



September 19th 2025

Laleham Lea

A Catholic Independent School for boys and girls aged 3 to 11

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Dear Parents

A big 'well done' to our Year 6 students who sat the first round of the 11+ examinations this week. They have all been working incredibly hard and we cannot wait to hear how they have done. Our Year 6 students who did not sit the test did a brilliant job of leading our Mass on Tuesday morning which was celebrated by Father Howard, a former Laleham Lea student.

I have been very impressed with the whole Year 6 cohort who have visited me for interviews this week for their roles of responsibility. Badges were awarded in assembly today; I know whatever roles they have received, they will rise to the challenge and do themselves and our school proud.

We hope you all found our Curriculum Evening on Wednesday informative and helpful in planning how to support your child this year. If you were unable to attend, class teachers have emailed their presentations out.

We were delighted to welcome our Governor Father Peter on Thursday to have a look at pupils' RE work and lessons, he was very impressed with everything he saw.

On Monday we are looking forward to welcoming parents in Years 3-6 along with representatives from a host of local secondary schools for our Secondary Transfer Evening hosted by Ms Ryan, our Chair of Governors.

Next week is also our first Open Week of the new year. Please do spread the word (and share our social media posts). Word of mouth is still the primary source of new families for us and we are very grateful to you all for sharing your experiences with friends who may be interested in a school or nursery place.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Mrs Reece

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

- Monday September 22nd—Secondary Transfer Evening (Years 3-6) 6pm
- Monday September 22nd-Friday September 26th—Open Week
- Monday September 29th—TFL Visit to Y6
- Monday October 6th—Natural History Museum Y6
- Friday October 17th—Break for half term



THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



Our Celebration of the Word assembly this week we explored the meaning of the cross as a symbol of love and hope. The Cross reminds us of the love the Father has for each of us as we remember that He sent His only Son so that we can know His mercy and love.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16)



Beginning of a new year Mass



It was lovely to gather in The John Fisher Chapel on Tuesday for our Beginning of the Year Mass with Father Howard (who is a former Laleham Lea pupil). Year 6 were somewhat depleted in number with many students absent for the 11+ Grammar Test but those who were here read beautifully. A reminder that parents, carers and families are always welcome to join us for our school mass.

Lectio Divina



This week students began our Lectio Divina—a practice of slow, meditative prayer with Scripture, designed to promote communion with God. This week students looked at the parable of the Mustard Seed.

Nursery

This week Nursery have continued to learn about autumn and extended their learning further by participating in a range of activities including:

- Extending our use of mathematical language and placing autumn-themed pictures in order of size, from the smallest to the biggest.
- Exploring our autumn-themed sensory tray
- Matching number and quantity of autumnal objects
- Learning our initial sounds
- Using xylophones to create our own autumn-themed music and extending our vocabulary using words to describe leaves moving in different ways (twirling, whirling, floating, spinning and falling). We also extended our learning further by looking at the meaning of Tempo.



Reception



I am delighted to say that the children have had a fantastic week in Reception! They have settled beautifully into school life, are already making good friends, and are beginning to understand our daily routines, the school prayer and our mission statement.

Today was a real highlight as the children took part in a wonderful fairy tales, Castles and Knights performance workshop along with Nursery. Every child joined in with enthusiasm and confidence. The workshop leader was particularly impressed with how well the children listened and understood — an amazing achievement for such young pupils who have only just begun their school journey.



I am so proud of how well the children are doing and look forward to more exciting learning adventures together!

Year 1



Year 1 enjoyed role-play this week focussing on the characters of Little Red Riding Hood. The children took turns to enact characters and explore fairy tales through freeze frames. Well Done Year 1 – a great drama session!

Year 2

As part of our Catholic Social Teaching lesson about our principle of Stewardship, Year 2 went to the playground and did some litter picking. We practised taking care of our environment.



Music Lessons

Our Guitar and Drum teachers currently have limited space for any pupils interested in taking up an instrument this term.

