



Newsletter

No. 11. 14th March 2025

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

I am delighted to announce that Miss Wilby gave birth to baby Alfie last week! Mother and baby are both doing well. We can't wait to meet the newest member of our family!

It has been lovely to see children getting out of the classrooms and using the outdoor environment to support their learning. Work continues to develop our garden space so the children can use it to enhance their science and RE lessons. If you have a keen interest in gardening and feel you can offer some help then please do let us know.

We are excited to have many school trips coming up in the summer term. Due to the increase in transport costs, we are very mindful that we plan trips that are affordable for all of our school community, whilst giving our children exciting opportunities. If you have any concerns about the costs of your child's school trip then please do contact the office to discuss how we can help.

We are delighted that Mrs Naomi Schubert is joining the school later this month as our new Parent/Pupil Support Worker. Mrs Shubert will be supporting children through a variety of ways in school and will also be offering support to parents and carers. I am sure you will give her a warm welcome to our wonderful school.

This term we have introduced a new reading curriculum across the school called CUSP. The idea of this new curriculum is to increase children's opportunities to read books together in class and to inspire a love of reading.

Your child may have come home and mentioned the new books they have in class - if they haven't I encourage you to ask them about it.

We had a wonderful day celebrating World Book Day today. The children performed their class poems brilliantly in today's assembly and there was also a surprise performance from the staff!

Last Wednesday we celebrated Ash Wednesday together. Led by Father Peter, all children and staff received a cross of ashes on their forehead. As we move through Lent, we shall be providing children with further opportunities to pray and give their support to others including our BIG LENT WALK!

The children will also be learning about Ramadan this month and the importance of this period for the Muslim members of our school community. This will culminate with the celebration of Eid Al Fitr. More information on this will follow in due course.

We expect to announce the date for sports day very soon. We know that many of our parents/carers take time off work to attend so we hope that announcing the date earlier will be helpful in this regard.

Rob Meech, Executive Headteacher

Swimming for Owl Class

Owl class will continue to go swimming every Wednesday afternoon until the 2nd April. Children will need to be in their PE kits every Wednesday and bring their Swimming kit in a bag. Please ensure your child has a coat as they will be walking to and from the Leisure Centre.

Headteacher's Awards

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



Kingfisher

George
Freya
Ava
Harvey

Heart of Gold Awards

Well done to all the children who have achieved our Heart of Gold Award for displaying our school rules. We are so proud of you:-



Sophia	Suki-Blue	Lottie
Winnie	Olivia T	Darcie
Tommy	Eilidh	Arthur
Everley	Zachary	Elijah
Eliza	Fletcher	Nuvi
Eli	Liam	Grace
Willow-Ivy	Lily N	Faith

Year 6 Residential

The year 6 residential to the fabulous Barton Hall from 18th to 21st May is fast approaching us. Please could you ensure that all payments for the residential are up to date. If you have any concerns regarding payment, please see the office. Thank you.

Dinner Money and Extended Day Fees

Please could we ask you to check your parent pay accounts as there appears to be a lot of dinner money and Breakfast and After School Club fees outstanding. If you require a link code to sign up for Parentpay, please see Mrs Welland in the school office.

All children from Year 3 and above need to pay for their school dinners at £2.81 per meal, unless you are entitled to means tested free school meals. It is important that all dinner money is received by the school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Whole School Attendance

Puffin class had the highest attendance this week with **98.7%**.

Whole school is **95.2%**

**EVERY
SCHOOL DAY
COUNTS**

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



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

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

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

190 DAYS 100%	183 DAYS 96%	179 DAYS 94%	175 DAYS 92%	More than 18 days absence less than 90%
Very best chance of success	Off to a flying start	Less chance of success	Harder to make progress	Persistent Absentee (Not fair on your child)

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



We are really excited to announce that Barn-a-b's are having a cooking morning, thanks to the wonderful support of the PTFA and all your contributions throughout the year for their fun activities.

We are getting full on many sessions, particularly in the mornings.

We will be digging over the beds in the garden in the next few weeks. If you have any extra plants, or cuttings that you wish to donate, we would be most grateful.

We will be closed on Thursday 1st May due to our room being used as a Polling Station. Apologies for any inconvenience this may give you.

Cathy, Jane, Liia, Lisa and Tracey

Trim Trail

Please could parents ensure that at pick up and drop off times the trim trail is not used. It is important that children are properly supervised on our school equipment and we want to ensure that everyone stays safe.

