



# Dispatches from Our Lady's

## Attendance Matters



### Every Day Counts....

Following updated rules from the Department for Education (DfE) and West Sussex County Council, all schools have been asked to revisit how pupil absence is managed.

As part of this process, OLQOH is already working with an Educational Welfare Officer to ensure that we are doing all we can to ensure children attend school regularly.

In addition, from next term, where a pupil's attendance falls below 90% (this is a trigger for the Local Authority to request action be taken), a letter from OLQOH will be sent home to highlight that this is so, signposting to support and help if required.

Whilst writing, may we take this opportunity to remind everyone that we ask that all non-urgent medical and dental appointments are arranged out of school time, please. In addition, don't forget that holidays should not be taken during term time as the law prevents schools from granting any authorised leave of absence for pupils of compulsory school age, unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'.

95%	=	<b>47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	<b>95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	<b>142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	<b>190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR</b> 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

80%	=	35 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR

## Mobile phones and smartwatches

Mobile phone and smart watch technology has advanced significantly over the last few years and continues to evolve. Many phones and smart watches now offer internet and e-mail access, alongside standard functions of messaging, camera, video and sound recording.

Smartwatches are therefore not permitted to be worn to school, as staff are unable to monitor them closely enough to ensure they are being used appropriately. However, in line with our passion for helping children to tell the time, a standard analogue or digital wrist watch may be worn. If you are unsure whether your child's watch is appropriate, please speak to the office or a member of the SLT on the gate.

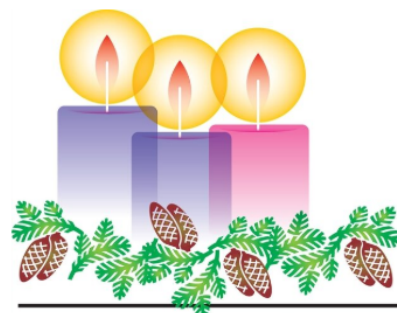
## Upcoming Dates

- 17/12/24 - Y2 Nativity at Church at 2pm
- 18/12/24 - Christmas @ OLQOH Day (Father Christmas, Secret Shop, Own Clothes, Christmas Lunch and Crackers)
- 19/12/24 - EYFS Nativity at School at 2pm
- 20/12/24 - Last Day of Term
- 23/12/24 - OLQOH Christmas Camp
- 7/1/25 - Spring Term begins
- 9/1/25 - Swimming begins for St Catherine's Class
- 9/1/25 Beginning of Term Mass at 2pm in the Hall



Clubs have now finished for the Autumn Term.

Spring Term clubs commence the week commencing Monday 13th January 2025.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day.

Amen.



## Lost property

This is being cleared on 20/12/24. Any unnamed and unclaimed items will be given to charity.