



**CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA  
School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

## March 2023 Newsletter

*Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like  
showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.*

*(Deuteronomy 32:2)*



Dear Parents

Spring is truly here at Our Lady & St Joseph! There are daffodils and crocuses on the school grounds and the sound of new life filling the corridors, with the quacks of the little ducklings that have successfully hatched in Year 2!

### Curriculum and Enrichment

#### Year R

During this term, we have been learning about farms! We have been looking at mothers and their young as well as learning about how to look after a farm. We have explored how to build our own farm, thinking about what we would need to do to look after the animals as well as preparing for new arrivals. This has mirrored our learning around Catholic Social Teaching and how we can look after the world around us in God's creation. We have spent lots of time this term thinking about our Vets roleplay and looking after the sick. Outside, we have been working within our RSPCA roleplay where we have made bird feeders and houses to put into our environment. We have loved thinking about how we can help others this term.

To find out more about our learning, please use these links to the Year R curriculum page on our website:  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/62fe504e009fb30bb9cc92c0/t/62fe7a6b8c77e107e155e5ca/1660844651546/EYFS+-+Spring+2.pdf>

#### Year 1

We have moved on from writing posters about the Gruffalo and now we are focusing on writing a journey story. We are having lots of fun creating our own characters, setting, and plot and can't wait to publish our work! In Maths, we have been learning all about weights and mass. We have been using balance scales and keywords to support our understanding. In History, we have continued with our learning about Grace Darling. We have considered the thoughts and feelings

of key individuals during the rescue and compared how a water rescue would be different now, thinking about the wonderful work that the RNLI carry out.

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](#)

[English](#)

[Geography](#)

[Maths: Fractions](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

## **Year 2**

Year 2 have been diving into History this term and learning all about Florence Nightingale and how she changed the world! We have learned about how Florence and her team of nurses changed Scutari Hospital for the better, and linked this to the work of the NHS today. In Science we have been preparing for some special visitors by learning all about animals, their food chains, life cycles and needs for survival! We have loved our Writing this term and each of us has created our own new 'Mythical Creature'. We have used colour compounds and similes to describe our creatures and have learnt about lots of new sentence types to make our writing extra fabulous!

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](#)

[English](#)

[Geography](#)

[Maths: Money and Fractions](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

## **Year 3**

Year 3 have been enjoying writing formal invites, based on the book 'Guess Who's Coming To Dinner?' Here, they have explored different ways to entice the reader and have experimented with more sophisticated word play! They have loved reading the book and are great at spotting where Dr. Hunter, a mischievous wolf, has been hiding; it's a firm favourite when it's reading time! The children have also been enjoying learning about plants in Science. They have dissected a flower in order to understand its parts and they are beginning to understand the role these parts play in the pollination process. They have also set up their own bean growing experiment! Year 3 will be observing how plants germinate and grow over the next few weeks so we are hoping for lots of sunlight to help our little beans on their way! Furthermore, we have been exploring Climate Change in Geography. This important topic has been informing the children about the impact global

warming is having on our planet and will hopefully inspire them to know how to make a difference in the future - knowledge is power and the unit will result in their very own speech about taking action now! In D.T. the children have begun planning their photo frames and look forward to learning how to saw and construct with wood safely. Finally, in Maths, we have moved on from money to look at a new kind of measure: length and perimeter! The children have been excited by this more practical unit of work where we have been able to measure many different objects (and even rooms) within our school.

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](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[Maths: Fractions and Money](#)

[MFL](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

## **Year 4**

In Year 4 we have been enjoying learning about lots of fascinating things – such as rivers in our Geography work! There have been many creative opportunities during this topic to make models showing the different ‘stages’ of a river, which has been great fun!

Our current writing unit has very much enthused our pupils! The children absolutely adored reading about Harry Potter and his ‘rags to riches’ story. Pupils have written diary entries in role as Harry, which have been absolutely splendid to read! In DT we have been working in groups to create board games with electronically operated parts. We have got some fantastic game ideas and some careful consideration has gone into how to make our games engaging, exciting and interesting to the consumer.