Next Newsletter will go home on Friday 28th March 2025



**This is My Son, the
Chosen One.
Listen to Him.**

Spring Term Dates

Weds 19th Mar	Owl Class Swimming
Weds 19th Mar	Parents Evening
Thu 20th Mar	Parents Evening
Fri 21st Mar	PTFA Cream Tea
Wed 26th Mar	Owl Class Swimming
Fri 28th Mar	Big Walk - CAFOD whole school
Wed 2nd Apr	Owl Class Swimming
Thu 3rd Apr	Y3 and Y4 Eden Project
Fri 4th Apr	Whole School Trip to the Cinema
Fri 4th Apr	Last day of Term
Tue 22nd Apr	Summer Term Starts
Wed 23rd Apr	RNLI Talk in Assembly
Thu 1st May	Polling Day—Barn A Bs Closed
Mon 5th May	Bank Holiday—School Closed

Netball Competition

Our fantastic Hawks and Falcons netball team competed in the Barnstaple primary schools Netball competition a few weeks ago. Both teams played some fantastic Netball and our Hawks team got through to the North Devon Netball Finals which were held at Park School last week. The children competed in the competition against 15 other primary schools across North Devon.

The first round of matches the children came across Caen, Bradworthy, Chulmleigh and Newport. They played some great Netball which ended up with the children winning two and losing two games. This resulted in us coming 3rd in our box where we had to then play in the 7th,8th and 9th play off's.

In this round the children took on Southmead and Ilfracombe Juniors. The matches were extremely close and the children drew on both matches. This resulted in the children coming 8th overall out of 15 primary schools!

We are extremely proud of these children, they showed great sportsmanship and determination on the day and they played some fantastic netball.



World Book Day and Book Swap Photos



Autism and Us Programme - Additional topic-based workshops

We will also be offering the following very popular themed or topic based workshops, which lead on from the Autism and Us programmes. These cover themes and topics that may be a priority area for you against your child's presenting needs.

Workshop topic Date and time

DiAS (Devon Information and Advice Service)
and PCFD (Parent Carer Forum Devon) Thursday 1 April: 10am – 12pm

Autism – Sensory processing and integration Tuesday 25 March 9.30am – 12pm

Autism – Managing stress and anxiety Thursday 20 March: 10am – 12pm

Apply direct by email to educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk. They will be delivered on line 'live' via the Microsoft TEAMS platform.

PTFA News

Thank you to everyone that supported the PTFA Events recently. The recent cake sale raise a fantastic £203.70 and the Disco an incredible £323 for school funds. This money will allow the school to provide resources and treats for the children. Please support our next event celebrating Mother's Day (see information below)-



The Our Lady's Catholic Primary School PTFA would like to invite you to celebrate Mother's Day by joining us for a Cream Tea on Friday 21st March 2025.

Parents will be invited to see their child's work in their classroom from 8:45-9:15 followed by a Cream Tea in the school hall.

The cost of the Cream Tea is £3 for a Scone with cream, jam and a hot drink.

All parents, guardians, carers, grandparents, aunts and uncles are all welcome to attend.

If you would like to order a cream tea, please make payment of £3 per cream tea by Wednesday 19th of March.

Please send this slip back with your child's class, your name/s, amount of cream tea's you would like, and correct money to your child's class teacher. Many thanks.

Childs class:

Names:

Our wonderful PTFA have also decided to treat the WHOLE SCHOOL to a visit to the cinema to see DOG MAN on April 4th 2025 during the school day. NO payment is necessary.

The PTFA would like to say a massive thank you to all parents/carers/friends for your contributions and continued support and are looking forward to seeing the delight on the children's faces at this event.

THANK YOU - We look forward to seeing you all at future events.

Please contact the school office if you would like to become involved in helping our lovely band of parents and staff that run our Parent, Teacher and Friends Association. They work tirelessly during the year to raise funds for school resources and treats and events for the children.

REQUEST FOR CONTACT

Devon Family HUBS

0-19
(25 WITH SEND)



Action for Children are supporting Devon Family Hubs. Family Hubs are a developing network of services and community groups that are working together to support families and their children to find opportunities that meet their needs.

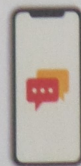
Please see our website for more details.

OUR SUPPORT:

 **Online Digital Chat**



 Devon Safeguarding Children Partnership



For more information
Devon Family HUBS website



Family HUBS Advice & Guidance Line -
Mon-Fri 10am to 4pm

0800 538 5458



in partnership with
Devon County Council

DEVON FAMILY HUBS



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



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