



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

July 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to our final newsletter of the academic year. This has been a very busy year and we have enjoyed the summer weather, although I am hoping for a slightly more settled August!

Our Eco work has continued to strengthen this year and our school grounds are flourishing beautifully. With all of the children's hard work, this will continue and deepen further over the years to come. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and support with this, the children and staff have really enjoyed working alongside you all!

This year The Climate Community Project invited us to create a piece of artwork in response to the Climate Crisis. We decided to construct an inspirational and original piece by working with recycled materials, we chose wellington boots – welcome 'Wellington' who is now greeting all of our visitors in the school entrance. We wanted to encourage our audience to question the sustainability and ecological impact of the artistic process we chose and for them to consider how they use sustainability in their own everyday lives. Last week, 2 of our Year 5 children were invited to a pupil conference in Winchester, where they had the opportunity to share what they have crafted and discuss their continued thinking about climate concerns.

The "Big Help Out" will continue on as a thread throughout work next year too. Helping in our school, then locally and then globally is a wonderful way to manifest our bid to "Become Architects of a Better World". It makes me so proud to see the strategy and vision we have, weave through the whole curriculum for the benefit of all our learners.

Transition Day went really well and we have welcomed our new teachers into school for a full transition week ahead of their start. We plan this each year so that all new members of our teaching community can really get to know our partnership and systems. We are very lucky to be fully staffed with such a quality team and we look forwards to welcoming them into our family in September. The children have all now had the opportunity to visit their new class and a great deal of work has been put into ensuring this changeover is as easy for the children as possible.

Gardening club enjoyed finishing the year by celebrating with our families, Zach from Caritas and friends from OLSJ church. We enjoyed giving our parents and guests a tour of the grounds and demonstrated how we've established them over this academic year. We thanked Zach from Caritas for all the support he has given us with our outdoor learning too! We played some gardening games (the longest worm and parachute salad) and we also harvested some of our produce to take home with us (leeks, onions, carrots and courgettes!). We had a great time and enjoyed sharing all that we're proud of from across the year. A huge thank you to Mrs Rothwell, who has worked tirelessly to help us create such beautiful grounds.

Farewell and Thank You

Summer term is a real mix of pride, happiness and a little sadness. It is the time when we celebrate a year of achievement and personal successes for our children and staff community and a time where some teachers and support staff move on to pastures new, whether this is moving abroad, to new schools or to our Partnership Schools, we wish them well and thank them all for their dedication and care.



We sadly say au revoir to Miss Goodey, Miss Cassar and Mrs Shrub. We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Gale, Miss Kennard and Mrs Waller.

Partnership Staff Vacancies

We have a number of modern apprenticeships across our partnership of schools. These include TA positions with Level 3 training and Nursery Level 3 practitioner placements at our wonderful birth to 5, nursery – Hardmoor Nursery and Early Years Centre. If you are interested in joining our team and are looking for qualification led training, then please do enquire via the school office and they will put you in touch with the correct team. Thank you!

Thank you to our School Leadership Board



I would like to extend on behalf of the whole school our sincere thanks to the Our Lady Primary Local Leadership Board, chaired by Mr Dominic Bodington, who generously give their time and support in ensuring we provide a good quality education for all our pupils and monitoring effective teaching and learning. Members work very hard to scrutinize curriculum, safeguarding, budget and all strategic matters.



House Competitions

The children have continued this half term to work hard on their house competitions. They have competed in knowledge, sport and charity competitions.

Charity - Zumba for Zambia

This month, we participated in a fundraising event called 'Zumba for Zambia'. All of the children in the school were included in a Zumba session with the Superstar Sports coaches. We had so much fun and loved seeing everyone dancing and having a great time. Our teachers even enjoyed taking part too. We want to say a massive 'thank you' to those who donated: these donations added up to £96.00 for The Eneless Patmos School in Zambia.

Bikeability

The children have been working in school on clear signaling, emergency stops, smooth gear changes and their understanding of the highway code. They then applied their learning on the local roads and demonstrated their practical skills.

Lost Property

We have a substantial amount of unclaimed lost property. Please do pop in and take a look if your child has misplaced an item of clothing, book bag etc. All remaining items will be disposed of or taken to a local charity shop on the last day of term. Many thanks.

Pick up and Drop off

Please ensure that written permission is given ahead of a playdate or change in pick up organisation. Teachers will not release to anyone other than named adults on a contact list. Do not be offended if a teacher refuses to hand a child over to a friend or nominated adult other than parent without express written permission.

Attendance and Holiday Forms

Our target for attendance is 97.6% for every child. This academic year we have achieved a target of 96.17%

Please note that should you need to request a period of absence from school for your child, a leave of absence form needs to be completed in advance. The completion of these forms for 5 days or over are discussed on a case by case basis before decisions are made as to whether a penalty notice will be issued.

Medication kept in school

If your child has any medication on the school site, such as an inhaler, antihistamine, epipen etc. please collect



it on the last day of term, **Friday, 21st July by the end of the school day** as we will need to dispose of medication left in school later that day. Thank you.

When we return to school in September, if your child needs any medicine during the school day which has been prescribed by their doctor, please hand it in at the school office and complete a new Administration of Medicine form for 2023-24.

