



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

May 2023 Newsletter

Dear Families,

The first half of the Summer term has been packed full of hard work and exciting activities for all of our children! The weather was wonderful for sports day on Monday 22nd May, we thank our families for supporting our children on such an eventful day! A huge congratulation to our Year 6 children who have worked extremely hard for their SATS – we are so proud of them for their astounding effort. We hope that they enjoy the remainder of their time at Our Lady & St Joseph whilst we prepare them for secondary school!

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

During this term, we have been thinking about “People Who Help Us.” We have spent time learning about the fire service, police force and vets during our Foundation, Maths and Writing learning. In our Writing, we are thinking about non-negotiables in our writing. We are working hard to remember our capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. In Maths, we are thinking about number problems. Now, we are using all of our skills to be successful in solving word problems.

Year 1

This half term, Year 1 have been learning about:

Maths- We have been learning about money! We have been exploring copper coins and how we can make different amounts of money.

History- Building on our DT lessons, we have been learning about the history of castles. In particular, we have focused on the period when William the Conqueror reigned and thought about how castles have evolved since 1066.

Science- In science, we have continued to build on our understanding of plants. We have learned lots about different trees and how we can identify trees based on their leaves.

RE- In RE we have been recapping the story of Easter and considering how we can be a witness to Jesus today. We have really enjoyed this half term and are looking forward to Summer 2!

Year 2

Year 2 has had a lovely few weeks learning all about plants and conducting different experiments with them to see if they adapt. We found out that feeding a plant lucozade will turn the leaves orange!!

We have been “eco warriors” in our Writing sessions and have been writing poems about how beautiful our world is to convey an important message about climate change!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great Summer term so far - filled with swimming, coronation celebrations and even a very special visit from the planetarium!

In writing this term, the children have come on leaps and bounds, producing a brilliant and original chapter based upon the stories from the book, 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tullane', Here, the children have really demonstrated how they can create tension and have used a range of techniques to describe a setting, along with the character's feelings towards it. They are extremely impressive outcomes and the children are excited to share their outcomes with you, in the form of mini books which will be sent home before the half term holidays.

In Maths, the children have been mastering time and can now use both analogue and digital clocks to help them. They have grown in confidence when working out durations of events and have seen how useful this skill can be in our day to day lives. In terms of foundation subjects, the children have continued investigating plant survival and adaptation, and have enjoyed researching the different plants that can be planted throughout the seasons, linking nicely to our gardening work that happens throughout the term. The children have also collaborated together on creating a 'big book' about the Great Barrier Reef, where they have researched and presented their findings about a specific focus area of the reef. The children have much to be proud of!

Year 4

This term, Year 4 have continued to throw themselves into everything they do. We have enjoyed learning about the theme of “sanctuary” in English and we have all written a brilliant speech raising awareness about the issues that face sanctuary seekers across the world. We are a “School of Sanctuary”, which means we are a welcoming, inclusive and safe space for refugees and asylum seekers. This links to our work to become “architects of a better world” and to ensure that we embody the Catholic Social Teaching principles.

In Geography, we have been building on our rivers topic last term by focusing on the River Colorado specifically. So far we have considered the geographical location of the river and raised questions about it, such as “why it is red in places?” Did you know that the name Colorado derives from the Spanish language for “coloured reddish”? The river is red in places due to its heavy silt load. Why not ask your child what else they can tell you about the Colorado River?

Year 5

In English, children are exploring the Stormbreaker “secret agents” books, which they will continue into Summer 2. Next half term, they will be paying particular attention to the evil villains in the story as they will be writing their own character description.

In Maths, children will be studying geometry and the focus within this topic is translation and reflection. Children will explore practical and pictorial challenges in this area.

Year 6

Now that Year 6 have completed their SATs, we are beginning a new class book in order to deepen our love of reading even further. Kensuke's Kingdom, written by Michael Morpurgo, is a phenomenal story which links to our WW2 unit. It will help us to understand different cultures, beliefs and the importance of friendship. We are very excited about our upcoming residential to Bude – we can hardly wait!

Coronation of King Charles III

We had an absolutely spectacular time celebrating the King's Coronation! We were a little worried that our festival and picnic would be rained off, but the sun came out to celebrate with us!