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](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[Maths: Statistics, Fractions, Decimals and Measures](#)

[MFL](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

## **Year 5**

Year 5 have been writing based on the stimulus of the Piano Man. They have used different techniques to create sorrow and sympathy in one part of the narrative and tension and fear in the second part. Children have explored different sentence types and punctuation to achieve this.

In maths, the children have been exploring fractions, decimals and percentages and how they link to each other. They have learnt to fluently convert between these 3 units.

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](#)

[MFL](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

## **Year 6**

Year 6 are planning to write a motivational speech in English. We are considering topics that we are passionate about and ones which, at the moment, have a negative impact in our world. We are excited to ensure the importance of our subject matter is recognised and that our audience joins us in our promise, to be 'architects of a better world.' Pupils have picked some very sophisticated topics to write about, such as racism in sport and gender equality. We will film their final speeches and share them on our school blog once ready.

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](#)

[English](#)

[History](#)

[MFL](#)

[Maths: Fractions, Decimals and Percentages, Measures and Shape](#)

[Music](#)

[PE](#)

[PSHE](#)

[RE](#)

[Science](#)

## **Sporting News**

Well done to Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 who represented OLSJ at Priestlands Secondary School, in a netball tournament, against other New Forest Primary Schools. Our Year 5/6 team finished third overall, as did one of our Year 3/4 teams! Well done!



## Catholic Life News



### Worship Leaders

Congratulations to Mason, Nancy, Oscar, Louisa, Natasia, Olivia M, Adam, Lydia, William P, Alice, Matthew and Natasha who have been named as our school Worship Leaders (Junior Chaplains) for 2023.

Each child wrote a letter of application to Fr David and Linda Guilding explaining why they would be a suitable candidate to lead our school in worship and to support others with their spiritual journeys. Fr David and Linda reviewed all of the

applications (of which there were many!) and the successful candidates were announced in assembly. The pupils will work alongside Fr David and Linda Guliding to plan worship sessions in school, both for our collective worship and to support with choosing readings, songs and themes for Mass.



## Youth Mass

A very, very big well done to our pupils who represented OLSJ in the Youth Mass at Our Lady of Mercy & Lymington Catholic Church last Sunday.

Linda Guilding (PA to Father David) said *"We were bursting with pride for the young people who took part in the Youth Mass! They were MAGNIFICENT! I've never seen the parishioners entering the church with such joy on their faces."* Our pupils (alongside others in the community) all read aloud in church, wrote the bidding prayers, chose the music, prepared the church for Mass, welcomed parishioners, organised the collection and brought up the bread and wine at the offertory. Linda went on to say *"The parishioners loved it and were full of praise for our young people who, with their parents, joined the parishioners afterwards for refreshments... They all were perfectly behaved and read beautifully. There was no nervousness at facing 137 people!"*

We are so proud of our pupils - a big well done to them, and a big thank you to those that went along to support them. There will be another Youth Mass (a Mass led by our young people) at Advent. Do look out for further information and let us know if you would like to be a part of it.



## Choir Performance

Our wonderful school choir spread some springtime joy and cheer across Lymington on Tuesday evening, singing at both Belmore Lodge and at Waitrose! They delighted both the care home residents and shoppers in the store, gathering quite a crowd on both occasions! A big thank you to Mr Ibbott from Showcase, our music provider, who has been working with the choir in their lunchtimes to rehearse. Well done to our pupils for two splendid performances and for giving up their time to bring joy to others. Their well chosen springtime and Easter songs certainly left everyone feeling full of sunshine and the joys of spring!



