham) for the latest news and photos.

TRANSFER TO RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2026

FINAL FEW DAYS TO APPLY

The closing date for applications is Thursday 15th January. All applications must be made to your local authority. 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: BAPTISM

Week 1 in Ordinary Time

Year A

Word of the Week

Baptism

First Reading

Matthew 23:1-4, 6-7

Gospel Reading

Matthew 23:1-7

Hebrew Bible

Deuteronomy 10:10

New Testament

Mark 16

Baptism is a sign of God's love and forgiveness, it marks a fresh start and a new beginning. When we are baptised we are welcomed into the Church community of believers who love us, support us and help us grow. During baptism we are anointed as priest, prophet and king and called to live like Jesus did.

Think of one way you can be more like Jesus 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 3)	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 week Nursery achieved the highest attendance with 99.1%. Well done to Year 2, Year 1 and Reception who all achieved above our school target of 97% with 98.6%, 98% and 97.2% respectfully.

School Matters!



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Week beginning:	School Event	Assemblies/Services	After School
5 th January		05.01.26 Whole School COTW - Epiphany	EXTENDED SERVICES CLUBS BEGIN
12 th January	16.01.26 Talent Show Auditions	12.01.26 Mass to celebrate Feast of Epiphany 9:30am	
19 th January	23.01.26 Talent Show Final	19.01.26 Whole School COTW - Discipleship 20.01.26 Blessed Cyprian Tansi Feast Day	
26 th January	30.01.26 – Bread making afternoon with Aspens	27.01.25 20.01.25 Whole School COTW - Scripture	
2 nd February		02.02.26 20.01.25 Whole School COTW - Inspiration 06.02.26: Celebration Assembly	
9 th 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	
16th February	HALF TERM		
23 rd February		23.02.26 Whole School COTW – Prayer led by year 2 27.02.26: Celebration Assembly	
2 nd March	06.03.26 World Book Day	04.03.26 Whole School COTW – Fasting led by year 3	
9 th 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 th 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 rd 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	
30th March	EASTER HOLIDAYS		

PUPIL VOICE

On Friday afternoon, St Joan of Arc House enjoyed their prize for achieving the most house points last term. The children chose a disco and sweet treats.



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PARISH NOTICES:

Sick and Retired Priests' Fund – Second Collection: Our priests have dedicated their lives to serve the people of the Diocese. They have baptised and confirmed our children, celebrated our marriages, consoled us when we lost a loved one and guided us in times of need. Now it's our turn to be there for them. The Sick & Retired Priests' Fund is crucial in ensuring that our priests receive the medical care, housing, and support they deserve in their later years. Any gift, large or small will make a tangible difference to the lives of our retired priests. There will be a Second Collection for this fund at all of our churches this weekend.

The Sacrament of Confirmation: This will be celebrated on Friday 12th June 2026 at Sacred heart Church. The formation programme has been through the 24/7 Youth Group held at 7.30 pm at Sacred Heart Community Centre on the last Wednesday of the month. Applications for Confirmation have been emailed to 24/7 group members last week along with the ongoing information about the formation programme. The applications need to be returned to the parish office by 31st January 2026. This week, the Youth Group will be doing an activity off-site. Please get in touch if you haven't received an email from us concerning this activity or Confirmation. The Group will not be meeting in the centre this month.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th – 25th January 2026: For 2026, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide. Paul's epistles stress the importance of unity within the Church, urging us to live lives worthy of our calling with humility, gentleness, patience and love (Ephesians 4:1-3). Ephesians 4:4 summarises the teachings of Paul about unity, emphasising here, too, that the followers of Christ represent 'one body and one Spirit', united in a single hope. This metaphor signifies the Church as a unified entity transcending barriers of geography, nationality, ethnicity and tradition. Paul uses the metaphor of the Church being the Body of Christ to describe its unity within the diversity of its members.

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 There will be a second session, devoted to preparing for the annual Chrism Mass, on Saturday 28th March.

Please pray for:

- Beryl Donaghy, funeral Service on Friday 16th January 1 pm at Sacred Heart. May they rest in peace.
- Helen Donovan, who died on New Year's Day, funeral details to be confirmed. 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 15th January 7.30 pm in Sacred Heart Community Centre. All Welcome
- Finance Committee meeting: Thursday 15th January 6 pm in Sacred Heart ~Community Centre.

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.

