

# OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Fourth Avenue, Teignmouth TQ14 9DT  
Tel: 01626 773905  
e-mail: [office@olsp.uk](mailto:office@olsp.uk)

*Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way*



**Newsletter: 14th February 2025**

Head Teacher: Mrs Cathy Blatchford

# HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

A very happy Valentine's Day to you all! It's been such a joy to see our children in the clothes they love today, bringing so much fun and excitement to the classroom. We truly appreciate the enthusiasm they bring to this special day!

We also want to extend a heartfelt thank you for all your incredible support and donations over the last couple of weeks. Your kindness and generosity never cease to amaze us. We are always warmed by the unwavering support we receive from our parents and carers, and we are so grateful for everything you do. It's clear that you are just as committed to our children's education and wellbeing as we are, and that means the world to us. As we work to provide the very best experiences and resources for the children, we have found that many of the things we wish to implement are quite expensive, and your continued support makes a huge difference in making those dreams a reality.

The past couple of weeks have been filled with a wide range of engaging activities and exciting experiences for our students. From the heartwarming visit of Ridley, the guide dog, to the fascinating Viking workshop for our Year 5s, the children have had so many opportunities to learn in creative and interactive ways. In addition, we've had a wonderful time celebrating NSPCC Numbers Day, where the children embraced the world of numbers through fun challenges and games. To top it all off, our football tournament brought plenty of excitement, teamwork, and competition. These activities have not only enriched our children's learning but also brought our school community closer together.

We have now reached our February half term and all that remains is for us to wish you a lovely break and don't forget our children return to school on Tuesday 25th February. We look forward to seeing you all then.

Mrs Cathy Blatchford,  
Head Teacher

# THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

## Saint Valentine: Love One Another

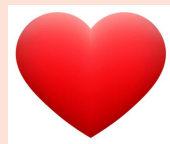
### The Saint Behind the Day

Today the children have celebrated this patron saint's day by wearing the clothes that they love. We all know about Valentine's Day, but the saint behind the day is more obscure, partly because very little is actually known about Saint Valentine. Pope Gelasius I, who made February 14 Valentine's feast day, rightly said:

*"Saint Valentine is one of those whose names are justly revered among men, but whose acts are known only to God."* Valentine lived in the third century and his name comes from the Latin word *valens* meaning worthy, strong, or powerful. Valentine was martyred around the year 269. His Feast Day is 14th February, and he is the patron Saint of love, young people, and happy marriages.

During the year, we sometimes forget to tell our parents, children, wider families and friends that we love them. We sometimes neglect to tell people who have helped us how much we appreciate their help. Valentine's Day might be a good day to contact those people we've neglected and let them know how much they mean to us. In the midst of all the sentimentality and celebration we should remember what love really is. Love means putting others before ourselves and loving them as Christ loved us. Jesus showed us, through His death what it really means to love. However, this doesn't make love a morbid, dismal sentiment. After all, Jesus rose on the third day!

Every Valentine's Day should be a day to remember that love reaches out beyond our closest friends and family and should extend to all those around us. Love is more than a romantic feeling and that can often be neglected on a day as romanticized as Valentine's Day. Every day is a day to let those around us know they are loved, remembered, and cherished not for what they do or for what they have but for who they are! Saint Valentine, pray for us!



*I said a Valentine prayer for you  
and asked the Lord above  
to fill your heart and bless your  
soul*

*With the precious gift of love.*

*I asked Him for sincere love*

*The kind that's meant to stay*

*Just like the generous love*

*You give to those you touch each  
day.*

*I prayed for love from family*

*And from every cherished friend*

*Then I asked the Lord to give you*

*His love that knows no end.*





# NURSERY

This week we have been learning about St Valentines and why we celebrate Valentine's day. We have been exploring our daffodil shoots and now put them up around nursery and we are excited to watch them grow.



