



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, his is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

John 14:27

June 2023 Newsletter

Dear Families

I can hardly believe it is June already. What a busy Summer Term we have had with celebrations, gardening and some very impressive Eco work from our children's Eco Leadership group. School Council are finalising their "Pupil Experience Passport" to share with all children and families – more news on that when they have finalised it. It has been an amazing half term and I am so glad to see lovely bright and sunny days as we move towards the summer holidays. Our new staff have had a full induction week and our children have really enjoyed meeting their new teacher!

Great Gardening Day

At Our Lady we are very lucky to have so much lovely outdoor space. Throughout the year, lots of work is undertaken to ensure our gardens are well maintained by staff members and the children to keep our school grounds looking beautiful. During the 'Great Gardening Day' all the children partook in a variety of activities around our gardens, including planting, maintenance and creating informative resources about the plants and wildlife within our school. In a bid to welcome our families in to school more often, we opened our doors to everyone to share on the lovely outdoor work. Thank you so much to all parents who came to help – our grounds are looking superb!



Zumba for Zambia

This month we will participate in a fundraising event called 'Zumba for Zambia'. All of the children in the school will partake in a sponsored Zumba session with Miss Bellows. If you are able to make a voluntary contribution of £3, we would very much appreciate it. All funds will go towards buying musical instruments for the Eneless Patmos school in Lusaka, Zambia. Pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 have been writing letters to their counterparts at Eneless Patmos and they have been thrilled to receive photos and images from the pupils there, so that they can learn more about schooling in Zambia.



Book Fair

This month we held a book fair in our hall, from Tuesday 6th to Tuesday 13th June. The children had so much fun browsing and picking out books to take home with them. Thank you so much to so many of you for attending. We love to encourage children to read at home and the book fair is a perfect opportunity to stock up on books to read. The school earns commission on all books sold which is used to buy further books for the school library bus.

Hot Weather

Now that the weather is getting hotter, please bring your children in wearing suncream and with sun hats.



As per our letter, suncream will also be kept in classrooms in case a child requires a 'top-up' throughout the day. Please do not send your child in with suncream as we have many allergies to manage and our suncream is hypoallergenic and fully recommended by dermatologists. We have been taking extra precautions to make sure the children are safe when outside, we have plenty of water on hand throughout the day, PE is planned for shade breaks and calm exercise. Additionally, lunch and play take place in the shade.

Fiver Challenge

Many thanks to parents who came to our Coronation / Eco Fiver Challenge at the end of last half term! All classes were given £5 as part of an enterprise project, to then grow. Each class had two stalls, an 'Eco' stall, and a 'Coronation' stall. We raised more than £800 for charity in total – take a look at the profits each class made from their sales!

YR - £36.00 for The British Heart Foundation, selling posies and hosting a 'Guess the Sweets in the King's Jar' competition.

Y1 - £58.75 for The Dogs Trust, selling flower cards and crowns, and holding a 'throw the crown on the monarch' competition!

Y2 - £46.84 for The RNLI, selling 'seed bombs' and creating a 'Hook the Royal Duck' competition.

Y3 - £57.25 for Honeypots, selling 'magic seed paper' and having a 'lucky royal dip'

Y4 - £97.00 for Lymington Cat & Kitten Rescue, selling repurposed tins as plant pots and hosting a 'Soak the King' competition (a big thank you to Mr Riste Smith for your participation as the King!)

Y5 - £254.75 for Cancer Research, selling plants grown on the school grounds and having a bouncy 'King's Castle!'

Y6 - £179.75 for Oakhaven, selling 'fairy doors' and creating a wonderful catapult game starring King Charles III himself!

Pupils all chose their respective charities as a class and we know that they will be ever so thrilled to receive our donations. Many thanks for your continued support.

Year 4 CAFOD Workshop

A big thank you to Steve from CAFOD who came back to OLSJ to work especially with Year 4, on a 'Water Without Taps' workshop - to support their Geography unit about flooding.