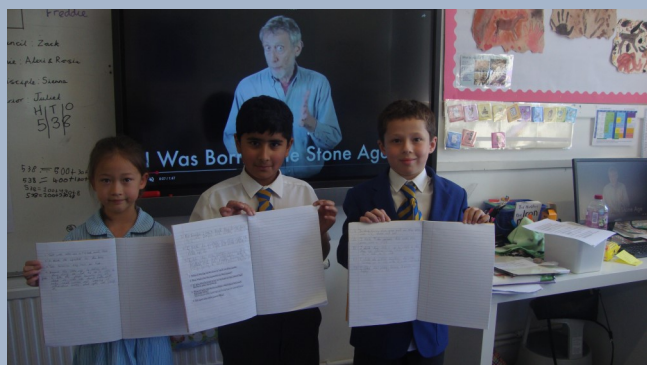
Miss Masser will have space in January for flute, clarinet, saxophone, cornet/trumpet and singing lessons.

Piano is currently full but if anyone is interested in joining the waiting list, please let Mrs Corrigan know — musicteacher@lalehamlea.co.uk



Year 3

This week, Year 3 enjoyed reading the poem 'I Was Born in the Stone Age' by Michael Rosen. The children had fun watching a video of Michael Rosen perform the poem and seeing how he made it come alive. Afterwards, children answered questions about the text and spoke about their favourite parts.



Year 4

This week in History Year 4 have examined the Martellus World Map, 1490 comparing it to today's world map. They learnt about the explorer John Cabot who sailed from Bristol to explore the Americas, his voyage was the first of many over the next century. Finally they analysed the iconic Armada portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, what did it represent? Did it merely represent the defeat of the Spanish Armada? Or did Elizabeth I have her hand placed upon the globe indicating England's dominion of the Seas and expansion into the new world?

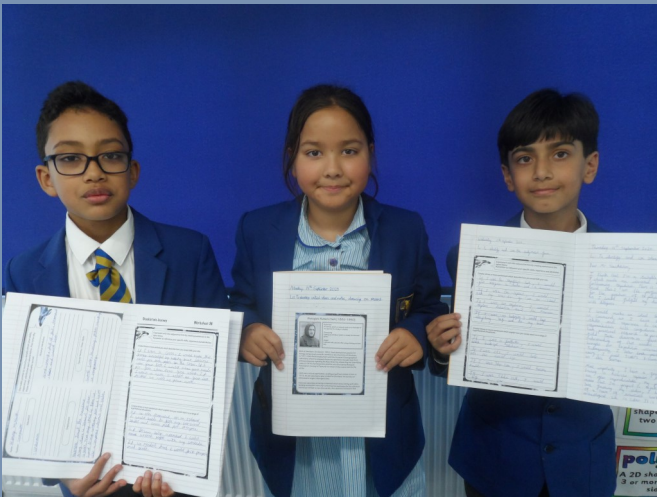


Year 5



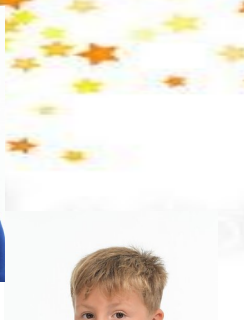
Children led their own planned 'Let us Pray' worship this week—the theme was forgiveness and they chose the scripture and reflected on this with their peers.

Year 6



Year 6 have had an exciting week in English! Our young explorers practiced writing formal application letters for Ernest Shackleton's Antarctic expedition. They mastered the subjunctive form, cohesive devices, and read inspiring biographies of The Endeavour's crew.

Stars of the week





Schools Link Message



Children at risk of cyber-bullying and fraud

As we head back into the new school term, many families will post pictures online of children heading back into school but it is worth considering who these photos may be seen by, and how they might be used.

The BBC has published an article stating new research shows that children are at increased risk of being harassed, cyber-bullied and having their identities stolen in later life by having their photos posted online by parents.

So-called "sharenting" - documenting a child's special moments on social media - has become commonplace, but academics now warn this could come with unexpected risks.

One concern is that the media being shared online could reveal details like birthdays, addresses, pet names, and so on - which later in life could increase the risk of identity fraud.

When pictures are shared, strangers could use that information to contact children not only online, but offline too.

There are also very real concerns that with the rise of AI, these images can be used to create realistic pictures and videos of children that can be used by criminals for blackmail purposes or worse.

Many parents, carers and relatives maybe unaware of the way privacy features on social media can be overridden by certain actions, with parents overestimating the protection offered by privacy settings meaning content can spread beyond the intended audience even from 'private' accounts."

For the full article, please go to [Children at risk of identity theft and fraud from 'sharenting' - BBC News](#)

Where children access online content, they need to understand how to be safe online too.

For further support on keeping children safe online, please see the following resources:

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, advice, support - Internet Matters](#)

[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)