



Newsletter

No. 3. 21st October 2022

Website: www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk

Twitter: @OurLadys_School

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

What a busy and productive first half-term we have had. All the children have been working really hard and making excellent progress in their learning. It has been great to see some of our older children representing the school at the recent cross-country events, their athletic efforts and behaviour have been a credit to the school.

The children have enjoyed celebrating Black History Month, learning about the lives of significant black people and their impact on society. We encourage you to share their learning with them at home. Thank you for your support with the homework. The opportunity for the children to regularly practice their reading and general english and maths skills really benefits them in class.

Thank you to those of you who have signed up for parents evening. We shall be coordinating the appointment times after-half term and will share these with you on Wednesday 2nd November. If you have yet to sign up, please let your teacher know via dojo.

A reminder that the children return to school on Tuesday 1st November. We wish you all a restful and safe half-term and look forward to seeing you for what is bound to be a VERY BUSY half-term in the lead-up to Christmas!

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Kind regards

Mr Meech & Miss Wilby

Autumn Term Dates

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Fri 21st Oct | Last day of half term |
| Mon 25th Oct | Half Term Holiday |
| Mon 31st Oct | Non Pupil Day |
| Mon 31st Oct | Deadline for secondary school place |
| Tue 1st Nov | Pupils Return to School |
| Wed 2nd Nov | Swimming Kingfisher Class |
| Weds 9th Nov | 3.30-6.30pm Parents Evening |
| Thur 10th Nov | 3.30-6.30pm Parents Evening |
| Fr 11th Nov | School Council Applications Close |
| w/c 15th Nov | School Council Elections |
| Mon 15th Nov | Applications open for Primary Admissions for Sept 2023 |
| Fri 9th Dec | South Molton Brass Band visiting |
| Tues 13th Dec | Nativity Performance at Church |
| Weds 14th Dec | Christmas Dinner Day |
| Thurs 15th Dec | Advent Mass, 10am at Church |
| Thu 15th Dec | Last day of term |
| Wed 4th Jan | Pupils Return to School |

Any future dates will be shared via parentmail.

Parent/ Carer entry to school

To keep the children safe, please remember that entry to school by any adult should only be made via the school office, where you will be accompanied by a member of staff.

Adults should not come in through any other door unless expressly invited in by a member of staff. If you wish to speak with a member of staff, please request this via a dojo message or the school office. Thank you

Father God,
Come be with us today. Fill our hearts with joy. Fill our minds with learning. Fill our classrooms and homes with peace. Amen



Parent Autism Workshop Opportunities

The following topic-based workshops are available for parents/carers of children and young people who are currently on the Autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of children and young people who have received an autism diagnosis.

Topic based Workshops

Tuesday 1st Nov 10am-12noon

Communication (verbal-support strategies)

Friday 4th Nov 10am-12noon

Autism and Girls

Friday 18th Nov 10am-12noon

Demand avoidance + PDA

Friday 25th Nov 10am-12noon

Sensory processing and integration

Wednesday 7th Dec 10am-12noon

Managing stress and anxiety

Friday 9th Dec— 10am-12noon

Vulnerability and online safety

Tuesday 13th Dec 10am-12noon

Communication—pre/non verbal—support strategies

If you are interested in attending any of these free workshops, please apply direct by email to: educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk

Year 6 Parents

The deadline for applying for a secondary school place for your child is **31st October**. Apply at:

www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline

School Council

Children have been informed during assembly today that school council will be starting up after half term.

Each class (from Y2 to Y6) will appoint two school council members. These members will be chosen by the members of their class. If children would like to run as a candidate, they need to prepare a presentation/paper manifesto no longer than a minute (or 1 side of A4) as to why they'd be a good school council member for their class. The deadline for this is Friday 11th November.

Elections will take place during week commencing 14th November.

Stephen Shield Cross Country Event

On Friday 14th October we took 18 children from Years 3-6 to the Stephen Shield Cross Country Event in Torrington. This is a very big event with many schools taking part from across North Devon.

The course that the children had to run was very challenging as it was through muddy fields with lots of hills, however everyone put their best efforts into the race and worked extremely hard.

The children were a fantastic representation of the school and we are very proud of them!

Well done to all our fabulous runners that attended.

**The next newsletter will go home on:
Friday 11th November 2022**

Please visit the class pages on the school website for up to date termly information and parent newsletters.

Reminder that Monday 31st October is a non pupil day and school will be closed to all children. Children return to school and Barn A Bs on Tuesday 1st November.

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



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

We are really pleased to welcome Hannah Blackmore back after maternity leave. She will be with us for two days a week. Children and staff were thrilled to see her last week.

We hope everyone takes the opportunity to eliminate ALL headlice, from the whole family, so that we can come back nit and itch free.

We will be focusing on a night time theme when we return. With the nights drawing in after the clocks go back we will explore all the excitement that goes with darker nights, such as fireworks, stars, rockets, nocturnal animals. We will look at one of our favourite stories, "Peace at Last" with poor old Mr Bear, who has a terrible nights sleep.

Reading to your child is one of the most enjoyable and valuable things you can do. We would love to see your favourite stories on tapestry.