# REC & YEAR 1

RECEPTION AND YEAR ONE HAVE BEEN PAINTING THEIR CLAY PIECES IN ART. THIS WEEK WE ARE GOING TO BE HOLDING A CLASS GALLERY SO THAT THE CHILDREN CAN EVALUATE THE SCULPTURES THAT WE HAVE MADE. IN YEAR 1 MATHS WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING AT FACT FAMILIES AND IN ENGLISH WE HAVE BEEN CONTINUING WITH 'THE LION IN ME' BY LOOKING AT DIFFERENT ANIMALS AND WHAT THEY MIGHT SAY TO ANOTHER ANIMAL OF A DIFFERENT SIZE/TEMPERAMENT. IN RECEPTION WE HAVE BEEN EXPLORING SPACE THROUGH THE BOOK 'LOOK UP' AND THE CHILDREN HAVE BEEN EXCITED TO GO INSIDE OUR CLASS SPACESHIP AND DISCOVER SOME OF THE OTHER PLANETS FOR THE FIRST TIME.



WE WERE EXCITED TO PERFORM OUR ASSEMBLY FOR 'SAFER INTERNET DAY' AND THE CHILDREN DID SO WELL STANDING UP IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL TO TALK ABOUT HOW TO KEEP SAFE ONLINE.

# Year 1 & 2

The children in Mars class have been learning about different materials and their properties in science this half-term. This week they were set a science investigation where they had to pull, push, stretch and twist their own curly wurly to make it the longest in the class! Did you know that the Guinness World Record is 4.2m? This science investigation took some super team working skills and the children had to use their resilience as it would have been easy to give up when things got tough. However, they did an amazing job and loved changing the shape of their curly wurly.



# YEAR 3 & 4

This week, Saturn visited Coombe Valley Nature Reserve to conduct a local living environment survey. The children had found lots of different invertebrates living things which they have been learning about this term.



# YEAR 5

Year 5 enjoyed their Viking Workshop experience this week. They played traditional viking games, made foil brooches, learnt about Thor's famous fishing trip and finally got to play with weaponry. All in all - a great day and the children thoroughly enjoyed it!



# YEAR 6

Year 6 have enjoyed making and evaluating their final product for their cooking unit in Design Technology. The class made samosas and each group designed different fillings. Fillings included pulled pork, sweetcorn and paprika, chicken, broccoli and pepper and lamb potato and peas.



# DISCIPLE OF THE WEEK

	03.02.25	10.02.25
<b>Value</b>	Love	Humility
Stars	Zayne	Bobby
Moons	Wilma	Emily
Mars	Scarlett	Theo
Saturn	Raffy	Silas
Neptune	Marylou	Ava
Supernova	Billie Jo	Ada

# STAR OF THE WEEK

	03.02.25	10.02.25
Stars	Ava	Chloe
Moons	Rowan	Henry
Mars	Noah	Nate
Saturn	Di-anne	Eva
Neptune	Flynn	Caitlyn
Supernova	Seb	Theo W