In the morning, we had a special assembly to learn more about the King's Coronation, learning about the tradition of the Coronation and how long it has been happening for. Then, we were all awarded with a special commemorative certificate and a Coronation Badge as a keepsake!

In our classes, we learned more about the Coronation and completed some fun activities, including writing to the King and decorating our giant crowns, which the PTA very kindly bought for us. Every child has been photographed in their crown and a robe and the PTA have very kindly agreed to pay to have a photo printed for each child – we will share these with you after half term.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed a truly splendid picnic, fit for a King! Our fabulous kitchen team prepared sandwiches for our afternoon tea (crown shaped, of course) and lovely Coronation cupcakes for us. We enjoyed eating with our parents in the sunshine, surrounded by the lovely bunting we had made with Transition Lymington! We were very happy to be joined by our neighbourhood policing team, who were on site to answer any questions from parents or pupils, as well as members from the Catholic Women's League, making it a real community event.

Then, Mr Smith (MBE!) performed the National Anthem on his trumpet, while we all sang along. Next, Y5/6 performed on drums, Y4 played their trumpets, Y3 played their guitars and YR-2 sang a lovely song. Poetry club performed a lovely 'regal' poem, before some super singing from the whole school. Each year group then performed a dance that they had been learning in their PE lessons! Y6 performed a number from 'Grease', Y5 and Y4 performed to some classic pop songs, Y3 performed "Step in Time" from Mary Poppins, Y2 showed off a fabulous Bollywood number, Y1 shared a very fun pirate dance and YR performed 'Under the Sea' from the Little Mermaid!

Thank you so much to everyone that came along, it was such a wonderful turn out and we hope it got you feeling ready for the Bank Holiday festivities! We loved sharing a small snippet with you of what we get up to at OLSJ!

CARITAS

A big thank you to Zach from CARITAS who worked with all year groups on developing our school grounds! Lots of planting took place - from wildflowers, to hedgerow, to plants and flowers donated by parishioners. We love learning outdoors and taking care of our school grounds!

Don't forget we are having a 'Great Gardening Day' in school on Friday 9 June - to which all parents are welcome from 8.45-9.45am. We will be planting the wildflower seeds donated by the Department for Education in celebration of the Coronation.

Thank you local community!



A very big thank you to the Rotary Club of Lymington who have made a donation to the school. We will use the funds to buy equipment for each class. Many thanks for your continued support of Our Lady & St Joseph.

Additionally, a very big thank you to Royal Holloway University of London who have donated Amazon vouchers to the school, to buy reading books for our library. Many of our pupils took part in research to consider children's use of children's of subtitles and reading when watching programmes.

We are hoping to have a little presentation for the children next academic year about the results of the research - watch this space for more details! They loved having real scientists in school from a University!

We would also like to extend a thank you to Mr and Mrs Styles of Lymington who have donated the school an absolutely beautiful Rosenkranz piano. We know that our pianists in their peri music lessons after school are very excited to try it out and we are looking forward to utilising it in assemblies and music lessons.

Thank you also to Mr and Mrs Hall of Milford-On-Sea who have donated a wonderful motorised vintage Meccano set to OLSJ. Year 2 absolutely loved playing with the Meccano set with their grandparents as part of our "Big Help Out" day.

A very big thank you to Barbara Chaperlin and to Barbara Mayhew who have donated an abundance of plants to the school, which gardening club have very much enjoyed planting!

Now that the weather is sunny, we have set up the table tennis set in the hut on the playground that was kindly donated by Oliver Thomas' grandparents from Sway Village Hall. Children can enjoy a game of ping-pong together in their lunch breaks, which is proving very popular!

We are so lucky to belong to such a wonderful and generous community. Many thanks for your continued support.

Disco time!

We are so excited to start hosting school discos at Our Lady! The PTA will be organising a school disco for Years R-6 on Friday 7th July – details of which will follow at the beginning of next term.

We really appreciate the feedback we have received from parents and hope that the school disco will be a fun and exciting opportunity for our children. Thank you for your ongoing support and feedback so far this year.



Astrodome Visit

We were absolutely thrilled to be visited by Winchester Science Museum earlier in the half term who brought along their giant Astrodome!

