Our Lady of the Rosary | Term 1 2026

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Dear Parents

What a term we have had!

We began the year so positively, with our pupils settling quickly into their new classes, establishing routines and embracing the new school year. It was wonderful to welcome so many parents to our Meet the Teacher sessions, and our apologies once again for having to cancel the Year 1 and Year 2 meetings. Unfortunately, this happened just before all of our systems went down. We hope many of you will be able to attend the rearranged meeting on 9th November.

Term 1 has been an incredibly challenging term. Over the past four weeks, we have experienced significant disruption to our computers, phones, photocopier and internet systems. Initially, whilst our Wi-Fi connection was unavailable, we still had access to some resources and our computers. Unfortunately, on 29th September, we were required to switch all computers off, and we are still without access to much of our work and many of our systems.

Throughout this difficult and exhausting period, the staff and children have been absolutely amazing. Our teachers have shown tremendous resilience and creativity, adapting lessons and reshaping the curriculum where necessary to ensure that learning remained at the heart of everything we do. I am incredibly proud of the way they have responded to such an unprecedented situation.

Recently, we have purchased Chromebooks for teachers and provided each class with a dongle to access Wi-Fi. Whilst the connection can still be intermittent, these measures have significantly improved our ability to work and communicate. Our phone system remains somewhat unpredictable and will sometimes work through the dongles; however, at other times you may need to use the school mobile number rather than the main school line.

I would like to apologise for occasions when communication has not been as timely as we would have liked. For the first three weeks of this disruption, staff relied almost entirely on their personal mobile phones to answer emails and communicate through ClassDojo. We are now in a much stronger position and are hopeful that there will be some positive news following the half-term break.

On a more positive note, we are delighted with our new school website https://www.ourladyoftherosary.org.uk/ Although there are still more photographs and content that we would like to add, this will have to wait until we have full access to our systems again. In the meantime, the website contains all of the key dates for the school year, and parents can even link these directly to their personal calendars on their phones. We hope you find it a useful way to keep up to date with school events and information.

Despite all the challenges this term, we have worked hard to keep our spirits high and ensure that school life remains positive and enjoyable. Most importantly, the children seem largely unaware of the worries behind the scenes and have continued to thrive in their learning.

There have been many highlights this term. Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed an exciting Toys Workshop, exploring how toys have changed over time and comparing toys from the past with those enjoyed today. Year 2 took part in a fantastic Florence Nightingale Workshop, bringing their history learning to life. Year 4 led our school community beautifully in celebrating our School Feast Day Mass, while Year 5 welcomed Greenpeace, who delivered an inspiring workshop on the Amazon Rainforest and the importance of protecting our environment. Year 6 also led a wonderful class Mass with Father Francis, demonstrating great maturity and reverence.

Finally, I would like to congratulate our new Reception children on such a positive start to their school journey. They are settling in wonderfully, building friendships, developing confidence and embracing all that school life has to offer. We are delighted with the progress they have already made and look forward to watching them continue to flourish throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and encouragement. Together, we have navigated a very challenging term, and I am incredibly grateful for our wonderful school community.

I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lux

Living our Catholic Life

It has been a wonderful start to the new school year, and our Chaplaincy Team have been very busy as they begin another year of prayer, service and helping others!



This term, the chaplains have been getting to know our new Chaplaincy Awards Programme, working towards Bronze, Silver and Gold awards through developing their faith, service and responsibility. We are looking forward to seeing our chaplains grow in confidence and leadership as they work through their awards throughout the year.

The team have also been thinking about how we can put our faith into action by supporting others. They have been researching charities that they would

like our school to support this autumn. Each chaplain had the opportunity to present their chosen charity to the rest of the team, explaining why they felt it was an important cause to support.

Following their speeches, the chaplains took part in a vote to decide which charity we will support this term. We are now looking forward to sharing our chosen charity with the whole school and, over the coming weeks, planning some exciting fundraising activities together.



As young leaders in our school community, the chaplains have been taking turns to organise a brief liturgy to conclude our chaplaincy meetings. This has given them a chance to draw on their experience of participating in child led liturgy within their classrooms, building on that to take responsibility for preparing and leading their own.

We are very proud of the enthusiasm and thoughtfulness our chaplains have shown already. We look forward to all that this new school year will bring!

Loving God,
Thank you for bringing us together again for a new school year.
Help us to welcome one another with kindness,
to learn with open hearts and minds,
and to use our gifts to help those around us.
Guide our Chaplaincy team as they serve our school community.
Give them courage, compassion and enthusiasm
as they put their faith into action.
Bless our whole school family this year,
and help us to remember that, with You beside us,
we can make a difference to the world around us. Amen.
Mrs Culley

School Chaplain

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Applications

We are currently seeing a significant increase in requests for supporting paperwork and evidence for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) applications. While we are always happy to support families with this process, we kindly ask that you allow **up to three weeks for forms and reports to be completed**. We appreciate your patience and understanding, as this helps us ensure that all applications are given the time and attention they deserve while allowing staff to continue supporting pupils' day-to-day learning and wellbeing. Thank you for your cooperation.

Ready for a great school day?

