



Newsletter

No. 5. 15th November 2024

Website: www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk

Facebook: Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Barnstaple

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

We hope this newsletter finds you well.

We are writing to inform you of a transition that will take place at the end of this term. It's with sadness that we share the news that one of our dedicated Year 3 teachers, Mrs Tucker, will be leaving our school at the end of this term. Mrs Tucker has been an integral part of our school community, contributing her time, passion, and expertise to the academic and personal growth of our children. We want to express our deep gratitude for the time and energy she has invested in our school and wish her well in her future endeavours.

We understand that transitions like these can be challenging, and we are committed to ensuring a smooth and positive experience for our Year 3 children. Plans are already underway to employ a new teacher who will continue to uphold the high standards of education and nurture that our school is known for. We will share these plans with you in due course.

We have had a busy start to the half-term. It was lovely to attend the Barnstaple Town Remembrance Service with the Kingfisher Class last week. They represented the school beautifully, showing reverence and respect for the occasion.

This week we have focused on raising the children's awareness of Anti-Bullying Week, and thank you for your support with odd sock day on Tuesday. Upper Key Stage Two were also fortunate enough to join in the BAE Systems, RAF & Royal Navy Education Programme Roadshow 2024. The children thoroughly enjoyed this.

Congratulations to Heron Class who last week were the class with the highest attendance rate with 99.1%. This class earned extra dojo points - well done!

Thank you to everyone who helped to support Operation Christmas Child, which has been a great success this year. As we approach Christmas, please make a note of our upcoming school Christmas events detailed within the Newsletter.

As the term progresses, we will continue to post on our new school facebook page. This is a page to celebrate what is going on at OLCS and to share wider community information with you. We will still use normal communication channels (Parent Mail and Class Dojo) to share information with you so don't worry if you don't use Facebook. For those who do, please give us a like!

We look forward to seeing many of you tonight (Friday 15th) at the PTFA Bingo event.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. God Bless.

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

On this week of remembrance we pray for all the departed, especially family members and friends.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen



Primary Admissions 2025/26

Was your child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022?

Applications can be made from 15th November for a primary school place for September 2025. You must apply for your child's school place by 15th January 2025 for primary school admissions in September 2025.

You can apply for a school place online at: www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

Or

If you cannot access the school admissions website you can get more information by calling the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019 or by emailing :-primaryschooladmissions@devon.gov.uk.

If you need help applying online or haven't got internet access at home please contact the school, we would be more than happy to help you. You can view your offer on-line from 16th April 2025.

Please ensure that the 2025 Supplementary Form for this school is returned to the school office by 15th January 2025. This form is available from the school office, Barn a B's Pre-School or via the school's website:- www.ourlady's.devon.sch.uk under 'Key Documents' and in the 'Admissions' section.

Without this form your child may be lower in the priorities for admission and risk not getting a place at Our Lady's School.

Headteacher's Awards

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

We are so proud of you



Owl	Eagle	Kingfisher
PJ	Ava	Willow
Reva x2	Amelia	Bradley x2
Sunnie	Tommy	Eliza
Oliver D	Faith	Indy
Ava	Brooke x2	Edith
Toby N	Mia P	Juan
	Bella-Mae	Violet-Rose x2

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much to everyone that supported our Operation Christmas Child appeal. We have lots of wonderful shoeboxes to donate to Grosvenor Church.



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



Unfortunately headlice are back! Please be vigilant, comb any out with a fine combe and conditioner, and repeat every day until there are no more eggs.

We are going to make a fire circle out of large rocks and old bricks. If you have any old bricks or rocks that you don't want, please could we have them. We can collect. Also any old planks that you don't need.

We are learning about winter and cold weather this term, and getting ready for our nativity and all things christmassy.

Please check your funding codes are up to date.

On November 15th you should receive an email asking you to apply for your child's place in school for September 2025. This is for children who will be 4 at some point between 1 September 2024 and August 31st 2025. Please let us, or the office know if you have any questions.

We have attached some information on Oral Health, toothbrushing and healthy snacks that you may find useful. **Cathy, Jane, Liia, Lisa and Tracey**

**The next newsletter will go home on:
Friday 29th November 2024**

'Lest we Forget' - Remembrance Day Children's Service at Rock Park



Loving God, we come today to remember.

We come together with our individual and collective memories.

We remember that you are with us, indeed that you have called us here.

We come with memories that are painful and difficult, we come with debates and politics that are complex, we come with our limited understanding of wars past and present.

Loving God, we come to remember those who have died in wars, and we come to give thanks for the gift of life.

Gather us as we remember.

Amen.

