



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

January 2023 Newsletter

Dear Families

Welcome to my first Newsletter of 2023! I do hope that all of our families had a very happy and peaceful Christmas. The children and staff have all returned to school, energised and excited for the New Year! I have, yet again, been touched by the support of our families, dedication of our staff team and care that our children continue to show for each other and for their school family and wider world. This has been brought into sharp focus through their commitment to our focus on ecological awareness, sanctuary and equality. They are truly inspirational!

Our recent Charity Collections

Last term, across the partnership of schools, the children worked together in House teams to collect dry goods for our local charity food bank, Basics Bank. Thank you so much for all of your generous donations. The charity was very appreciative.

To add to the festivities on our Christmas dinner day, the children and staff partook in the Save the Children 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Not only did everyone look lovely and festive but the school raised £143.35 for Save the Children, an international charity that works tirelessly to support children to learn, grow and become who they want to be. Thank you for your donations.

Upcoming Charity Artwork

Charity work doesn't always need to involve donations of items or money, which is why this half term the children are going to be working in their House groups to create an art project for the local community. The aim is for each House to create a picture that will then be donated to a local care home for elderly residents, a local library or our local children's hospital. The children have already started working together to come up with an idea and then all the children in each House will contribute something to the picture. Look out for details of what this will be. I can't wait to see the finished pieces and think it is a wonderful way for our children to connect with our community.

School Council Summit

On Wednesday 11th January 2023, our Year 6 school councillors attended a conference at Holy Family Catholic Primary School. The focus of the meeting was to discuss our upcoming 'passport to primary school' project. All children spoke confidently and represented Our Lady with pride! Well done Year 6 school council!

To find out more about our day, please have a look at our blog on the website:

[School Council Summit – Our Lady and St. Joseph \(olsjschool.co.uk\)](https://olsjschool.co.uk)

School of Sanctuary

As part of our continued drive to show our understanding of Sanctuary, the children have been listening to various stories in our collective worship assemblies to explore this in depth.



We have applied for the next level of the Oscar Romero Award, having been successful in achieving the "Participator Award" in 2020, and will be inviting validators in to school at the end of the month to look at our Sanctuary work and Catholic Social Teaching in action, with the hope of obtaining the "Developer Award." Watch this space!

Eco Project Update

We continue our drive to improve the school grounds. Flower beds have been weeded and bulbs planted. CARITAS will be coming in to school to plant 'flower bombs' on Friday 10 February and to help us 'go purple' for World Epilepsy Day on Monday 27 March, by planting lavender in the school grounds. Gardening Club have also been working hard with Mrs Rothwell to keep our gardens looking smart!

We will be holding a "Great Gardening Day" on Friday 9th June – all parents welcome! We will share more information with you regarding the event as we approach the summer term.

Lymington Library Visits

All pupils in Year 1-6 will be visiting Lymington Library this half term. Please ensure you have signed your child up for a Hampshire County Council library card, at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/membership/jointhelibrary> so that your child can fully enjoy the experience. Please note that these cards can be used across all Hampshire Libraries.

Books taken out at Lymington Library can also be returned to New Milton - your child can still take a book out on the trip, even if Lymington is not their regular library.

The pupils that have visited so far have had a fabulous time, learning about the different sections in the library and how to take out books!

Year R Curriculum and Enrichment

Maths

We have enjoyed our number of the week and now we are learning to apply our knowledge in time, adding, subtracting and measurement. We will be learning how to subtract by finding one less practical... exploring number bonds to 5.



To find out more about our learning, please use these links to the Year R curriculum page on our <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fe504e009fb30bb9cc92c0/t/62fe7a66769ee739cb1e3e3f/1660844646917/EYFS+-+Spring+1.pdf>

Year 1 Curriculum and Enrichment

Phonics

Our Fun Phonics Workshops have been a huge success. We had lots of parents come and join us as we used Retrieval Rex to recall and explore the first 12 sounds in the Green Phase. Pip and



Pap, our Alien friends helped us to learn the sounds and the actions and segment and blend them within a word. We then applied our learning by reading books, including 'The Stray Dog' and 'The Hawk'. We looked at how we can become more accurate with our reading and practiced following with our finger to support the identification of sounds.



We introduced our pace pea and how to use it to support us with our reading:

1. Read it the first time, focusing on blending and pointing with each finger to recognise the sounds.
2. Re-read a little quicker, looking at the digraphs and Earth words that are used.
3. Re-read the whole sentence with accuracy.

We ended with an exciting task - to create our own stray dog and we decorated it using tissue paper, paper plates and colourful pens.

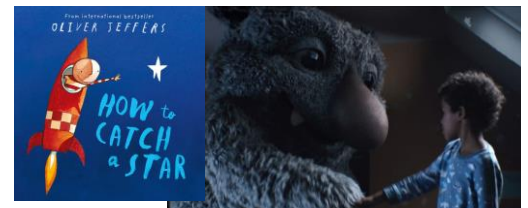
To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

Computing	Maths: Multiplication and Division and Measures	PSHE
English	Music	RE
Geography	PE	Science

Year 2 Curriculum and Enrichment

Writing

ZZZZZZZZZ... Don't panic, it isn't the Year 2's that are asleep! It is Moz the Monster under the bed! Since finding out this information, the Year 2 children have been really excited to use their writing skills to build up tension and keep the reader in suspense. So far, the children have been practicing their descriptive writing and have explored how to use adjectives for effect.



Over the next two weeks, we will be reading 'How to catch a star' and creating our own star catchers. Will we be able to persuade the reader to want to buy it?