The workshop focused on children around the world and the issues around water collection, supply and sanitation.

Steve played an exciting game with the children, where the children had form groups and to imagine that they were a family of farmers living in Zimbabwe, in a village where their pump had broken down.

Each group had to work together to 'collect' water from a 'river' two kilometres away. They needed to collect enough water to meet their family's needs, for things such as drinking water and to water crops for food.

However, Steve and Mr Riste Smith gave the children 'chance cards' - and children then had to deal with changes to their situation that impacted their ability to collect enough water.

Each group filled in a family sheet to show how many of their needs they had been able to fulfil through collecting water. It was an exciting game, however, it reflects the realities of real life for many people across the world, which the children reflected upon with sensitivity and compassion.



Sub-Saharan Africa still suffers from lack of access to safe water and toilets. In 2010, 65% of wells or pumps in rural Zimbabwe were not working properly. In some parts of Africa, the water situation has worsened since 2000, due to more frequent periods of drought, deforestation and desertification. Time spent collecting water is one of the major reasons why many girls still do not go to school, even though primary education is generally free. Lack of water affects families' ability to grow enough crops to eat or sell. This affects the ability of subsistence farmers to expand their income and develop their lives. Lack of water and drinking polluted water affects the health of millions of children, especially infants under five, through diarrhoea and water borne diseases such as cholera.

The production of cash crops, such as tobacco and cotton, can have dire consequences on water supplies for local people, whilst multinational companies reap rich benefits from the sale of such commodities.

Our charity work earlier in the year - "The Big Lent Walk," raised more than £500 for CAFOD.

CAFOD have worked to fix water pumps in Zimbabwe and in other parts of Africa. We are so pleased that our charity initiatives in school make such a difference, thank you for your continued support.

CARITAS Catholic Schools Conference

A very big well done to Emilia and Louis in Year 5, who represented OLSJ at the very first CARITAS Catholic Schools Conference! The conference took place on line, and Catholic schools from all over Hampshire and Dorset attended, including our sister school Holy Family.

Emilia and Louis wrote and delivered their own presentation to show the Eco journey that OLSJ have been on over the last three years. They will now be attending a conference in person at the Hampshire County Council Offices in Winchester to share their work – how exciting!

You can view their presentation at:

<https://olsjschool.co.uk/schoolblog/iv71atww2h0t1rwn6yw6b3x7vzkjbx>

Year R Library Trip

Year R had a lovely trip to Lymington Library!

They enjoyed choosing books to take out and finding out more about how the library works! Thank you to the lovely staff who facilitated their visit and for reading some lovely stories to us!

Year R were also thrilled to see their artwork that they had created earlier in the year at school displayed in the library.

Don't forget, if you haven't signed your child up to Lymington or New Milton Library, that it is completely free to do so! They have many workshops happening over the summer holidays that you can sign up for too.



Year 6 Upcycling Project

Meet Wellington!

Year 6 (with the help of Miss Walker and Mr Hawkins) have very lovingly crafted "Wellington" from old welly boots, old wood and odds and ends, to show how old items do not need to be thrown away, they can be repurposed!

Wellington will be accompanying Emilia and Louis (our Year 5 Eco Leaders) to their conference in Winchester, where they will be talking about OLSJ's Ecology Work to other Hampshire schools.

We do still have some wellies left and are hoping to make Wellington a brother or sister - so if you have any old boots, please do bring them into school!



Y5/6 Tennis

Year 5 and Year 6 pupils represented OLSJ at a tennis tournament at Priestlands - and were the winners! They all received a gold medal each and a trophy!

Well done to Effie, Kinga, Jamie Wa, Jamie Wh, Natasha in Year 5 and Frankie, Mason, Ria, Tristan, Cerys, Daisy and Emma in Year 6!



Year 5/6 Cricket

Well done to Jason, Natasha, Tristan, Mason, Scott, Ethan, Jamie Wa and Jamie Wh who represented OLSJ in a cricket match against Springhill Catholic Primary from Southampton.