## Toilet Twinning

We have received details of our 'Twinned Toilets', which was the school council's chosen charity for last half term. We have purchased two toilets to 'twin' - a latrine in Chamiwawa, Zambia and a latrine in Afghanistan. We intend to put the framed pictures in our own school toilets, so that we can see the fruits of our good work, but also to remind us how lucky we are to have toilets with flushing water. Even today, more than 60% of people across the world either have no toilet at home or one that does not safely manage waste.

## RSPB Donation

We were absolutely delighted to receive some gifts from the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) - supported by Lymington Waitrose. Our local New Forest RSPB group were donated some funds by Waitrose, who contacted us and asked us if we would like some resources to support teaching in school about the protection of birds and wildlife - of course, we accepted! RSPB have very kindly used the funds they were donated to purchase a wealth of resources for OLSJ. To continue the 'bird' theme, it was in fact our 'Earlybirds' club that unboxed the parcels when they arrived this morning - the children were unbelievably excited to see what we had been sent!



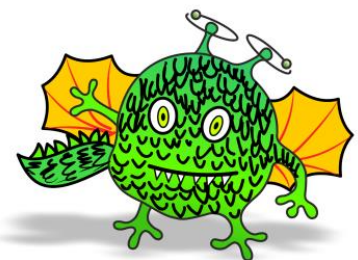
Gifts included bird feeders, seeds, wildlife books, a bat box and a robin and wren box! A big thank you to Waitrose and to the New Forest RSPB - we can't wait to share with you what we observe visiting our school grounds.

## World Book Day

The children and staff all enjoyed World Book Day, as they do every year. A great chance for them all to dress as their favourite characters and for the teachers to decorate their classroom doors based on a book they are reading in class. Do take a look at our blog online which has lots of photographs



of the children taking part in our 'Book Character Fashion Show!' Our "Bookface" competition was a huge success again this year, with the children merging themselves into the covers of their favourite books.



We also had a very exciting competition for Year R and KS1 to design a new 'Pip and Pap' alien character. Well done to Darcy and William who had their designs turned into Pip and Pap characters by series illustrator David Tomkins!

## Attendance

Thank you to all those families who work hard to ensure their children are in school every day. Our school target is 97.6% and currently our attendance is at **95.77%**. If your child is too ill to attend school please contact the school office each morning that they are away from school so that we can correctly record the reason and to ensure that we don't worry. Any absence from school without an explanation will be recorded as an unauthorised absence and will be investigated.

## Uniform

Please ensure all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name so that we are able to return any lost property to your child as and when it is found.

Don't forget we will be running our first 'Swap Shop' on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May at 8:30am alongside our Coffee and Catch-up. If you have any unwanted uniform, in good condition and clean, that

you would like to donate please bring into school before the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## School Meals

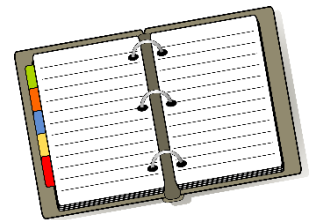
Please check out the new Summer term menu from HC3S on our website that will be available after the Easter break.

School meals are £2.80 per day. Year R, 1 and 2 are all entitled to Universal free school meals. If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals due to your personal financial circumstances please use the below link to run an eligibility check.

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants/>

## Dates for your Diary

- 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 14<sup>th</sup> April – Easter holidays
- Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> April – Year 1 & 2 trip to Marwell Zoo
- w/c 24<sup>th</sup> April – Year 3 & 4 Swimming
- Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> May – May Day Bank Holiday
- Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May – Coffee morning and Uniform Swap Shop
- Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May – King's Coronation – extra bank holiday
- Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> May – Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATS Week
- Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May – Sports day and Family Picnic (16<sup>th</sup> June if rained off on 22<sup>nd</sup> May)
- Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May – Summer Fete & Fiver Challenge – 2.30pm
- Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day
- Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> May – Inset Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Half Term
- Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> June – 13<sup>th</sup> June – Scholastic Book Fair
- Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July – Break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September – Pupils return to school



Have a wonderful Easter break.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerida Montague". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Gerida Montague**  
Executive Headteacher