

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



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Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way



Newsletter: 7th March 2025

Head Teacher: Mrs Cathy Blatchford

HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

The half term saw us starting with a visit that the children will be talking about for a long time. KS1 and the nursery were enthralled by “animals2usouthwest” - animal encounters. The children were buzzing and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

On Tuesday we were visited by Rowcroft Hospice who wanted to thank us for all the money raised as part of our Rudolph Run. They carried out a really engaging assembly for the children to find out where their money goes and what a valuable charity they are. I personally will be taking part in ‘The Big Tackle’ in a couple of weeks time to raise both money and awareness in memory of my own mum. Please let me know if you would like to sponsor me.

A special thank you to Father Albert and Deacon Anthony for joining our Ash Wednesday liturgy. It was a beautiful celebration for a very important time of the year.

We had great fun yesterday with a fair few Wally’s in attendance. They were pretty easy to spot! The children looked fabulous and took part in a range of activities to remind us how important it is to read. As part of the day we were able to listen to a wide range of authors telling us all about their favourite places to read and their favourite books. It helped us to think about what our favourites are too. We finished the day with all adults across the school carrying out a storytime where the children were able to choose which book they wanted to hear. It was lovely to see our little ones sat cosied up with our older ones, immersed in a book of their choice.

Finally we have sent out communications for our upcoming parent evenings. Do remember to book an appointment as soon as possible to get the time that suits you best. I know the children are keen to share all of the learning they have done so far and the teachers will be able to discuss what will help make your child's second half of the year even more successful.

Have a lovely weekend
Mrs Cathy Blatchford, Head Teacher

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Ash Wednesday

This week we have celebrated Ash Wednesday together as a school community. On this special day, Catholics gather to receive ashes on their foreheads to mark the beginning of Lent. Thank you to Father Albert and Deacon Anthony for performing this beautiful service for us. Well done also to all of the children for behaving and listening so well throughout.



KS2 GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 27th February, some girls from Year 5 & 6 participated in an all girls football tournament on the 4G astro at TCS. All of the girls were fantastic and should be incredibly proud of themselves. The girls had never played football together before and managed to secure 2 wins, 2 draws and 3 losses. The girls were a real credit to the school. Well done ladies!



SPRING 2 CLUBS:

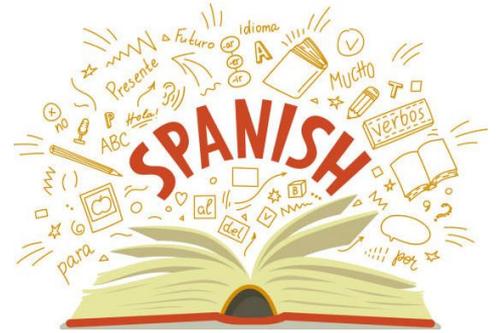
These are the clubs that are running during the second half of the Spring term.

Please copy and paste the google form link below to sign your child up.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc5PLwvP4IEaGUEPqMnLL2pOmoLAuuER-CvIrM5-XrZ4i8irQ/viewform?usp=pp_url



- Football Club Tuesdays 3.15 - 4.45pm (Years 4, 5 and 6 only. Waiting List)
- Spanish with Dani Wednesdays 3.15 - 4pm
- Maths Sats Booster class with Mrs Blatchford and Mrs O'Sullivan Wednesdays 3.15pm - 4.15pm (Year 6 only)
- Sports Club with Mr Stamp (KS1 pupils only) Wednesdays 3:15pm-4:15pm
- Story writing club with Miss Wathen Thursdays 3:15pm - 4pm (KS2 pupils only)
- Premier Sport - Handball Fridays 3:15 - 4:30pm



NURSERY

We have had a few exciting weeks, we had a an animal encounter where we got to hold and see a variety of wild animals which the children loved. We also enjoyed trying pancakes and learning about Lent and of course celebrating world book day!



REC & YEAR 1

We have had a lovely time in the last couple of weeks, with a visit from some furry friends and a celebration of books for World Book Day!



Year 1 & 2

The children in Mars class had some interesting visitors in school this week! They met Millie the millipede, Skippy the frog, Alexis the snake and Faye the Polecat.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the children. They learnt all about each animal and the habitat that they live in.

