



# Newsletter

No. 11. 1st March 2024

Website: [www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk](http://www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01271 345164

In Our Lady's Catholic Primary School we learn about God and try to follow his footsteps by showing care and respect for one another.

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy Friday to you all.

The North Devon Hospice would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that donated/contributed or supported the Cake/Coffee Sale before the half term break. A massive £505.49 was raised which was the highest amount achieved by any school in North Devon.

Last Thursday we said goodbye to Mrs Gubb. Mrs Gubb had worked at Our Lady's since 1996 and has had a wonderful impact on the lives of so many children, including some of you who may be reading this today! We wish her all the best for her retirement and wish her safe travels as she jets off to Australia to visit family.

We are fully embracing the season of Lent, during this time we focus our efforts on prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Thank you for supporting us with the Travelling Crosses which are being sent home, they continue to work their way through the classes. We have also had CAFOD visit every class this week to run a workshop, which the children thoroughly enjoyed.

It is also World Book Day on Thursday the 7th of March. Where children can come to school wearing their pyjamas and bring their favourite book. In addition, we are running a Big Dreams Writing Competition, where children are asked to write their own story using the theme Big Dreams. Stories need to be brought into school on Thursday 7th March to be judged and prizes could be won.

A reminder that it is Parents Evening next week, Tuesday 5th and Wednesday 6th. Your child will be sent home with an allocated time slot. If you're unsure of your time or you can't attend the meeting please contact your child's class teacher via dojo.

Many thanks for your continued support. Take care,  
**Mr Meech, Executive Headteacher and Miss Wilby,  
Head of School**

## Whole School Attendance

Currently our Whole School Attendance is **93.5%** compared to the National Average of **93.1%**.  
Everyday of school counts.

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

## Headteacher's Awards

Well done to the following children who have recently received Headteacher's awards:-



### Heron Class

Emily  
Amelia  
Jackson  
Nathan  
Misty  
Alice  
Arthur  
Kara-Lou  
Ruairidh

### Puffin

Freddie P  
Grace  
  
**Owl Class**  
Faith  
Mia K  
Lilly P

### Kingfisher Class

Lexi x2  
Melvin  
Rosa

## Heart of Gold Awards

Well done to all the children who have achieved our Heart of Gold Award for displaying our school rules:



Jesvin  
Lucy  
Cruze  
Bethany  
Suki-Blue  
Douglas  
Louis

**We are so proud of you.**

## Barn-a-b's at Our Lady's

Thank you so much for all your donations of puddle suits and spare clothes.

We are looking forward to wearing our pyjamas for world book day on 7th March. As part of the world book day celebration we are going to the theatre on Wednesday 6th March. We can only take Wednesday afternoon children, but there will be plenty more opportunities as the children get older.

Our grass has been cut which has made the site look much better- but it is still very swampy in areas. We have started planting the seeds that were donated by the PTFA.. Watch out in the main newsletter for details of the PFTA events in March.

We will be inviting you in again soon to chat with your child's key person and find out more about their progress and development. More details soon.

It's been lovely to see new people at the toddler group, please invite family and friends, all are welcome.

We hope the chickenpox sufferers are feeling better. Once all the spots have crusted over- and your child feels well enough, they can return.

**Cathy Jeffery, Nursery Manager and the Barn a B's Team**



Staying Healthy Illness Feelings Getting Help

A fun and interactive resource for learning about health

Games Activities Quizzes

[www.healthforkids.co.uk](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk)

**Psst! Parents!**  
As well as enjoying the content with your child, you can get advice on supporting their health and wellbeing.

[www.healthforkids.co.uk/Devon](http://www.healthforkids.co.uk/Devon)

Follow us: [Facebook](#) Health for Kids: Growups [Instagram](#) healthforkidsgrowups [Twitter](#) @HealthforKids

### Parenting Smart

Place 2 Be offer a wide range of short 5 minute videos on over 50 topics with practical tips to support children's well being and behaviour. Take a look at some of these via the link below:-

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>



Loving God,

Help us to work together to share what we have so that everyone has what they need.

Help us to build a better world where each of us can become the best person we can be.

Amen



**The next newsletter will go home on: Friday 15th March 2024**

Our Lady's School takes incidents of bullying, including on-line safety seriously. For further information the school's policy is available on our website or please see your child's class teacher if you have any concerns. [www.safer.internet.org.uk](http://www.safer.internet.org.uk)



## CAFOD Workshops

On Monday 26th February we welcomed our CAFOD representative Mrs Trott for some Lenten workshops. We had a fabulous time learning all about our friends all over the world and how we could help and support each other. The children made some wonderful posters as a way of remembering their lenten pledge.

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

Mrs Cohen



## Travelling Cross

Once again the children are thrilled to be taking home The Travelling Cross from their class each evening to share prayer time with their family. They are enjoying thinking about how they are going to grow during lent with their family and writing their names and a promise on a cross. They bring a cross back into the class and this get shared on the RE displays.