# Diary Dates

		<b>14th March</b>	<b>5 - 7:15pm</b> St Patrick's school disco
<b>17th February</b>	Half Term Holiday	<b>17th March</b>	<b>10 - 11am</b> KS2 to Mass for St Patrick's Day Parents evening
<b>24th February</b>	INSET Day (No Pupils)	<b>20th March</b>	<b>9:30-11:30am</b> Y1/2 Mass. St Ignatius, Shaldon <b>1:30 - 2:30pm</b> Whole school classical concert
<b>25th February</b>	NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly	<b>21st March</b>	Red Nose Day for Comic Relief
<b>26th February</b>	<b>11am - 2:30pm</b> Fr Albert supporting KS2 classes with knowledge of sacraments	<b>25th March</b>	<b>4:30 - 5:30pm</b> Rotary Quiz
<b>27th February</b>	<b>9am - 12pm</b> "animals2usouthwest" - Animal encounter (Science) Nursery, EYFS and KS1 <b>3:15 - 5:15pm</b> KS2 Girls Football Tournament @ TCS	<b>28th March</b>	<b>9am - 3pm</b> National Skipping Day Mothers' day gift shop
<b>4th March</b>	<b>11:45am - 1:45pm</b> DSSP Year 3 & 4 Handball Tournament <b>2.30pm</b> Rudolph Run Assembly	<b>31st March</b>	Y6 residential to Barton Hall
<b>5th March</b>	<b>2:30 - 3:30pm</b> Ash Wednesday liturgy	<b>8th May</b>	<b>10- 11am</b> Year 3/4 Striking & Fielding Festival at TCS
<b>6th March</b>	World Book Day <b>2:30 - 3pm</b> Story time with an adult of your choice	<b>22nd May</b>	<b>9:30 - 11:30am</b> Moons, Y1s and Y6 to Mass St Ignatius Shaldon
<b>10th March</b>	Start of British Science Week	<b>3rd April</b>	<b>10 - 11:30am</b> Year 3 & 4 Football Festival @ TCS
<b>11th March</b>	<b>10:30 - 11:30am</b> Year 5 & 6 Handball Tournament	<b>4th April</b>	Friends' "Break the rules" day End of Spring Term
<b>13th March</b>	<b>10am</b> Year 5 and 6 Table Tennis Festival at TCS <b>1 - 3pm</b> Mars Class Welly Walk to Nature Reserve - Science	<b>22nd April</b>	Beginning of Summer Term



## S2 Request for Absence Forms

A reminder to complete an S2 form (available from the school office) for any planned absences from school, including holidays. These should be given in to the office with as much notice as possible.

Please be aware that we do not authorise any absences on the first or last day of a half term unless medical evidence or evidence of an exceptional circumstance is provided. Furthermore, we will not authorise a 5<sup>th</sup> day of absence if only 4 have been requested.

For your information, due to the change in legislation, if you do not request an absence for an exceptional circumstance in advance, it cannot be authorised retrospectively.

Thanks

Steph

Attendance and Welfare Officer

3rd - 14th February	
Moons	94.52%
Mars	97.67%
Saturn	97.33%
Neptune	96.94%
Supernova	97.41%

Well done to Mars!



Teignmouth Town Council and Mayor Mayor Cllr Williams and Teignmouth Town Council warmly invites our children to take part in a special contest celebrating the International Day of Happiness, which falls on Thursday, 20th March.

The children are encouraged to unleash their creativity by drawing a picture that represents what makes them happy. The artwork should be submitted to Bitton House or emailed to [enquiries@teignmouth-devon.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@teignmouth-devon.gov.uk) and the deadline for submission is Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> March. To ensure data protection, children can write their names on the back of their drawings and when they announce the winners, we will use only their first names.

Mayor Cllr Williams will personally judge the entries and winners will be announced on the day of the event.

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winners will not only receive a prize, but we will proudly showcase their artwork on our website and social media platforms.

# News from the Friends

## Upcoming Events

JAN  
**21**

Bag 2 School Collection

JAN  
**22**

Cake Sale - Year 3/4

FEB  
**14**

Non uniform - Wear what you love ❤️  
Valentine Doughnuts to pre order

MAR  
**5**

Cake Sale - Year 1/2

MAR  
**14**

St.Patrick's Day Disco

MAR  
**28**

Mothers Day Gift Shop

MAR  
**29**

Easter Event - pm

APR  
**4**

Break the rules

Further details to follow on all events

Friends of OLSP

## CAKE SALE

Wednesday 5th March  
3:15pm

We are asking for cake donations  
from class 1/2 please.

Please remember we are  
a nut free school.