They also got to touch all of the animals - they are braver than me!



YEAR 3 & 4

Saturn class had the pleasure of welcoming Father Albert into the classroom to talk to the children about sacraments.

As a class, we have been looking at sacraments which is followed across Christianity. Father Albert spoke to the children specifically about 'Sacraments of the sick' as well as teaching the children about confession and forgiveness. The children listened beautifully and asked many questions about the topic of learning.



YEAR 5

The class had the wonderful opportunity to welcome Father Albert into our classroom for a discussion about sacraments.

Father Albert spoke to the children in detail about the 'Sacrament of the Sick'. The children also got the chance to ask some more general questions, which they really enjoyed listening to. A lovely visit to support our learning of the sacraments. Thank you Fr Albert!

YEAR 6

Year 6 were also joined by Fr Albert and benefited from his first hand experience of the Sacraments.

It was a little while ago, but we also wanted to share with you some of our great photos of the football tournament just before half term, where the children behaved impeccably at TCS. A well done to them all.



DISCIPLE OF THE WEEK

	25.02.25	03.03.25
Value	Hope	Fortitude
Stars	Arthur	Alfie
Moons	Mae	Gypsy-Leigh
Mars	Issac	Arthur
Saturn	Raffy	Robert
Neptune	Taylor	Ossie
Supernova	Archie B	Theo W

STAR OF THE WEEK

	25.02.25	03.03.25
Stars	Mia S	Emerson
Moons	Elliott	Billy
Mars	Poppy	Ellie
Saturn	Paddy	Izzy
Neptune	Marylou	Joey
Supernova	Zach	Patrick



Diary Dates



10th March	Start of British Science Week	22nd May	9:30 - 11:30am Moons, Y1s and Y6 to Mass St Ignatius Shaldon
11th March	11:45am - 1:45pm Years 3&4 Handball Tournament	3rd April	10 - 11:30am Year 3 & 4 Football Festival @ TCS
12th March	1:30 - 2:30pm Sewing in class 1/2	4th April	Friends' "Break the rules" day End of Spring Term
13th March	10am Year 5 and 6 Table Tennis Festival at TCS 1 - 3pm Mars Class Welly Walk to Nature Reserve - Science	22nd April	Beginning of Summer Term Earth Day
14th March	5 - 7:15pm St Patrick's school disco 11:30am - 1pm Chaplains visit to parish rooms for lenten lunch	5th May	May Day Bank Holiday
17th March	10 - 11am KS2 to Mass for St Patrick's Day Parents evening	12th May	SATS week
20th March	9:30-11:30am Y1/2 Mass. St Ignatius, Shaldon 1:30 - 2:30pm Whole school classical concert	26th May	Half Term Holiday
25th March	4:30 - 5:30pm Rotary Quiz	2nd June	INSET Day (No Pupils)
26th March	9am Rocksteady assembly and workshops	5th June	Environment Day
28th March	9am - 3pm National Skipping Day 10am -12pm Mothers' day gift shop	12th June	10 - 11.30am Year 5 & 6 TriGolf Festival at TCS
29th March	(Saturday) 1pm - 3pm Easter crafts workshop with the Friends	13th June	Jubilee of sport non-uniform day
31st March	Y6 residential to Barton Hall	20th June	4pm - 8pm School Barbecue
8th May	10- 11am Year 3/4 Striking & Fielding Festival at TCS		

News from the Friends



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

The poster features a central orange banner with a green border decorated with shamrocks and a leprechaun at the top. It includes details for a Saint Patrick's Day Disco on Friday 14th March in the school hall, with tickets at £3.00 including disco entry, squash, and a wristband. Additional activities like a tuck shop, face painting, and glow-in-the-dark tattoos are also mentioned.

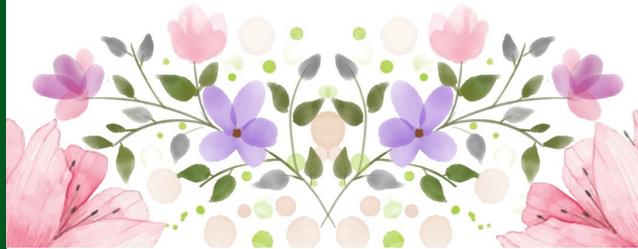
Mother's Day Gift Shop

Friday 28th March

Each gift is lovingly packaged in school so you don't
have to!