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, 13th – 17th July, require the help of health care professionals and support workers. We deliver communitybased care in a hotel setting to a group of 200 pilgrims, with a small proportion needing regular care interventions and support to attend services and events. You must:

- Have experience as a registered nurse, nurse associate, paramedic, doctor or healthcare support worker;
- Have a passport which is current for a minimum of three months from the first date of travel;
- Be a UK or French citizen or have an appropriate visa to travel to France.

For more details join our Teams information evening on Thursday 15th January 7.30pm: email David: david@sthughslincoln.org.uk for link.

Burns Night Ceildh: all proceeds to Macmillan Nurses Friday 23rd January 7 pm at the Greyfriars, Gordon Road, St Ann's Nottingham Admission £10. Come along to a great night of entertainment and enjoy neeps, haggis and Tatties.

Peace Sunday is next Sunday 18th January. The Bishops' Conference encourage us all the use the day to reflect on the Pope's message for the World Day of Peace on the 1st January. Pope Leo has said that the theme for his message which will be 'Peace be with you all: towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace'. Pax Christi promote Peace Sunday with the support of the Bishop's Conference and have produced a number of resources to help us reflect including a liturgy and activities for children. You can download these from the Peace Sunday 2026 page on their website www.paxchristi.org.uk

Word of the Week; Baptism. Baptism is a sign of God's love and forgiveness, it marks a fresh start and a new beginning. When we are baptised we are welcomed into the Church of believers who love us, support us and help us grow. During community baptism we are anointed as priest, prophet and king and called to live like Jesus did. Think of one way you can be more like Jesus this week.



2026 NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

This year is the National Year of Reading 2026 which is a UK-wide campaign led by the Department for Education and the National Literacy Trust to boost reading for pleasure and tackle declining reading habits among all ages by making reading relevant to people's lives and passions and encouraging new library members.

Key Goals & Themes:

- Connect Reading to Life: Linking reading to hobbies, digital content, and culture to show it's modern and relevant.
- Promote Reading for Pleasure: Encouraging enjoyment and making reading a fun, regular activity.
- Support Literacy & Wellbeing: Using reading to build confidence and improve mental health.
- Engage New Audiences: Reaching children, young people, and adults who read less, using influencers and online platforms.

We would like every child in school to complete the challenge for 2026. For the challenge, your child needs to complete the task for each month set out on the sheet. In January the challenge is for your child to read a book that makes them laugh. When your child has completed the task complete the form on the back of the sheet by saying the name of the book and then for the child or adult to write about that book. There is a different challenge for each month of the year.

Class teachers will look at these at the beginning of every month to see which children have completed the challenge so please keep these challenge sheets in a safe place.

We are working hard to develop reading in school and this is a great opportunity for your child to become involved and take part in the challenge.

January
Read a book that makes you laugh!

MASS TIMES & LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Monday 12 th January St Aelred of Rievaulx, religious	9.30am (OLSE) 5pm; SH	MASS John Gately RIP Reception of the Body of Filomena Di-Francescomarino RIP
Tuesday 13 th January St Hilary, bishop and doctor	9.30am (STA) 10am (SH) 11:30am (CTK)	MASS Children's Intention Funeral Mass for Filomena Di-Francescomarino RIP Holy Souls
Wednesday 14 th January	6pm (SH) 7pm (SH)	MASS Exposition and Confessions Betty Conlan RIP
Thursday 15 th January	9:30am (SA)	MASS Joseph & Reenie Mueller's Int
Friday 16 th January	9:30am (SH) 1pm (SH)	MASS Judith Nenzel-Knight Int Funeral Service for Beryl Donaghy RIP
Saturday 17 th January		VIGIL MASS
Sunday 18 th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)	9am(OLSE) 10.15am (SH) 11:30am (SA)	MASS Catarina Hoang & Thomas Vu RIP Patrick & Annie Coyle RIP For the People

FEAST DAY OF BLESSED CYPRIAN TANSI

On Monday 19th January, we celebrate the feast day of Blessed Cyprian Tansi. We chose to name one of our houses Cyprian Tansi because he was born in Africa and moved to England. We have lots of children in school whose families share African traditions. We believe it is important to celebrate the diversity of our school and the different countries and cultures that make up our school. We can use Cyprian Tansi's skills of courage, faith, bravery, kindness and respect by working as a team, sharing our knowledge and helping others. It will be a non-uniform day for all the children in that house