Mr Clark was able to organise use of the facilities at Sway Cricket Club, so a neutral venue for both teams!

OLSJ were victorious in the match - well done to all! It was a great afternoon out!



Ramley Road Update

Our Junior Road Safety Officers sent their Road Safety assembly as a video to Cllr Forster, (who they met last week when he presented them with a GOLD Modeshift Stars ward for their work.) He sent a lovely reply to the pupils – please see below.

"Dear OLSJ,

Thank you so much for your time and for the opportunity to hear from the children about their concerns about road safety.

I'm also appreciative of the video sent through, which I have immediately forwarded to Cllr Nick Adams King, and to Cllr Barry Dunning, to highlight the issue.

As I said when at the school, I cannot promise to deliver this, however I appreciate the thought and effort that has been put in and I have relayed my support for improvements to both Cllr Adams King and Dunning. They both confirmed that they were looking at what options may be appropriate, and whether sufficient funding was available to progress this. My personal recommendation was to consider a speed table and or road painting, although whether these are viable will be dependent on budget and highways engineer's assessment.

I'd appreciate it if you can pass on my thanks once again to the JRSOs, the children, and your teachers for the professional and well thought through presentation. I'm hopeful that something appropriate can be funded and designed, although will have to let our experienced Highways officers determine priority of this and what may be best. I do hope to keep you updated once I hear anything further.

Kind regards

Cllr Forester".

P.E reminder

Just as a reminder to all parents, that having kit in school on the correct day is essential...We wanted to let you know the days for your child's P.E afternoon so you are able to bring in P.E kits on these days:



- Monday - Year 1
- Tuesday - Year 2
- Wednesday - Year 3 and Year 4
- Thursday - Year 5
- Friday - Year 6 and Year R

Please note that this may change next year – we will share the details with you in due course!

Curriculum and Enrichment

Religious Education

We began our last half term of the academic year with a wonderful Mass from Father David where we celebrated Pentecost. After this, within our classes, we deeply reflected on the message of hope and how we can be filled with the Holy Spirit and be empowered to continue the Lord's work and follow in Jesus' footsteps. Year 4 wrote a lovely song about Pentecost – do watch it at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFJ-l7P9GoM>

Class EXPO

Each class has prepared an exhibition for parents, to share their favourite learning throughout this academic year.

You should have already received a poster invitation electronically from your child's class, however, please note the dates below.

Each class is very excited to showcase what they have been learning – look out for a range of topics, subjects and presentations from the pupils. All EXPOs start at 2.30 and will take place in the hall (with the exception of Year R, who will showcase their favourite 'Busy Bee' activities in the Year R base.)

Year R: *Monday 10 July - 2.30-3.15*
Year 1: *Tuesday 11 July - 2.30-3.15*
Year 2: *Wednesday 12 July - 2.30 -3.15*
Year 3: *Thursday 13 July - 2.30 - 3.15*
Year 4: *Friday 14 July - 2.30 - 3.15*
Year 5: *Monday 17 July - 2.30 - 3.15*
Year 6: *Tuesday 18 July - 2.30 - 3.15*

We very much hope to see you there! No tickets are required for this event.

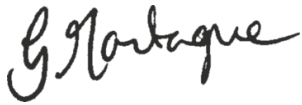
Key dates for your diary

- Thursday, 6th July – Coffee Morning
- Thursday, 13th July - Year 5 - Bikeability day 1
- Friday, 14th July - Year 5 - Bikeability day 2
- Monday, 17th to Wednesday 19th July - Year Group Exhibition for Families
- Wednesday, 19th July - Year 6 Festival on the Field (details to follow)
- Thursday, 20th July - Year 6 Leavers Mass – 2pm
- Friday, 21st July – Break up for the Summer Term
- Monday, 4th September – Inset Day
- Tuesday, 5th September – Pupils return to school



Thank you so much for your continued support, I am sure that together we can make it a wonderful end to the year.

Kind regards,

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 Gerida Montague
Executive Headteacher