

DIOCESE OF SHREWSBURY
OUR LADY OF PITY ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



MAIN SCHOOL SITE

RIGBY DRIVE
GREASBY
WIRRAL
CH49 1RE
TEL: 0151 677 6262
PRE-SCHOOL: 0151 677 6813
FAX: 0151 677 5609
EMAIL: schooloffice@ourladyofpity.co.uk

ANNEXE SITE

BIRKENHEAD ROAD
HOYLAKE
WIRRAL
CH47 5AF
TEL: 0151 632 1908
PRE-SCHOOL: 0151 632 6336

PRINCIPAL: MR MARK COTTON
HEAD OF SCHOOL: MRS BERNADETTE GALLOWAY

Dear Parents / Carers.

Your children teach us so much, daily. A year 4 class were asked to relate the day's RE lesson to their curriculum story: 'Contrast - The Good, The Bad and The Ugly'. One child reflected, **"If we had no stereotypes, there would be no ugly."** What a profound statement for us all to ponder.

And from another source, we share an account of the kindness one of our junior children has shown one of our youngest infants. We received a beautiful email from a Mum, who wanted to register thanks to the junior girl who has read to her young son every day on the bus ride home. When the junior child was not on the bus one day, the infant child really missed her and his Mum discovered what a powerful kindness this has been. And all of it happening without the knowledge of any of the adults in their lives!

Safeguarding

Safeguarding is always our first priority. We remind you that the safeguarding of every child is everyone's responsibility. If you have any concerns at all, please bring them to us. The safeguarding leaders' names are in the entrance foyer.

First Aid

The school has a number of trained First Aiders and we have a defibrillator on site. If you have an injury on the premises, always report this to the school office.

Learning for Life

Signs of spring abound and the children can be seen about the place, gathering with their teachers to explore these signs together. Help us to teach the children to recognise daffodil, snowdrop, tulip and crocus - all these bulbs have been hiding underground... We are privileged to enjoy the richness of outdoor learning provided by our beautiful grounds. Training the senses to see the science on our doorstep piques curiosity at every turn.

Children are encouraged to ask questions, to make suggestions and explore ways of seeking answers... 'Where do the puddles go?' creates all manner of interesting discussion - as does 'How does egg white turn white?' The simplest every day phenomena will bring rich conversation when we ask simple questions about them. Try asking your child 'What kind of...?' and 'Is there anything else about...?' 'Where did ... come from?' about anything you like - from socks to sand on the beach and see where their thinking takes you!

Read, read, read, read, READ!

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Please take time each day to help your child to do their homework. Reading with your child every day is essential as reading fluency opens the door to every area of learning. Reading is the most important part of homework. It really is worth every minute and it's the greatest gift you can give to your child!

Telling the time

Please encourage children to wear a simple, sensible watch to school. Children from Year 2 to 6 should be able to tell the time on a watch with hands and the more they practise this with you at home, the faster the skill will embed. This is an interesting time of the year to focus attention on time as the days lengthen and we move towards the change to British Summer Time.

A Fond Farewell and a Greeting to Share

We start this half term without one of our most established staff members - Kim O'Connell has been a treasured member of our team for many years and has now retired to enjoy more time with her children and grandchildren. We send her our deepest appreciation and gratitude for the years of care and kindness she has shown to children and colleagues alike. She will be much missed.

We welcome Deborah Fitzgerald to our team who has started work with Miss Cooper's reception class on the Main Site. Deborah brings us a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to us and we look forward to our future work together.

Parent Voice

Our thanks to those of you who have completed surveys for us recently. Your voice counts. In response to your request, teachers are adding the RE topics to your homework sheets so that you know more about how we teach RE in school.

Join us!

Would you like to be a part of our wonderful staff team?
We currently have vacancies for cleaners, mid day assistants and bus escorts. If you are interested in any or all of these opportunities, please contact the school office for details.

Attendance

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Attendance and punctuality is outstanding for the vast majority of our pupils. We thank you for your support; knowing that daily attendance is the vital ingredient for success. We are grateful to you for helping us to eradicate term-time holidays.

Emails

The school is unique in allowing parents to have direct access to the teachers through email communication. We know that this enhanced communication between home and school helps us to provide the very best education for your children. At the same time, we must be mindful of teacher workload and realistic in our expectations.

Whilst teachers may check and respond to emails outside the working day, please do not expect or demand an immediate response. Although the vast majority of parents and carers communicate appropriately with teachers, there have been instances where communication is aggressive or overly demanding. We want to be able to continue the email service, putting the needs of the pupils at the heart of everything we do, and ask for your cooperation in this matter.

Music

We have recently invested in a new resource for the teaching of music and we are seeing great impact in classrooms - the children's enjoyment is delightful as they learn to listen to and appreciate music as well as to compose and perform. We have been asking our instrumentalists to play in class music lessons and it has been wonderful to hear the children playing together.

Help us take this learning even deeper - encourage your children to talk about what they have been learning in music - they may be able to tell you something new about a composer or style. Make the most of opportunities to listen to different kinds of music with your children, have them tell us about the music they discover.

Our whole school RE focus, 'Who is my Neighbour?' is enriched by songs like 'Penny Lane', learnt alongside the liturgical songs which are always at the heart of our community. Each week, the children sing and play hymns reflecting our place in the Liturgical calendar - the singing at this week's Ash Wednesday service was a beautiful start to Lent. The children are now focused daily on performing specific acts of kindness as a Lenten offering.

And so, we pray...

The children have been focusing on the temptations of Christ in the desert. They have reflected on the strength it takes to do the right thing even when it is hard.

We ponder these words of St Patrick:

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'I arise today

Through the strength of heaven;

Light of the sun,

Splendour of fire,

Speed of lightning,

Swiftness of the wind,

Depth of the sea,

Stability of the earth,

Firmness of the rock...'

And we ask for God's strength, now,

to be all that we are called to be,

in the service of others.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Warm wishes,

OLOP Team