## World Book Day—Thursday 7th March

Take a look at the official World Book Day video :-

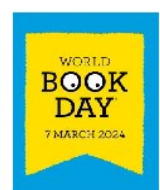
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfpnuyQbLfM>

## World Book Day 2024

Wear your favourite pyjamas and bring your favourite book!



Date: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND THE PTFA WOULD LIKE TO INVITE EVERYONE  
TO A FAMILY BINGO NIGHT:



On

Friday 22nd of March 2024

In the school hall.

Doors open 6pm, eyes down 6.30pm

Refreshments available

There will also be a raffle with fantastic prizes

Entrance fee is £1.50 per adult. Children are free

Game Books to be bought on the night. £1.00 per book (10 games per book)

Please fill in the form below and return to the school office in a sealed envelope with your  
name and child's class on. Places are on a 'first come, first served' basis.

*A night of fun for all the family.*

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To the School Office : PTFA BINGO AND RAFFLE on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Name:.....

Please reserve me .....adults.....children places for the Bingo. I enclose £.....for the entrance  
fee.

Money raised will be going towards supporting the schools Forest Garden which is this  
year's PTFA school project.

## Information from UK Health Security Agency and Devon County Council

### Stop the spread of coughs, colds and other infections this winter

As is usual during winter months, UKHSA are seeing increasing levels of winter illnesses including flu, COVID-19 and other illnesses like whooping cough and measles in some areas outside the South West.

We would like to share these simple steps everyone can take to reduce infections spreading in the community – helping children make a healthy start to the year and minimising the impact of illness on attendance.

**What infections are circulating in the South West?** At this time of year, other types of illnesses that circulate are respiratory infections (colds, covid, flu) and whooping cough, scarlet fever and chickenpox, as cases usually peak in late winter and early spring.

Symptoms of respiratory infections can include a runny nose, high temperature, cough and sore throat. For most children, these illnesses will not be serious, they soon recover. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/respiratory-tract-infection/>

Symptoms of scarlet fever include sore throat, fever, swollen neck glands, a bumpy rash on the tummy, flushed cheeks and 'strawberry tongue'. If you suspect your child has scarlet fever, contact your local GP; and if diagnosed stay away from nursery or school for 24 hours after the first dose of antibiotics. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Chickenpox is highly contagious, with the most common symptom being an itchy, spotty rash. If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

Whooping cough starts with cold like symptoms and progresses to bouts of coughing which may make a 'whoop' sound (a gasp for breath) . <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/>

### Measles

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/22/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/>

There are currently increased levels of measles in the West Midlands affecting the school age population, with some children needing hospitalisation. Although we are currently seeing low numbers of measles cases, because measles is highly infectious, we are likely to see cases of measles in the South West in the coming months. We therefore urge parents to get their children up to date with the MMR vaccination. This is the best form of defence against measles and has the added advantage of also preventing rubella and mumps. Check your child's red book and make an appointment with your GP surgery to catch up on missed doses.

**What can I do to prevent infections?** Teach good hygiene habits Encouraging good hand-washing habits is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread. Regularly wash hands in soap and warm water for 20 seconds. Using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes, binning it and then washing hands will help prevent infection from spreading. If your child has diarrhoea and/or vomiting, they should stay off school or nursery for at least 48 hours after their symptoms clear up – this will help stop the spread of stomach bugs. Get vaccinated Vaccination offers the best protection against many infections, including flu, measles and whooping cough. You can take a look at the childhood vaccination schedule to make sure your child is up to date with all their vaccinations. Some useful resources • NHS UK provides easily accessible guidance for parents to help manage winter illness at home. • Further back to school advice can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-reminds-parents-of-back-to-school-advice> • e-bug teaches children and young people about infections and infection prevention Home ([e-bug.eu](http://e-bug.eu)) • A parent friendly website where you can learn about vaccines Home | Vaccine Knowledge Project ([ox.ac.uk](http://ox.ac.uk))



## Dates

<b>Tue 5th Mar</b>	<b>Parents Evening</b>
Wed 6th Mar	Parents Evening
<b>Wed 6th Mar</b>	<b>EYFS Trip to Theatre</b>
Thu 7th Mar	World Book Day
<b>Wed 6th Mar</b>	<b>Owl Swimming</b>
Tue 12th Mar	Puffin Class visit to Barnstaple Museum
<b>Wed 13th Mar</b>	<b>Owl Swimming</b>
Wed 20th Mar	Owl Swimming
<b>Fri 22nd Mar</b>	<b>PTFA Bingo Night</b>
Mon 25th Mar	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt
<b>Wed 27th Mar</b>	<b>Owl Swimming (last one)</b>
Thu 28th Mar	Last day of Spring Term
<b>Fri 29th Mar</b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
Mon 15th Apr	School Returns for Summer Term

THANK YOU

## North Devon Hospice 'Pitch in a Pound'

Thank you to everyone that helped to support our Pitch in a Pound cake sale and coffee morning for the North Devon Hospice. We raised an incredible £505.49. The North Devon Hospice were overwhelmed with your generosity. We even made it into the North Devon Gazette! Thank you.