Computing	Maths: Multiplication and Division and Money	PSHE
English	Music	RE
Geography	PE	Science

Year 3 Curriculum and Enrichment

In writing, we have been enjoying Dahl's 'Fantastic Mr Fox'! We have loved exploring the evil farmers and have created our own farmer in this style for our character description! During the next couple of weeks, we will be putting ourselves in the farmer's shoes and writing in the first person.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

Computing	Maths: Multiplication and Division	PE
English	MFL	PSHE
History	Music	RE
	Science	



Year 4 Curriculum and Enrichment

History

The Year 4 children have also really been enjoying learning about the Vikings and finding out about the push and pull factors for why the Vikings invaded.



To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

Computing	Maths: Multiplication and Division	PE
English	MFL	PSHE
History	Music	RE
	Science	

Year 5 Curriculum and Enrichment

English

During Year 5's English lessons, they have been focusing on the story of 'Way of the Wolf' by Bear Grylls. This has inspired the children to discover the wonderful world of Alaska and describe it using figurative language linked to their senses. The children's writing has been fantastic and they have put a great deal of effort into publishing it too!



To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

Computing	Maths: Multiplication and Division	PE
English	MFL	PSHE
History	Music	RE
	Science	

Year 6 Curriculum and Enrichment

English: Upon the Heath...

In writing, we have been using high-level vocabulary and figurative language to describe Macbeth's meeting of the three witches upon the heath. We have focussed



on building tension through the gradual approach of a storm and how the characters respond to the gathering, menacing weather.

Some of us have written from a different perspective: an observer on the heath - perhaps a raven or an ancient tree. We will build the setting description to a climax, whereupon the three ghastly witches are revealed and meet Macbeth, sharing with him their deadly prophecy. A key focus in our final section will be to create a careful balance of action, description and dialogue. This will enable us to characterise these beings in a variety of ways.

To find out about what the children will be learning over the next three weeks, please use these links to the curriculum pages on our website:

Computing	Maths: Multiplication and Division	PE
English	MFL	PSHE
History	Music	RE
		Science

Year 6 Residential to Adventure Bude

Year 6 are becoming very excited about the residential to Bude. Many parents are paying in regular instalments and I would like to thank you for ensuring these are up to date. Full payment needs to be made by 19th May 2023, as Bude requires payment at this time.

REMINDERS



Lateness

We appreciate the commitment from the vast majority of our parents who ensure their children arrive promptly for registration and collect them promptly at the end of the day. This substantially reduces stress and anxiety for the children. We also appreciate that on occasion traffic and extenuating circumstances mean that lateness is unavoidable. Should you need to make alternative arrangements for the collection of your child at the end of the day please ensure you telephone the school office before 3.00pm. Our admin team are unable to leave the office after this time unless in an emergency.

Leave of Absence from School

Penalty notices will be issued for family holidays taken in term time or for 5 unauthorised days off over half a term. A penalty notice means a cost of £60 per parent per child if paid in the first two weeks, then £120 per parent per child for the next 4 weeks. The parents may then be taken to court – this will lead to a find and court costs.

Children cycling to school

Please make sure your children wear cycle helmets and have lights on their bikes. As the evenings are still dark, please discuss with them the importance of returning home promptly. All children must wear a helmet.



P.E. Kit reminder

We go out and about when it is cold so please ensure your child has a suitable P.E kit in school at all times and check their P.E shoes fit them comfortably. Joggers are very useful to keep those muscles warm! As with all uniform clear name labels are important so that any lost items can be returned to their owners. Please remember to take your child's P.E kit home at the end of each half term to wash ready for the next half term.

School packed lunches

Children having a packed lunch are encouraged to bring a healthy lunch box. Please do not include sweets and chocolate. The amount you put in your child's lunch box should be what they would usually eat for a sandwich type lunch. Please name your child's lunch box. Remember, we are a NUT FREE school.



School Photographers

Tempest photography will be in school on Wednesday, 22nd March to take Class photos. Proofs will be sent home later in the term, via the children, so parents can place an order if they wish. We need to supply Tempest with class lists in advance of the day so they can keep a record of photos taken and ensure orders are printed correctly and matched with the relevant children. If you do not wish us to provide the photographers with your child's details please let us know in writing, via the school office, by Monday, 27th February at the latest.

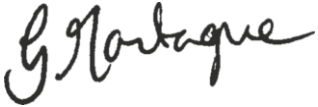
Dates for your Diary

- Monday, 30th January – Year 6 Lymington Library Visit
- Thursday, 2nd February – Year 2 Lymington Library Visit
- Thursday, 2nd February – Coffee Morning Drop-In
- Monday, 6th February – Year 1 Lymington Library Visit
- Tuesday, 7th February – Year 5 Oakhaven Visit
- Friday, 10th February – God, Love and Family sing song in school
- 13th – 17th February – Spring half-term
- Thursday, 2nd March – World Book Day
- Wednesday, 8th March – Year 5 Mobile Planetarium (at Sinclair)
- Thursday 9th March – Open Class at 3.15pm
- Monday, 20th March – Year 2 Duckling kits arriving
- Wednesday, 22nd March - Class Photographs
- Wednesday, 22nd March – Year 5 Black Hole Poetry session (at Sinclair)
- 3rd April – 14th April – Easter holidays
- Monday, 1st May – May Day bank holiday
- Monday, 8th May – King's Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9th May – Friday, 12th May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Monday, 22nd May – Sports day and family picnic
- Thursday, 25th May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26th May – Inset Day
- 29th May – 2nd June – Half Term



- Friday, 21st July – break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school

Have a wonderful term!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Montague'. The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'G' being particularly large and stylized.

Mrs G Montague
Executive Headteacher