COME AND JOIN US FOR A  
FUN AND SPECTACULAR

## Saint patrick's Day Disco

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH  
IN THE SCHOOL HALL.  
KS1 5-6PM  
KS2 6:15-715PM

TICKETS £3.00 TO INCLUDE DISCO  
ENTRY, UNLIMITED SQUASH AND ST  
PATRICK'S DAY WRISTBAND

TUCK SHOP, FACE PAINTING, GLOW IN  
THE DARK TATTOOS PRICES FROM 50P

FEBRUARY  
HALF-TERM



# PREMIER HOLIDAY CAMPS



INSPIRING  
ACTIVITY



SCAN HERE FOR  
MORE INFORMATION

or visit [premier-education.com/holiday-camps](https://premier-education.com/holiday-camps)



Based on over 20,000 reviews

## YOUR NEAREST MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP

**Venue:** Our Lady and St Patrick's RC Primary School, TQ14 9DT

**Dates:** Monday 17th - Friday 21st February 2025

**Times:** 09:00 - 15:30

**Price:** From £20.02

**Ages:** From 5-12

**Additional info:** 'February Frosted Fun' - Sports, Games and Crafts.

### PLEASE BRING

A packed lunch  
Plenty of water  
Suitable clothing  
Loads of energy!

Mix it up this half-term with our multi-activity holiday camps!

These camps are a perfect blend of activities for all ages, combining different sports with a variety of team games.

Every day is different, with a mix of fun activities that children may not have tried before – from roller skating to fencing, lacrosse to cheer.

**Book now** for a half-term full of fun!

### CAMPS ARE BETTER WITH FRIENDS!



**TREAT YOUR FRIENDS  
TO 20% OFF...AND GET  
20% OFF TOO!**

\*Ts&Cs apply. Refer a Friend discount on new bookings only.



Based on over 20,000 reviews



# Happy Builders LEGO® FEST

come and play with LEGO® &  
enjoy a drink & bite to eat.

**Saturday 15th February**

**10 am - 3pm**

**Monday 17th February**

**10am - 12noon**

*Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
Adults must be accompanied by a child.*

**Teignmouth Hub**

10 Somerset Place Teignmouth



www.lighthousechurch.uk



Do you have children or grandchildren who are aged 5-11 years old? Looking for something to do with them? During February half term Saturday 15th & Monday 17th, we are hosting a LEGO - FEST event. A great opportunity to bring youngsters along to build a variety of LEGO sets or make their own creations. The cafe will be serving tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes & snacks throughout the day. Spread the word.

Best wishes

Teignmouth Hub

Registered Charity No. 1204255

- Football Club Safeguarding awareness for parents and carers from England Football – Andrew Hall 02/12/2024

<https://learn.Englandfootball.com/courses/safeguarding/safeguarding-awareness-for-parents-and-carers>

Free course for parents 30 min. Certificate at the end

Purely for information to share with parents.



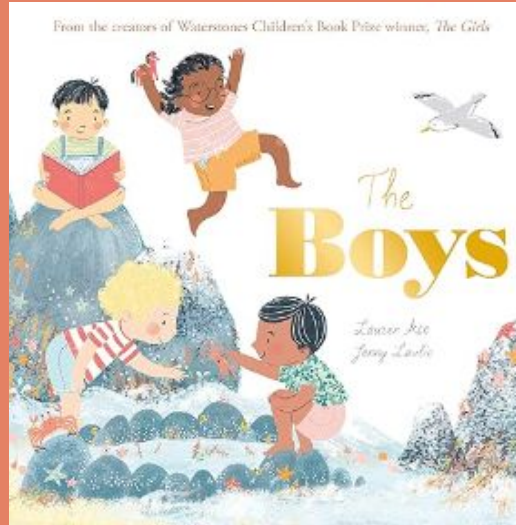
"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall."- Roald Dahl

## THIS NEWSLETTER WE RECOMMEND



### The Girls by Lauren Ace

A simple but gorgeous picture book about four little girls who play in an apple tree and the women they grow into. Clear, direct and warm, it's a celebration of kindness and scraped knees. Four little girls meet under an apple tree and form a bond that grows as they share secrets, dreams, worries and schemes. This tale charts the girls' lives through ups and downs and laughter and tears. Find out how their friendship flourishes as the years pass by and the girls become women.



