



CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Executive Head Teacher: Gerida Montague MA

School Senior Lead: Eleanor Prince BA PGCE

September 2023 Newsletter

Dear Parents

Welcome to the first Newsletter of this academic year and a warm welcome to all of our new families who are joining us and all who are already part of our OLSJ family. We are looking forward to continuing to build strong relationships that focus on making the very best provision for the children within our care.

We try to send out a regular newsletter keeping you informed of events and news. Please do make sure you read it and keep it somewhere safe as it gives advance warning of school events, closures and term dates.

We send letters and reminders via text or email using Scopay and all correspondence can be viewed on our school website. Please do make sure you update us if you change your phone number or email address so that we can update our records.

Curriculum and Enrichment

Year R

We have had a fabulous start to school! In History , we have been learning all about toys and exploring how they work. The children enjoyed experimenting with different toys before moving onto designing their own toy for a friend, In Literacy , we have been talking all about ourselves. The children have been busy creating posters all about them and what they look like. The children have enjoyed learning some new phonics sounds and applying this to their work!

Year 1

We have had a great start to the school year learning about: Writing: In writing, we have been learning all about pirates. We have been using lots of features in our pirate descriptions such as adjectives, verbs, and conjunctions. Maths: In maths, we have been thinking about how we can compare different quantities using key mathematical language. We have enjoyed using a range of resources to support our understanding. RE: In RE we have been learning all about the Creation story and thinking about how we can show our thanks for the world God has created for us.

Science: In science, we have been learning all about the human body! We have explored our 5 senses and considered their importance in day-to-day life. We have had so much fun with our learning and look forward to seeing where it takes us next.

Year 2

We have been focusing on writing their Marvellous medicine recipes to transform George's Grandma from horrible to lovely. They have worked really hard with their writing to ensure it is full of great ideas and beautifully presented in best handwriting with capital letters and full stops. The recipe booklets look fantastic! We have also been exploring how to work 'like scientists', asking scientific questions, conducting experiments and observing reactions. We have some beautiful lava lamps in jars! Great learning Year 2!

Year 3

In year 3 we explored the 3 menacing farmers from Fantastic Mr Fox. We have then created a character description of our own cruel farmer. In maths we have been using different concrete resources to help us find the value of each digit in numbers up to 1000! We have loved learning about rocks in Science and discovering more about our home, the UK, in Geography.

Year 4

It has been a great start to the year. The children are enjoying learning across all subjects. In English we have been creating Trunchbull character descriptions. They have done a brilliant job at making her seem formidable and fierce so far. In History we are learning about the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze age and how things change between them and across the several thousands of years between them. In Science we are learning about animals including humans. In this we will cover everything to do with teeth and the digestive system of us and animals. Re is all about creation at the moment and the importance of 'imago dei'.

Year 5

We have been creating writing with a focus on developing fear and tension. They have explored new sentence types and vocabulary and demonstrated this in their writing. In maths children have studied place value and developed their ability to partition 4 and 5 digit numbers. They have also progressed their knowledge of Roman Numerals.

Year 6

We are studying WW2 this half term and have spent their time so far analysing what happened on Dunkirk beach, how 'The Little Ships' helped and the different emotions people were feeling at the time. Next, we will be researching the events which led to Operation Dynamo and discussing if the end result could have been different.

Allergies

We have a number of children and staff with severe nut allergies. With this in mind, we do not have any nuts or nut products at snack time or in packed lunches. These include peanut butter, Nutella or Pesto (which contains Pine nuts). These can be a major cause of anaphylactic shock in some adults and children. Your care and support in this is greatly appreciated.



Uniform

A big thank you to all parents who have sent their children in the correct uniform. Our children are looking

very smart. Uniform is an important part of our culture and our children certainly look very proud to be part of the OLSJ family. Shoes/trainers need to be pure black (including the soles) with no logos.

Can we also remind parents that children are provided with cups and water in class and therefore do not require water bottles. Thank you.

PE

Please ensure your child has their correct PE kit in school for the day they have their lesson. Ideally they need to leave their kit in school and take home to wash at the end of each half term.

PE days:

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

End of the day

In order to ensure the safe handover of children at the end of the day, please put in writing any alternative adult/s you give permission to, to collect your child/children and give to the school office. Teachers will be teaching and may not remember slips of paper and new instructions.

School meals

We encourage all of our children to have a hot school dinner, whether they are infants or juniors.

We have worked very closely with the school council, children and our caterers to ensure that the food offered is home cooked and delicious. We regularly chop meals off the menu and add new tastier options. All of our teachers eat a school dinner. We have a third 'Jacket potato with filling' option for those who do not like our meat or vegetarian option.

If your child is going to arrive late to school and they wish to have a cooked meal at lunchtime, we would be grateful if you could let the office know in advance by telephone. Unfortunately, if your child arrives after 9.30am, and we have not been notified, your child will receive a "spare" meal. Always best to be on time, or phone ahead.

Safety Reminder!

A gentle reminder, please can you ensure your child/ren **do not play** on the play equipment (play trails/trail area) before or after school. They are not suitable for use without school supervision. We also ask that children or adults do not ride bikes and scooters on the school playgrounds.

We again politely remind you that Smoking, Vaping and dogs are not permitted on the school site – this includes dogs being held in arms. Thank you.

Coffee morning

Thank you to all of you who have attended our coffee mornings. We are really looking forward to seeing you on the next one - Thursday, 5th October 23. 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.



Flu Vaccination

The school nursing team will be with us on Thursday 12th October to administer the annual flu vaccinations that are available for all children (Year R – 6).

Please Click the link below for the consent form and information about the vaccine.

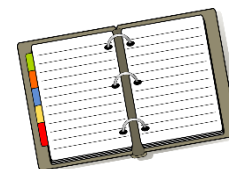
School Code: **SH116378**

Session date: **Thursday 12th October 2023**

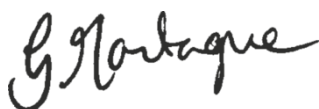
Link to website: [Winter Flu Vaccination programme : Hampshire Healthy Families](#)

Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday, 4th October – School photographer to take individual photos
- Thursday, 5th October – Coffee morning 8.45am
- Monday, 9th October – Year 5 trip to Calshot Activity Centre
- Thursday, 12th October – Flu vaccinations (Year R-6)
- Friday, 20th October – Non Uniform Day
- 23rd to 27th October – Half Term
- Tuesday, 31st October – Deadline for secondary school applications
- Tuesday, 21st November – Tuesday 28th November - Bookfair
- Monday, 15th January 2024 – Deadline for Year R applications
- Friday, 1st December – Hobgoblin Theatre Company visiting KS1 to perform 'A Christmas Carol'
- Friday, 8th December – INSET day
- Tuesday, 12th December – Year 5 & 6 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Thursday, 14th December – Year 3 & 4 Pantomime trip to Mayflower Theatre
- Friday, 15th December – Non Uniform Day



Best wishes



Gerida Montague

Executive Headteacher