



Newsletter

No. 7. 13th December 2024

Website: www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk

Facebook: Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Barnstaple

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

We hope you are all well and enjoying the festive season.

This week, the school had a visit from Cafod who spoke to the children about all the amazing work they do. Our school Chaplaincy Team also had a special visit from the Caritas Diocese of Plymouth who wanted to acknowledge the Food Pantry and the faith in action work they do alongside Mrs Cohen. They were awarded a unique certificate and we are extremely proud of them.

On Tuesday afternoon, Year 4 and Year 5 visited Petroc College. They enjoyed visiting the drama department and watching a production of Dick Whittington.

As we move through the season of Advent, we continue to prepare for the birth of Jesus and the celebration of Christmas. On Wednesday, the whole school visited church for an Advent Mass. The children's respectful behaviour was a privilege to watch.

It continues to be a busy time in school; children are working hard in their lessons and preparing for forthcoming events. A list of these events are outlined in today's newsletter.

The Nativity celebration will be held at St Mary's Church on Thursday the 19th of December, doors open at 10.15am (starting at 10.30am) and we welcome as many family members as possible to join us.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Rob Meech, Executive Headteacher and Lorna Wilby, Head of School

Our Lady's and Barn-a-b's staff wish you all a peaceful and healthy Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Autumn Term Dates

Tue 17th Dec	Choir Visit to Silverhill Lodge
Wed 18th Dec	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Thu 19th Dec	Nativity 10.30 am (doors open at 10.15am) at St Mary's church
Fri 20th Dec	Children's Chocolate Raffle
Fri 20th Dec	Last day of term
Mon 6th Jan	Children Return to School
Wed 15th Jan	Primary School place for Sept 2025 school places to be in by today.
Thu 23rd Jan	Language Development Workshop for Parents to attend at Our Lady's 9-10.30am

**The next newsletter will go home on:
Friday 17th January 2025**

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



We've had an excellent term. The garden is taking shape, thanks to our school community support, but also due to the hard work and dedication of our staff team. I am always amazed and grateful how the staff and children work and play together.

Please come and join us at 2.30 on either Monday or Tuesday for our songs and nativity retelling (this is recorded and we will upload on tapestry if you cannot come in.)

We wish you a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th January.

Cathy, Jane, Liia, Lisa and Tracey



Language development and your child

A free, informal workshop for parents and carers

Why is language so important?

How does it usually develop?

What to look out for

How to help

The session will aim to raise awareness and understanding of speech, language and communication needs for school aged children and consider the possible impact on a child's social and emotional wellbeing.

We welcome you to share ideas about what works for you and have a chance to discuss and learn from other parents/carers.

Come and join the SEND Advisory Teachers for Communication and Interaction and your school SENCO for a coffee and chat:

Our Lady's Primary School Thursday 23rd January, 2025
9-10.30am

ALL WELCOME!

Thank you PTFA

Thank you to our wonderful PTFA who have worked hard to provide some lovely activities for the children and have raised money for school funds during the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to all the families that have supported our events and bought raffle tickets.



We look forward to hearing about what you have planned for Spring term.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Mass 24th December /Christmas Day/St Stephen's Day

St Mary's 7.30pm Christmas Eve/ 9.30am Christmas Day / 10am 26th December
St Joseph's South Molton 11.15am Christmas Day



First Holy Communion 2025

If you would like your child to make his/ her First Holy Communion next year, please pick up a form from the Narthex, or email the parish office for more information. barnstaple@prcdtr.org.uk

[Home](http://barnstapleparish.com) | [Barnstaple RC Parish \(barnstaplecatholicchurch.com\)](http://Barnstaple RC Parish (barnstaplecatholicchurch.com))

Festival of Christmas Trees

Embrace the magic of the season at The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Mary Magdalene's Festival of Christmas Trees! - 12th to 16th December. (The church in the High Street, Barnstaple) Join us for a week filled with festive delights:

Dec 19th: Mayor's Lesons and Carols 7pm

Dec 22nd: Sunday Mass with Live Nativity 10.30am

Dec 24th: Christingle Service 6pm and midnight mass 11.30pm

Dec 25th: Christmas Day Service 10.30am

Immerse yourself in the warmth of community, the joy of carols, and the spirit of giving. Don't miss the chance to experience the festive wonder of our beautifully adorned Christmas trees one last time.



KIDS SILENT DISCO



FRI 20 DECEMBER 6.00- 7.30PM

[Kids Silent Disco](#): Friday, 20 December at 6pm at Barnstaple Pannier Market – A fun-filled event where children can dance to their heart's content with music, laughter, and festive vibes!

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmas gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

Dot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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