## PUNCTUALITY MATTERS!

Being frequently late for school adds up to lost learning:

- Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

19 days lost a year through being late means 90% attendance.



missed minutes =  
missed learning  
= missed opportunities!

**EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS**

Devon  
County Council

Each academic school year is 38 weeks (Sept-July) or 190 days. The following chart shows how missed days affects overall attendance.



## Free Safeguarding and Wellbeing Resources for Parents and Guardians

Our on line staff e-learning system has released some useful resources for parents on-

- Tackling Sleep Problems in Children and Teens
- Supporting Your Child Through School Anxiety
- Improving School Attendance
- Child Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Parental Mental Health & Wellbeing

New resources will be added in the coming weeks and months.

We are sure you will find these resources both informative and supportive.

<https://ssslearning.co.uk/parentsandguardians>





# **OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

**3.15-4.15**

**YEARS: RECEPTION, 1, 2**

**DATE**

**TUESDAY 27TH FEBRUARY  
TUESDAY 26TH MARCH**

## **HOW TO BOOK**

- VISIT OUR WEBSITE: PRIMARY-SPORTS.CO.UK
- CLICK ON THE TAB 'BOOK NOW'
- SCROLL TO 'OUR LADYS PRIMARY SCHOOL- FOOTBALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB KS1'

**SESSION ONLY £3.50**

**ONLY 20 SPACES  
AVAILABLE**

More info 07531530131

Follow our social media Facebook- Primary Sports and Education North Devon





# **OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL FOOTBALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

**3.15-4.15**

**YEARS 3,4,5,6.**

**DATE**

**MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY  
MONDAY 25TH MARCH**

## **HOW TO BOOK**

- VISIT OUR WEBSITE: PRIMARY-SPORTS.CO.UK
- CLICK ON THE TAB 'BOOK NOW'
- SCROLL TO 'OUR LADYS PRIMARY SCHOOL- FOOTBALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB KS2'

**SESSION ONLY £3.50**

**ONLY 20 SPACES  
AVAILABLE**

More info 07531530131

Follow our social media Facebook- Primary Sports and Education North Devon



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of YouTube which offers a colourful and easy-to-navigate environment that's suitable for young children. This app is easily accessible and available for mobile devices, which can be downloaded without needing the YouTube app on the device. Despite YouTube Kids seeming like a very child-friendly platform, it has raised concerns over its advertising and inappropriate content seeping through the curation process.

## SETTING UP

**1** Download the YouTube Kids app and connect your own YouTube channel.

**2** Input your child's name, age and birth month.

**3** Select the types of videos you want to include for your child based on their age and your own personal choice.

**4** If you decide to approve the content yourself, the app will present you with sample videos for you to accept and reject.

**5** Once you've made your choice, you're ready to use the app!

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### REMOVE ADVERTISEMENTS

Like YouTube, adverts on YouTube Kids are also quite pervasive. If you decide you don't want your child being exposed to adverts, you can subscribe to YouTube Premium which will remove adverts on YouTube Kids. However, it's worth remembering that this doesn't block adverts that content creators decide to make as part of their content, and children are still able to access channels from branded fast food or toy companies.

### BE WARY OF UNSUITABLE CONTENT

YouTube Kids has a far lower chance of showing unsuitable material than YouTube, but there are still reports of malicious users deliberately uploading inappropriate content. It's important that your child feels able to talk to you if they were ever exposed to upsetting content in the future. It's also safest to report inappropriate videos: tap the three dots in the corner of the video and select 'Report'.

### DISABLE SEARCH OPTION

YouTube Kids allows you to disable the search feature, which you may find useful in preventing your child from unintentionally finding age-inappropriate content. Doing this will also give you more control over what your child is watching. It's also worth noting that setting an age limit will ensure that your child is only exposed to recommended videos that are deemed suitable for their age group.

### RESTRICT VIEWING TIME

The YouTube Kids app provides you with the option of setting up a timer to monitor and limit your child's daily usage, which automatically stops the video when it reaches the set time. It may be best to make use of this feature to prevent screen addiction - which can potentially lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the following day.

### MONITOR WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has also made it possible for parents and carers to see what their children are watching on the app by clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen. It may also be worth having a look at what your child has recently watched by clicking on their history tab. The red bar on the video shows how much of the video has been watched.

### WATCH TOGETHER

It's important to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for your child. This may require spending time finding channels and content that you and your child will enjoy and benefit from. Try introducing family sessions where you can share the most enjoyable videos that you and your child have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you and your child many new things to talk about with each other.

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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