School Website

Please keep a check on the school website as this will be updated regularly. The class pages will be updated with class newsletters, photos, areas of topic etc. You will find details on all our key documents and policies together with the current school dinner menu.

Please visit:- www.ourlady.devon.sch.uk

Heart of Gold Awards

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



Arthur	Olivia S	Eedhan
Bradley	Leila R	Rose
Freddie P	Marley	Beatrice
Brooke	Bryan	Ezra
	Kahlil	Melvin

PE Days

When your child has PE they should be coming into school in their PE kits and remaining in them all day.

Robin	Tuesday and Thursday
Heron	Thursday and Friday
Puffin	Tuesday and Wednesday
Owl	Wednesday and Friday
Eagle	Monday and Thursday
Kingfisher	Monday and Friday
Swallow	Monday and Tuesday

PE lessons will continue to be held outside even in the rain so please ensure that your child has a waterproof coat, they may even need gloves and hats as we progress into the winter months.

As the weather gets colder, if you have not done so already, you can purchase, for £15, a PE Hoodie with the school logo for children to wear for PE. Alternatively children can wear their school jumper for PE. Please order these via the school office.

Don't forget that Eagle class will be attending swimming lessons every Wednesday afternoon from Wednesday 6th November until Wednesday 11th December. Eagle class can wear their PE kits on a Wednesday during this time.

Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

As always, our wonderful PTFA are thinking and planning ahead. Some dates for your diaries already are:-

Bingo Evening—15th November
Xmas Disco—6th December
Chocolate Raffle—20th December



We are looking for donations of chocolate for the Christmas Children's Chocolate Raffle. Please drop any donations off to the school office.

Please look out in the school newsletter or Parentpay for future PTFA planned events for the Autumn and Spring term.

Our PTFA meet on a Thursday once a month. Please contact the school office if you are willing to help and would like to attend the next meeting and put any ideas forward.

Absence guidance for Parents/Carers

What YOU must do:

Telephone the school (ideally before 8.30am) **each day** of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.



Thank you for supporting the poppy appeal. We sold out of all the British Legion Supplies given to us.



Thank you to everyone that supported Children in Need today. We hope to have raised a good amount of money to support this worthwhile charity.

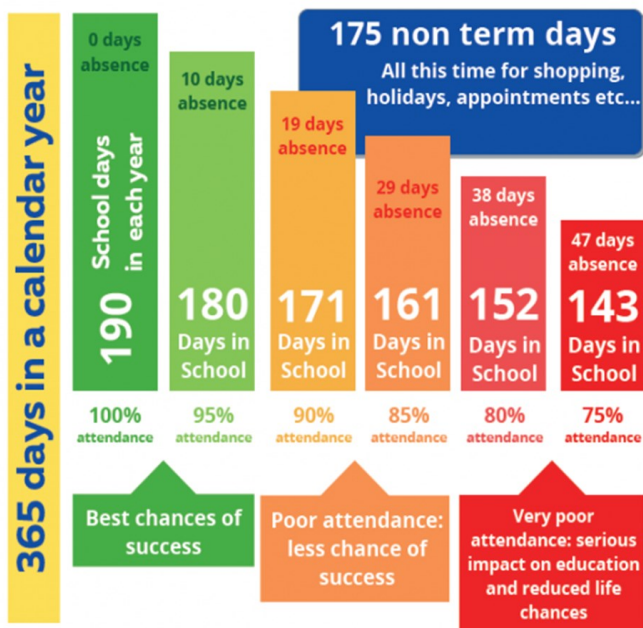
Newsletter for parents of children with Autism

Lots of useful information from the National Autistic Society can be found via this link:-



https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/leisure/christmas/tips?utm_source=The%20National%20Autistic%20Society&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=14731114_MKT_SB_AKHPProf_Newsletter%2007.11.2024&utm_content=Christmas%20tips%20button&Keywords=Christmas%20tips%20button&dm_i=YA3,8RQLM,RUIY7D,10GOP3,1

ABSENCE



Please don't let your child miss out on the education they deserve.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

Autumn Term Dates

Fri 15th Nov	PTFA Bingo Evening
Fri 15th Nov	Children in Need—wear something spotty £1
Wed 20th Nov	Swimming Y4
Wed 27th Nov	Swimming Y4
Wed 4th Dec	Swimming Y4
Fri 6th Dec	PTFA School Disco
Wed 11th Dec	Last Swimming Y4
Wed 13th Dec	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Fri 20th Dec	Children's Chocolate Raffle
Fri 20th Dec	Last day of term
Mon 6th Jan	Children Return to School

Current school attendance is 96.1% which is slightly above national average of 94.4%.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>



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