Drinks, Snacks, Shoes, Sleep and Earrings

We would be grateful for your support in helping children make healthy choices at school. Please send your child with water only in their water bottle and choose healthy snacks for break time, rather than crisps, chocolate or sweets.

A gentle reminder too that all children should wear plain black school shoes or black trainers as part of our school uniform. For health and safety reasons, dangling earrings should not be worn in school.

Finally, one of the most important factors in a successful school day is a good night's sleep. Children who arrive well-rested are better able to concentrate, learn and enjoy their day. Please help your child by ensuring they have an early bedtime and get enough sleep, so they come to school ready to learn and thrive.

Important changes to Free School Meals

From September 2026, all children whose parents receive Universal Credit can receive Free School Meals (FSM).

From 1 June 2026 there will be two types of FSM:

- *Targeted FSM*: Universal Credit and household earnings of £7,400 or less. These children also qualify for Pupil Premium funding which provides free school meals and additional benefits for both the pupil and the school

- *Expanded FSM*: Universal Credit and earnings above £7,400. This provides free school meals only.

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the Department for Education will remove all transitional protections for FSM. Eligibility will be checked automatically on your behalf, every year before the start of the new school year.

Action required by 31st July 2026:
If you currently receive FSM you do not need to do anything (this is different to UNIFSM in KS1). If you think your child may be eligible, you will need to apply for FSM, please contact the school for a form.

If you have any questions or need any help applying for Free School Meals, please contact the school office.

Dates for Diaries

Monday 2nd November	Start of Term 2
Tuesday 3rd November	4.00pm Tours of the school for prospective parents
Monday 9th November	Year 1 and Year 2 Meet the Teacher
Wednesday 11th November	Year 6 Remembrance Assembly with parents
Friday 13th November	Unique Voice Anti Bullying Workshops
Monday 16th November	Odd sock day
Monday 16th November	SEND Parent Meetings
Tuesday 17th November	SEND Parent Meetings
Wednesday 18th November	SEND Parent Meetings
Friday 20th November	Unique Voice Anti Bullying Workshops
Saturday 28th November	Christmas Fayre 11.00am – 2.00pm
Tuesday 1st December	Parent Meetings 3.30 – 6.30pm
Thursday 3rd December	Parent Meetings 3.30 – 6.30pm
Friday 4th December	Advent Mass led by Year 3 at 9.30 am
Tuesday 8th December	Year 1 and 2 Nativity at 2.15pm
Wednesday 9th December	Year 1 and 2 Nativity at 2.15pm
Tuesday 15th December	EYFS Nativity at 2.30pm
Thursday 17th December	KS2 Carol Service 1.45pm
Friday 18th December	Christmas Lunch, Christmas Jumpers
	Last day of term
Monday 4th January	School closed – INSET
Tuesday 5th January	Back to school

All dates for diaries will come out in a paper form in September and also be on the school website.

Term Dates for the School Year 2026 – 2027

Term 2:	2 November 2026 to 18 December 2026
Term 3:	4 January 2027 to 12 February 2027
Term 4:	22 February 2027 to 25 March 2027
Term 5:	12 April 2027 to 28 May 2027
Term 6:	7 June 2027 23 July 2027

INSET days:	Thursday 3rd September 2026
	Friday 4th September 2026
	Friday 23rd October 2026
	Monday 4th January 2027
	Monday 28th June 2027

Allergy Alert

A REMINDER to parents NOT to send children into school with nuts or nut-based products, i.e. Nutella, peanut butter or cereal bars containing nuts.

Children and staff with allergies can become seriously unwell just by being near these products. Please do not bring any products containing nuts into school.
Thank you for your kind co-operation.

School Attendance: The law has changed



Attendance is extremely important and we are constantly striving to achieve a high attendance for all our pupils. As from the 19th August 2024 the attendance laws are changing nationally:

- **A penalty notice can be issued for unauthorised absences once there is a minimum of 10 sessions (5 days) within a 10-school week period. The Penalty Notice can be issued per a parent, per a child.**
- **The Penalty notice amount is rising to £160 if paid within 28 days. However, this will be reduced to £80 if paid within 21 days.**
- **For a second Penalty notice issued within a 3-year rolling period to the same parent in respect of the same child, the Penalty Notice is £160 if paid within 28 days. There is no option to reduce the amount if it is paid earlier.**
- **If the Penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, then you may be prosecuted for failing to secure regular school attendance.**
- **A third Penalty Notice cannot be issued to the same parent for the same child within**

a 3-year rolling period. Should you continue to incur further unauthorised absences then alternative action will be considered which could include a prosecution for failing to secure
regular school attendance.

The school has been sympathetic to some requests, but with this new law coming into place, we have to follow it and all holidays will be unauthorised. Please really do think
about this and avoid booking holidays in term times. We recognise that there will be some
exceptional circumstances and please do inform us of these.

Mrs Stone is our attendance lead and will be liaising with families where a child's attendance is a concern. We would also like to direct you to an NHS website which can help you decide if your child is well enough to attend school. Please click on this link.
https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do look on our school website
https://www.ourladyoftherosary.org.uk/safeguarding/

Or email a member of the safeguarding team Mrs Musarurwa, Mrs Lux, Mrs Burden or Mrs Stone at safeguarding.olor@bristol-schools.uk

Thank you for helping to keep the children safe.