Years 1 to 6 took part in a special workshop inside the astrodome - where Karen taught us about the stars and solar system. It was truly mesmerising to be immersed in the stars, planets and action of the night skies!

The children absolutely loved their workshops and to learn more about space and the solar system. We hope that our pupils enjoy trying out their new found stargazing skills at home when looking at the night sky!

Sports Day

We all had an absolute ball at sports day! Pupils took part in a range of races, including the dressing up race, egg and spoon race, sprints, long distance and obstacle races!

It was great fun - a big thank you to Year 5& 6 who were extremely helpful with 'resetting' the equipment for each race, and to Miss Bellows at Superstar Sports and Mr Clark for their hard work in organising the event.

Well done to St Mark who won the trophy!

Mr Clark and Miss Goody won the teachers race - well done to them!

Well done to Cody's mum, Zoe & Scott's mum and Ethan & Tilly's mum who tied in the ladies race and also to Cerys and Mason's Dad who won the gentlemen's race!

Priestlands PE

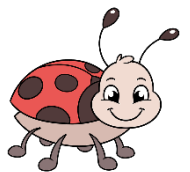
Pupils from Year 5/6 represented Our Lady at Priestlands in an athletics tournament against other New Forest Schools.

They took part in both track and field events, supported by GCSE students at Priestlands. It was great fun - with the cherry on the top that our pupils went and won the competition!

Well done to Mason, Tristan, Natasha, Zoe, Millie D, Scott, Aimee and Jamie - an excellent sporting success!

Ugly Bug Ball

Year R had a wonderful time at their 'Ugly Bug Ball'!



Children dressed up as their favourite creepy-crawlies to celebrate the day, as well as learning more about minibeasts, exploring our favourite minibeast themed books, such as "The Bad Tempered Ladybird", "The Hungry Caterpillar", "Mad about Minibeasts" and "Spinderella!"

They linked their learning to their work in class on the lifecycle of caterpillars and butterflies. They also went outdoors with Zach from CARITAS to learn more about how they can promote biodiversity on our school grounds, to welcome more minibeasts and 'ugly bugs' to our wild garden! It was great fun!

School Meal Increase

HC3S over the last few years have tried to maintain lower costs for our school meals by continuing to negotiate with their suppliers. Unfortunately, they have now reached the point where the current meal price has become unviable. We are writing to you now to advise that, regrettably, the price of school meals for KS2 will increase

to £3.00 with effect from 5th June 2023. If you feel that you may be entitled to free school meals, please do use the link on our school website to apply or enquire at the school office.

Skern Lodge Residential 2024

I am delighted to tell you that pupils will have the opportunity to attend a Year 6 residential trip to Devon in 2024, in the week commencing 8th July 2024. We are offering the trip early so that parents can spread the cost over monthly instalments. The cost of the trip will be £550 to include travel and activities.

On Wednesday 17th May, we held an information meeting for parents interested in sending their children on the trip. If you have any other questions concerning the trip, or funding, please do not hesitate to ask.

Tea, coffee and biscuits morning drop-in



Thank you to those who have attended our coffee mornings. The next one will be on **Thursday, 8th June** and will be held in the hall.

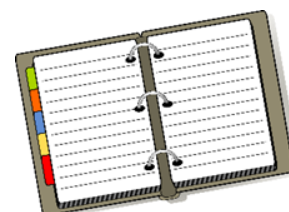
We hope this will be another way to drop in and have an informal chat and cup of coffee or tea with a member of the senior team.

We do have an open-door policy, but hope that this regular slot will enable more of our families to come in and share any positive or development items that you may have.... or just pop in to say hello!

A uniform swap shop will also be available – there is no charge for items – please come along and see what is on offer, or please feel free to donate any items that your child has outgrown.

Dates for your Diary

- 29th May – 2nd June – Half Term
- Tuesday, 6th June – 13th June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Friday 9th June - Gardening Day
- Wednesday, 21st June – PTA Film Night (tbc)
- W/B Monday, 26th June - Year 6 Bude Residential Trip
- Friday, 7th July – PTA Disco (tbc)
- Thursday, 13th July - Year 5 Bikeability day 1
- Friday, 14th July - Year 5 Bikeability day 2
- Friday, 21st July – Break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school



Have a wonderful half term

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gerida Montague'.

Gerida Montague

Executive Headteacher