£2.50 per gift

orders to be placed by Tuesday 18th March via PTA
events



THE FRIENDS OF OLSP ARE HOSTING AN

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

TICKETS £5.00 PER CHILD AND INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- CRAFT ACTIVITIES
- SPRINGTIME SELFIES
- FACE PAINTING
- EASTER EGG HUNT
- GAMES & COMPETITIONS
- MEET & GREET WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

ALSO AVAILABLE FOR ADDITIONAL COST:
REFRESHMENTS, TOMBOLA AND EASTER RAFFLE

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2025
1.00-3.00

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE VIA PTA EVENTS

The poster has a blue background with colorful bunting at the top and white clouds. It features two cute pink bunnies on either side of three large, decorated Easter eggs (yellow, blue, and pink). The event details are presented in a clear, festive layout.

Bedz4kidz

Cosy Nights, Brighter Days

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025

At Bedz4Kidz, we believe that every child deserves a **quality sleep environment**, which is why we donate a bedtime story with every bed we deliver. A good night's sleep helps children feel happier, healthier, and more focused at school. We've put together this list of bedtime stories—some you may already know and others that might be new to you—all chosen to help your child relax before bed. Because every child deserves **Cosy Nights, Brighter Days**.

KS1 bedtime story list



1. The Flying Bath
Julia Donaldson & David Roberts



6. Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?
Martin Waddell



2. Peace at Last
Jill Murphy



7. We're Going to find the Monster
Malorie Blackman & Dapo Adeola



3. Omar, The Bees and Me
Helen Mortimer



8. Dream Big, Little One
Vashti Harrison



4. The Huddle
Sean Julian



9. The Cat and the Rat and the Hat
Em Lynas and Matt Hunt



5. Lila and the Secret of Rain
David Conway



10. Octopus Shocktopus
Peter Bentley & Steve Lenton

THIS
NEWSLETTER
WE
RECOMMEND

KS2 bedtime story list



1. The Boy at the Back of the Class
Onjali Q. Raúf



6. The Girl Who Stole an Elephant
Nizrana Farook



2. Asha & the Spirit Bird
Jasbinder Bilan



7. The Island at the End of Everything
Kiran Millwood Hargrave



3. Charlotte's Web
E.B White



8. The Night Bus Hero
Onjali Q. Raúf



4. When life gives you Mangoes
Kereen Getten



9. The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
Kate DiCamillo



5. The Secret Garden
Frances Hodgson Burnett



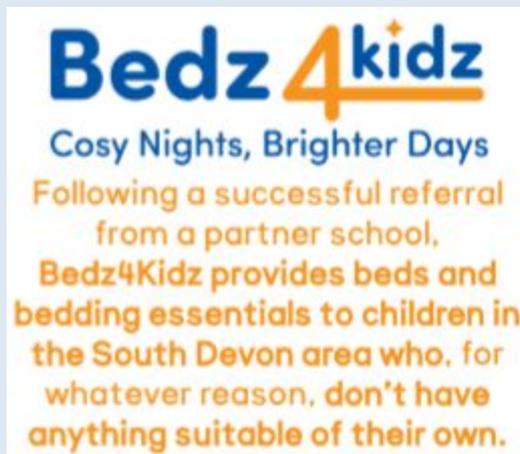
10. The Boy Who Grew Dragons
Andy Shepherd

Choose a story that is calming and positive before bedtime. Books with gentle rhythms, warm endings, and relaxing themes help children feel safe, happy, and ready to sleep. Please remember to contact your schools pastoral team should you need support with bed frames, mattresses or bedding to ensure your child get's a quality night's sleep.

We are a partner school of Bedz4Kidz. If you feel your family could benefit from support with bed frames, mattresses, or bedding items, please don't hesitate to contact our pastoral team.

Happy Reading & Sweet Dreams!

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

Bridget Whyte
CEO of Music Mark

The UK Association for Music Education - Music Mark | 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](mailto: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



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.