Superstar Sports Play schemes

Superstar Sports will once again be holding their holiday activity club during the summer holidays. If you would like your child to attend any of these sessions, please book by visiting www.superstarsportsuk.com. Fliers have already been sent home outlining all the exciting activities they will be running during these weeks.

Current News

Year R

During our final weeks in Year R, we have been preparing ourselves for our transition to Year 1. We have been thinking about how we have developed as young individuals during our first year at school. We have developed our skills drastically across Phonics, Reading, Writing and Math's as well as our PSED skills of communicating and sharing with others. To celebrate all we have learnt this year, we held our own Summer Exhibition. We invited our parents into our Base to explore Busy Bee across the year with us. We looked back on topics such as Chinese New Year, Diwali and key themes such as continuity and change across time. We are well prepared and ready for our journey into Year 1.

Year 1

Year 1 have been having lots of fun learning about the following: Writing- In writing we moved on to writing our own story entries for Gerald the Giraffe. We had to consider different features we could use in our work to make it sound exciting. Maths- In Maths we have been learning how to read the time to the nearest hour and half hour! We have created a 'how to' to help us know the difference between the second, minute, and hour hands on the clock. Computing- In computing, we have been learning about how we can change the font, size, colour of our writing and why we might use bold italic and underline for particular words. Art- In art we have been learning about sculptures, using different techniques to create different effects on the clay. Year 1 have worked so hard this year and we wish them all the best with their learning in Year 2.

Year 2

Year 2 has had a lovely end to the Year! We have created fantastic chapters in the style of Enid Blyton and the Faraway Tree! It has been so fun to create magical lands and think about the flow and journey of our Writing. In Maths, we have learnt all about measurement; mass, capacity and length and have used our wizarding skills to help us measure potions!

In DT we have been learning all about structures to create our very own marble run! It has been fascinating to discover all about free-standing structures and angles and speed.

Year 3

The children have finished off their Year 3 journey on a high, having created their own ancient Greek inspired pottery, dragon fact files and shadow puppets, to name just a few of the fun activities that they've been enjoying this month! The children have been working extremely hard on all of their outcomes throughout this summer term, and were thrilled to have the opportunity to share some of their knowledge and understanding with you during their 'Year 3 Expo'. They worked very hard on this exhibition to showcase their time in Year 3, and we hope that you enjoyed the show if you managed to come along! July also brought with it a very special visitor who came to OLSJ specially to see (and thank) our lovely Year 3's. This visitor was a humongous bee called Bumble, from the 'Honeypots' charity! He came along to thank the year 3's for their donation of £66, which was raised during our school fete by selling special seed growing paper. This money will send birthday cards to 33 children across the south coast, who work as young carers. These children often don't have the chance to celebrate their own birthdays due to the circumstances at home, so the charity sends them as a special reminder that they are thought of and not forgotten about. As well as this, the charity hosts fun days out and activity weekends for young carers so that these children can be children! Well done, Year 3, you've helped to put a smile on lots of other children's faces by selecting this charity and thank you parents for supporting our stall! :)

Year 4

Even though it is nearing the end of the year, we in year 4 have not been stopping. Our English twisted fairy tales are beginning to take shape and we have some wonderfully imaginative ideas and thoughts on how they can be twisted which will interest anyone who reads them. In Geography we have finished our learning about the river Colorado in America and compared it with the more local river Itchen. Children created some wonderful work to help display the differences and similarities that they are keen to share with you during the year 4 Exposition on the 17th this month. In Science, we have concluded learning about the categorisation of animals and living things. The children became experts in using classification keys and venn diagrams to sort based on shared features and traits. In Art, our bug hotels may be wobbly but they will look great once filled with all the fantastic materials which the bugs will love. These will also be on display at the end of year Exposition.

Year 5

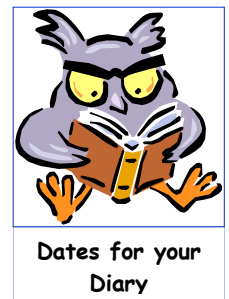
Year 5 have been studying shape in Maths and have been discovering the properties of 2d and 3d shapes, irregular and regular shapes, areas of triangles and net cubes. The children have been trying to create fear and tension in writing when creating an evil villain's profile. Year 5 have created unique back stories for their villains and they have used a range of punctuation and sentence types to engage their reader.

Year 6

This half term Year 6 has been creating 'Wellington!' Wellington is a dog which we have made from old wellington boots (surprise!) as part of a recycling project... he looks amazing and is already greeting visitors through the school entrance! Well done Year 6 for your innovative thoughts and designing! We are also finishing our class book 'Kensuke's Kingdom'. This story is all about friendship, understanding different cultures and overcoming fears, if you get the chance, please read this, it is Year 6's favorite book!

Dates for your Diary

- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school
- Thursday 7th September – Coffee morning
- Wednesday, 4th October - School Photographer – individual photographs
- Friday, 8th December – Inset Day



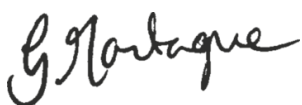
STAFF TRAINING DAYS

Monday, 4th September
Friday, 8th December
Friday, 22nd March
Monday, 3rd June - Disaggregated
Tuesday, 4th June - Disaggregated

Please check the school website for up-to-date information <http://www.OLSJschool.co.uk>

And finally.....

Do have a safe and joyful Summer break, we are working hard to focus on a great year ahead.
Thank you for choosing our school.....



Mrs Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher