

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



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Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way



Newsletter: 21st March 2025

Head Teacher: Mrs Cathy Blatchford



HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

It has been lovely to see many of our parents in school this week and catching you up on how your children are getting on. I hope you found the meetings informative and useful.

You will have noticed that we have had the community police at our school gates a few times over the past couple of weeks. This is because we have had a few reports regarding unsafe practices. Safeguarding our children is of extreme importance to us and our goal is to ensure that all children get to school and back home safely each day. Here are a few essential reminders and updates for safe driving practices around the school grounds.

Seatbelts and Booster Seats: Know the Law

It's crucial to follow the law when it comes to seatbelt and booster seat requirements. According to the **law**, all children must be properly secured in a car seat, booster seat, or seatbelt, depending on their age, weight, and height:

- **Children under the age of 2** (or under 30 pounds) must be in a rear-facing car seat.
- **Children from 2 to 4 years old** (and under 40 pounds) should be in a forward-facing car seat.
- **Children ages 4 to 8** (and under 4'9" tall) should be in a booster seat.
- **Children 8 years or older** (or over 4'9" tall) must use a seatbelt.

Please make sure that your child is in the appropriate restraint before leaving for school. These laws are designed to protect our children in the event of an accident and are non-negotiable.

No U-Turns in the School Drive

To help with traffic flow and minimize risks, we ask that parents **do not make U-turns** in the school's driveway. U-turns create unnecessary hazards, especially with pedestrians and other vehicles in close proximity.

Use the designated path to enter the school grounds

There is never a situation when children should be walked up the hill via the car park. We have a designated path that keeps everyone safe and we ask that all use it. Please note this also applies when children are attending after school clubs, including Footlights Dance Academy on a Monday evening.

Your Cooperation Makes a Difference

We ask for your continued cooperation in these efforts. Together, we can make the school's arrival and dismissal times as safe and efficient as possible for our children. Please take a moment to review these important safety tips with your child to help them understand the importance of safety in and around the car.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and let's work together to keep our school community safe!

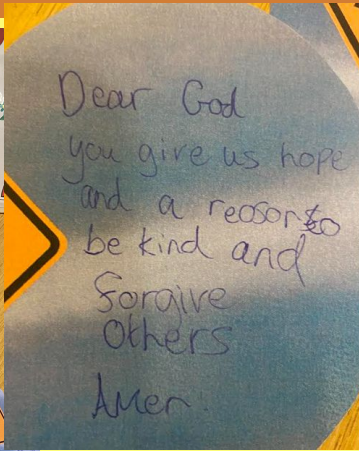
Mrs Cathy Blatchford,
Head Teacher

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL



"Dear God
I hope
that all
people are
helping"

"Dear God
You give us
hope that
all bad in
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will
disappear"



An intercession for the second Sunday of Lent from CAFOD

"We pray for our brothers and sisters, who do not have enough food: that together with them we may seek to build a world transformed, which reflects the true glory of God. Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer."

Family Fast Day is on the 14th March. If you'd like to give to this years Lenten appeal via an online donation please visit cafod.org.uk

The Chaplains will be encouraging the school to be Pilgrims of Hope and are going to look at the 6 themes Pope Francis has asked us all to consider-

Care for creation

Food poverty

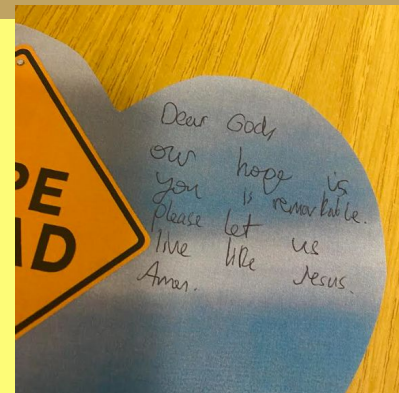
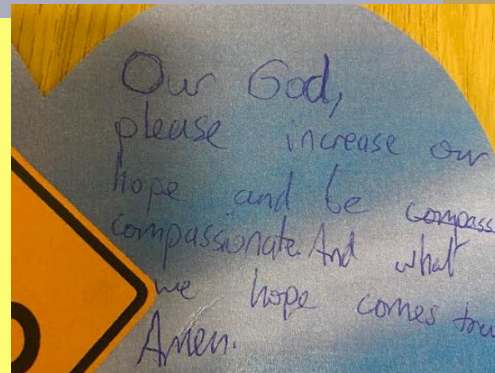
Modern slavery

Managing debt

Forgiveness

Rest and worship

They have written prayers for hope to get things started. Here are some examples of their beautiful words.



THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL CONTINUED.....

Lentern Lunch

Last Thursday, our wonderful Chaplains served members of the Parish a delicious lunch for Lent. They demonstrated excellent skills in politeness and helpfulness and had time to enjoy a picnic in the sunshine.



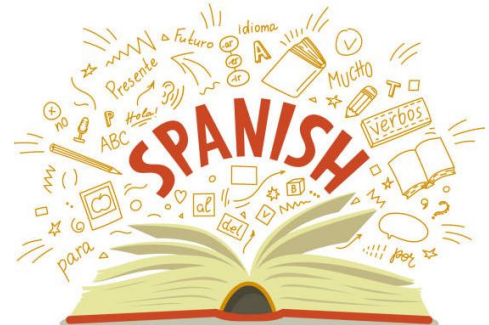
St Patrick's Day

On Monday this week, KS2 children walked to OLSP Church to celebrate the feast day of our Patron Saint Patrick. Everyone behaved beautifully and it was lovely to share this Mass with members of the Parish. Members of Green team wore their house colour with pride too!



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

- 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



CONGRATULATIONS RUNE!



We would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to our very own Rune from Moons class. Rune has won the “Mayor’s Recognition Award” for the category “Youth Hero”. This is following challenges that Rune has faced medically; always exceeding expectations and being able to remain “the cheeriest person in the room” despite such adversity. We are all so proud of Rune’s bravery and resilience and his general ability to face challenges without complaint! Rune attended an award ceremony at Bitton House and was supported by his family and two of our staff members. It was a lovely evening and Rune was thoroughly pleased with his certificate. Well done Rune!



NURSERY

In Nursery we have been looking at Spring and painting picture of the daffodils we planted back in the winter they are now starting to bloom and look beautiful in our outside area. We have also been making the most of the lovely weather by being outside lots.



REC & YEAR 1

We are learning about Red Nose Day today. Yesterday we were visited by two musicians and enjoyed the music they performed.

For PE we have learnt about dance and we performed to each other our 'underwater' dances.

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

In Maths we have been learning about capacity and in Literacy we have been creating ideas for meals that a dinosaur might like! We have also been noticing the changes in the weather and thinking about what is happening in the environment for Spring!



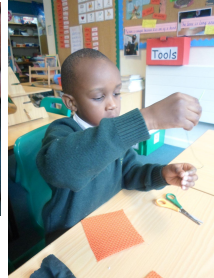
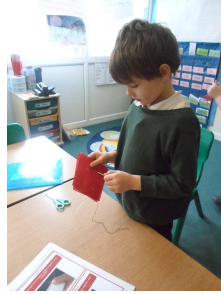
Year 1 & 2

The children in Mars class have been learning how to sew!

In DT they have been learning how they can join two fabrics together. Firstly, they used glue to make a finger puppet. They then began to learn how to sew in preparation for making their own hand puppet.

Threading the needle and tying the knot was the hardest part, but we showed amazing resilience and kept on trying.

Thank you to our amazing volunteer helpers!



YEAR 3 & 4

Saturn class experimented with different items covering a speaker to see if the sound was either absorbed or reflected. The children loved to try out different items covering the speaker such as a speaker, a tea-towel and a plastic box. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to 'Crazy frog' at the same time.



YEAR 5

In science, the children enjoyed exploring how the earth rotates around the sun throughout the day.

They went out every hour to draw a new shadow. Then measured the distance between each shadow drawing.



Year 6 love a bit of drama! They enjoyed looking at the story of Easter from Peter's perspective and acting out his denial of ever knowing Jesus.



YEAR 6



We had a brilliant morning at TCS practicing our table tennis skills.

DISCIPLE OF THE WEEK

	10.03.25	17.03.25
Value	Charity	Courage
Stars	Alfie	Billy
Moons	Lumen	Klara
Mars	Noah	Nela
Saturn	Max C	Poppy
Neptune	Iris	Beloved
Supernova	Daniel	Theo F



STAR OF THE WEEK

	10.03.25	17.03.25
Stars	Henry	Sam
Moons	Ivy	Great
Mars	Florence	Tyler
Saturn	Hal	Arlo G
Neptune	Stephanie	Oscar
Supernova	Elsa	Ada



Diary Dates

		12th May	SATS week
25th March	4:30 - 5:30pm Rotary Quiz 9am - 3pm Stations of the cross in the hall	26th May	Half Term Holiday
26th March	9am Rocksteady assembly and workshops	2nd June	INSET Day (No Pupils)
28th March	9am - 3pm National Skipping Day 10am - 12pm Mothers' day gift shop	5th June	Environment Day
29th March	(Saturday) 1pm - 3pm Easter crafts workshop with the Friends	12th June	10 - 11.30am Year 5 & 6 TriGolf Festival at TCS
31st March	Y6 residential to Barton Hall	13th June	Jubilee of sport non-uniform day
8th May	10- 11am Year 3/4 Striking & Fielding Festival at TCS	20th June	4pm - 8pm School Barbecue
22nd May	9:30 - 11:30am Moons, Y1s and Y6 to Mass St Ignatius Shaldon	25th June	10am Sports Day
1st April	1 - 2pm Hot chocolate with the Head Teacher NO FOOTBALL CLUB TODAY	26th June	9am Reception and KS1 Class visit to Stover
2nd April	2 - 3pm Dojo award afternoon Rec - Year 5	27th June	St Peter's and St Paul's Liturgy
3rd April	10 - 11:30am Year 3 & 4 Football Festival @ TCS	2nd July	10am Back-up Sports Day date
4th April	Friends' "Break the rules" day End of Spring Term	22nd July	9am Leavers' Mass
22nd April	Beginning of Summer Term Earth Day	23rd July	Last Day of Summer Term
5th May	May Day Bank Holiday		



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 5th 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

10th - 21st March 2025	
Moons	91.46%
Mars	96%
Saturn	97.07%
Neptune	96.33%
Supernova	98.44%

Well done to Supernova!

News from the Friends

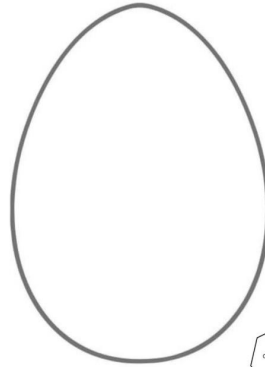
COMPETITION

Design an Easter Egg

Entry sheets can be collected from
the school office, printed at home
from our Facebook page or class
WhatsApp groups

Closing date for entries
Friday 28th March

Friends of OLSP
Decorate an Easter Egg



Please
attach
donation to
enter
(voluntary)

Name: _____

Class: _____

All entries must be received by Friday 28th March

THE FRIENDS OF OLSP ARE HOSTING AN

EASTER EGGSTRAVGANZA

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

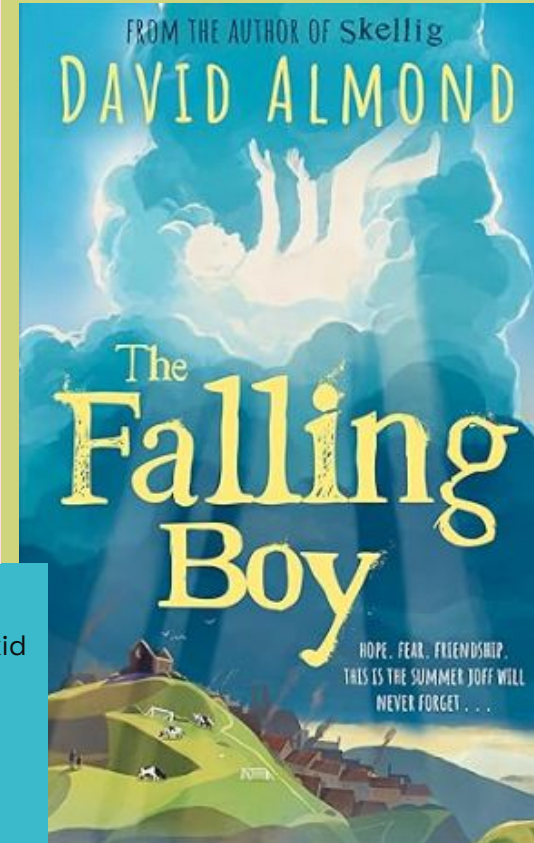
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE VIA PTA EVENTS

"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

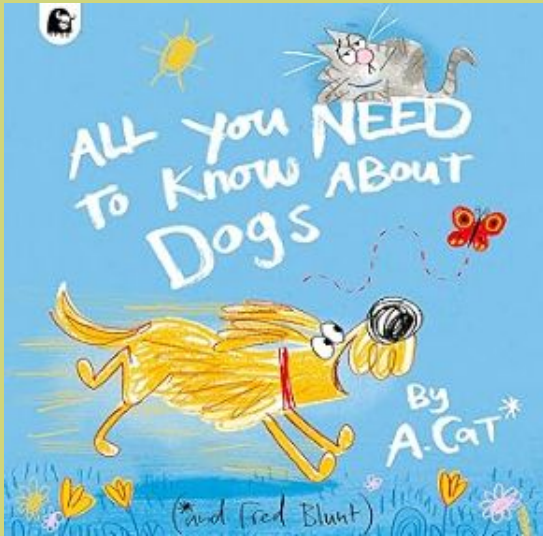
All you need to know about dogs by A.Cat (and Fred Blunt)

Dogs are STUPID. The End. Oh. You're still here? Fine, I'll prove it. A fantastically funny, spectacularly silly picture book about everything wrong with dogs, as told by a very stubborn cat. Are you a cat person or a dog person? Well, this cat thinks cats are the best and dogs are the absolute worst. I mean, dogs stink, they slobber, they enjoy rolling around in cow poo.. need I say more? And why are there so many types of dog, too? Hairy... scary... spotty... Scottie... the list goes on! But when this confident cat gets a very scary surprise, guess who comes to the rescue? Will our cat **finally accept that he might have been wrong about dogs all along**? This picture book will have kids and grown-ups alike laughing out loud. And whether you're a cat or dog lover, the **heart-warming ending** is sure to put a smile on your face.



The Falling Boy by David Almond

Nothing is the same for Joff this summer. His dad is ill, his mum is working, there's a new kid in town. He can't wait to escape each day and explore with his dog Jet. But there's one place he's not allowed to explore. Above the town sits the Chapel of Doom, ancient and crumbling, with its warning signs and the legend of the Falling Boy. And when Joff's adventures take him beyond the boundaries he discovers something unexpected, something truly magical



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/) -

<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.

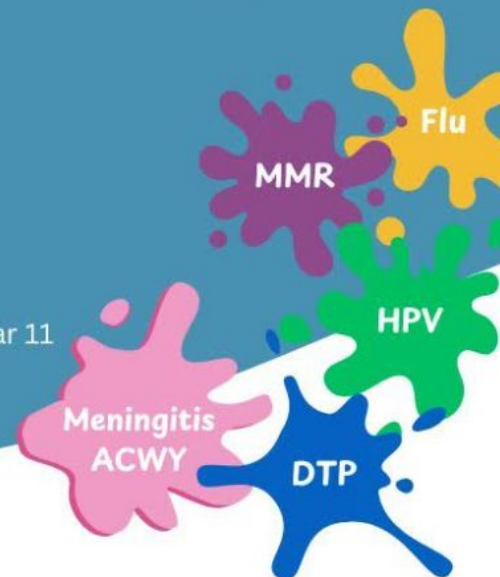
Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by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

School aged vaccinations

Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- ✓ **Flu** - reception - year 11
- ✓ **MMR** - catch up
- ✓ **HPV** - year 8 - year 11
- ✓ **Meningitis ACWY** - year 9 - year 11
- ✓ **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)** - year 9 - year 11

 **CORNWALL & DEVON**
School Age Immunisation Service
Delivered by Kernow Health CIC



Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

For more information, scan the QR code, or call us to speak with a member of our team



Call us on **01392 342678**



kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net