### The Boys by Lauren Ace

The boys had been friends for as long as they could remember and a little while before that. They were like brothers. Follow the adventures of Tam, Rey, Nattie and Bobby - four boys who share a friendship that will last a lifetime. From playing on the beach as babies to navigating the journey from childhood to adulthood, this picture book explores the importance of male friendships. Emotive storytelling by Lauren Ace gently presents themes of individuality, grief, togetherness and feelings.

This is the perfect book for young readers who are facing big changes, and opens up discussions about school-life and the future.

We are proud to share that our school is a partner with Bedz4Kidz, a wonderful charity dedicated to ensuring every child has a comfortable place to sleep. Have you ever paused to think about where or how your child sleeps each night? If you feel your family could benefit from support with bed frames, mattresses, or bedding items, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel Ripley our Family Support Worker in confidence. We will make the referral on your behalf.





Drum Lessons  
Now offered  
at school.

For more info contact Ben at:  
devondrumschool@gmail.com  
Tel:  
07966-488481



## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This school is proud to be a

# Music Mark School

In recognition of a commitment to  
providing a high-quality music education  
for all children and young people

2024 - 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Whyte".

Bridget Whyte  
CEO of Music Mark

The UK Association for Music Education - Music Mark | [www.musicmark.org.uk](http://www.musicmark.org.uk)



Supported by:



Find out more:



THIS IS NOT  
A REHEARSAL 

Music Mark's campaign  
on sustainability in  
music education

# Guitar Lessons

Individual and group  
lessons now being  
offered in school  
with Mr Hopkins

To sign up or  
for more  
information  
contact Mr  
Hopkins on  
07979 148929  
or  
shopkins2112@  
gmail.com



## School Website Free App

Parents and Carers have access to a free app, linking you to our School Website. If you download the app, you will receive a notification every time information is added or updated on our website. This is a very useful tool that we are hoping as many Parents and Carers will make use of as possible. Please use the qr code below to access the download. Or search for “eSchools Lite” in the **App Store**

(**Apple**) or **Google Play (Android)**



### Free behaviour support resources for schools and families

Have you heard of **My Family Coach**? It's an incredible free platform for schools and families for help and support with all areas of behaviour, school and family life.

The platform includes **over 50 hours of free support content** from the experienced team here at Team Teach. There's **articles, podcasts, videos, ebooks and quarterly online parent classes** that you and the families you support can attend and watch on-demand as well.

The resources and support cover a huge variety of topics and we're always adding more: Relationships, Communication, Mental wellbeing, Friendships, Bullying, Calming down, School life, Healthy living, At risk behaviour, Screen time.

And for this time of year, families might find articles on **understanding behaviour, managing changes to routines, how to enjoy a family Christmas, using family support for childcare in the holidays, supporting your child through the holidays** or **why self care isn't selfish** helpful.

It's all available 24/7 and completely free! To access the platform as a parent or a school, simply visit the **My Family Coach website** and create an account.

# Are you missing out?

More money for your school!



Nutritious meal every day!



Access to free holiday clubs!



More teachers, trips, and activities!



Check your eligibility today for Free School Meals

[https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE)



## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at OLSP is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection: Miss Wathen, or Deputies: Mrs Blatchford or Mrs Emmerton on 01626 773905 Our named governor for child protection is Mrs Lorraine Coulter

### WELFARE

Our Family Support Worker is Rachel Ripley. Please let us know if you would like her to contact you for ANY support. Everyone needs a Rachel in their lives!



### ATTENDANCE

*Hi, my name is Steph, I'm the Attendance and Welfare Officer here at OLSP. I monitor attendance regularly to ensure that, where possible, every child is in school on time every day. If you have any concerns around your child's attendance, please leave a message with the office and I will contact you.*



## CPOMS and Operation encompass

At OLSP we use CPOMs as our system for recording information that we consider to be safeguarding information. As a parent you are entitled to see this information and may request to do so.

Further information about the programme can be found [here](#) -

<https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy-statement/>

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.