

# The Good Shepherd Catholic Primary School



Kingsland Gardens, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 7BH



**HEAD TEACHER** Mrs Carmel Dodds **DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER** Miss Dominique Smith

**PHONE** 01604 714399 **EMAIL** [office@tgs.nor.olicatschools.org](mailto:office@tgs.nor.olicatschools.org)

**WEBSITE** [www.thegoodshepherdprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.thegoodshepherdprimaryschool.org.uk)

 @Thegoodshepherdnorthampton  @TGSNorthampton

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Happy New Year!

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a wonderful week it has been seeing all the children and staff returning to school after a restful break. The children have been looking so smart in their uniform. We had a wonderful end of term with everyone attending the pantomime together. I am sure you heard all about it. A huge thank you, from all the staff for the lovely cards and gifts and most of all the prayers we received over the holidays. We would ask for your continued prayers as we set off through another year.

We are all extremely excited about the arrival of our swimming pool from Pool2School. A big thank you to those who were able to attend the meeting with Mrs Maddison, where she was able to provide further information. Now that the pool is up, I know several of you have had some further questions.

As you know, the government placed an expectation on schools, to ensure all children could swim 25 metres unaided by the time they leave primary school. In response to that, we have always provided a block of swimming from Year 4 to Year 6 at Aqua light Swim School. The school paid the cost of transport, hire of pool, hire of swimming teachers and ensure school staff accompany. We often get to the end of Year 6 and unfortunately many children are still unable to swim.

We began to look at ways we could ensure children could swim from an earlier age. Several schools already have Pool2School. The benefits are the qualified lifeguards arrive with the pool and the pool is on-site which cuts out travel time and coach transport. It also allows for a smaller ratio. To ensure the pool temperature reaches 28 degrees, the company filled the pool over the Christmas holiday. They also began to heat it; the heating has remained on for two weeks and will continue to be left on until the five week swimming block is complete. The room in which the pool is contained is currently averaging a temperature between 18-20 degrees at present. There are two changing rooms in the pool area. Children will walk from classroom to pool wearing coats/PE Kit and change in this area. There is a matted flooring, which is put down and taken up each day to ensure it is dry for the following sessions. There will be a school adult with the children in addition to the two swimming instructors/ lifeguards. We understand that, you the parents, may be feeling a little worried about the timing of the lessons in the current climate, but rest assured we are doing everything to ensure the children are warm and that they develop a love of water and swimming.

We also know that for many of the children, this will be their first experience of swimming and realise that they may not even enter the water on the first week and that is ok. They will go along to the lesson with their friends and change into their costume and perhaps just watch their friends initially. We will see that as great progress.



### Website

[www.olicatschools.org](http://www.olicatschools.org)

### Strategic Executive Lead

Mr Tony Bishop

Registered Office: Our Lady Immaculate  
Catholic Academies Trust, c/o St Thomas  
More Catholic Secondary School, Tyne  
Crescent, Bedford, MK41 7UL

Company Number: 09436283



Swimming is a great life skill and we know that it will be of great benefit for you the parents when they can leave primary being able to swim and confident.

Children should wear their school PE kit on their swimming day. If your child is swimming in the morning, they might prefer to wear their swimming clothes under their PE kit to help with changing.

Please do not hesitate to speak with either myself or Mrs Maddison

Carmel Dodds

Headteacher