Cathy Jeffery
Pre-School Nursery Manager

Parents and the Community Governor

The increase in living costs has affected us all in different ways, Our Lady's Local CAST Board recognises that and we want to ensure parents have a point of contact to raise concerns (other than educational) , I am that contact.



My name is Ana and I am glad to have been assigned the role of parents and the community governor. Please feel free to get in touch if there are matters that are affecting you and your family and I will do my best to support you however I can.

With the Christmas period approaching, some of our situations can become even more trickier as the school closes for the holiday period. Any information shared will be treated with the strictest of confidentiality and only shared with others with your consent and on a " need to know basis".

Multi Skills Festival

Year 3 went to a multiskills festival at Pilton Community College recently and showed impeccable behaviour and sporting attitude. A great morning was had by all.

Headteacher's Awards

Very well done to the following children who have a been earned Headteacher's Awards over the last few weeks:-



| | |
|------------|----------|
| Mason B-T | Nellie P |
| Scarlett D | Oliver D |
| Rose D | Sunnie R |
| Olivia T | Elijah B |
| Leonor R | Anya C |
| Elenor G | Romany W |
| Grace H | Dylan Mi |
| Lenny S | Reva P-D |

We are very proud of you.

Scopay/Invoice Payments

Invoices have been sent out this week for monies due for Breakfast and After School Clubs and Pre-School fees. Please could these be settled via Scopay (ideally) or cash to the school office. Some of these are for small amounts that continue to be issued each month without being settled. To keep our administration costs down it is important that these are paid on time. Thank you for your co-operation.

Kingfisher Class Swimming

Kingfisher class will be the next class to go swimming. Sessions will start on Wednesday afternoons from the 2nd November and continue for 6 weeks up to and including Wednesday 7th December. These swimming lessons are heavily subsidised by the school but we would be grateful if you could make your contribution of £12 via SCOPAY. Please ensure that you child has their swimming kit, towel and goggles (if necessary) along with a warm coat. As they will be walking to and from Tarka Leisure Centre.

Primary Admissions 2023/24

Was your child born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019?

Applications can be made from 15th November for a primary school place for September 2023. You must apply for your child's school place by 15th January 2023 for primary school admissions in September 2023.

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 2023.

Please ensure that the 2023 Supplementary Form for this school is returned to the school office by 15th January 2023. This form is available from the school office, Barn a B's Pre-School or via the school's website:- www.ourladys.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.

Autism and Us Programme 2022

The programme is for parents and carers of Devon primary and secondary school children, pre or post-diagnosis. Access is for families of children and young people who are currently on the autism assessment pathway, in addition to families of children and young people who have received an autism diagnosis.

Is this course for me?

During and after a diagnosis, parents and carers can have many questions about autism and may feel isolated in managing their child's needs. Children's needs also change over time, and information and advice received when a child is younger may need to be updated to be relevant for the child or young person today.

Attending the Autism and Us Programme gives parents and carers an opportunity to develop their understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to managing and supporting presenting needs.

4 weekly 'live online' sessions (approximately 2 hours each) related to the following topics or themes:

Autism Overview - Tues 15 Nov: 10 am – 12 pm

Communication - Tues 22 Nov: 10 am – 12 pm

Understanding and supporting behaviour - Tues 29 Nov: 10 am – 12 pm

Sensory - Tues 6 Dec: 10 am – 12 pm

To secure a place on any of the above programmes, or to express your interest in forthcoming programmes, please send an email to educationlearnersupport@devon.gov.uk.

We will confirm your booking and provide you with a direct link to the event.

Events will be delivered online 'live' using the Microsoft Teams platform.



Early Help

Find out how to get you and your family the help you need

<https://www.dcfp.org.uk/early-help/>

Teaching Assistant Vacancy



We currently have a vacancy for a Teaching Assistant working 27.75 hours per week Monday to Friday during school hours.

Please see full details on our website:

http://www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk/website/teaching_assistant/625541

On this page you will also find a full job description, person Specification, application form and the other necessary recruitment monitoring forms.

If interested in applying for the role, please email your completed application form, along with the additional forms to Claire Silverlock on csilverlock@olcs.uk.

Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 31st October.

Business &
IP Centre
Devon

Libraries
Unlimited

LIBRARY
HSLIB



10AM - 3PM
BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

MAKERS MARKET

SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

THE ART OF
BUSINESS

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

REDDIT

R/FUNNY

R/TRENDING

AGE RATING

13+

R/MEME

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Reddit describes itself as a social news website where users connect and share stories, opinions and support; debate issues; ask questions; and chat to people with similar interests. Discussion topics are organised into communities (known as subreddits) that are created, run and populated by users, who remain anonymous throughout. Free speech is encouraged, and users – or ‘redditors’ – can vote posts ‘up’ or ‘down’ so they get more (or less) attention. Reddit is free to join, although signing up to Reddit Premium unlocks an advert-free version of the platform.

MINIMAL MODERATION

As sharing opinions on Reddit is easy (and anonymous), offensive or age-inappropriate content is frequently posted. Moderation by admins and bots does occur, but can't cover every community – so Reddit relies on users voluntarily moderating these spaces. Subreddits marked NSFW (‘not safe for work’) can contain anything from profanity to pornography, so are not suitable for under 18s.

HARASSMENT AND TROLLING

If someone on Reddit doesn't agree with your child's opinion, they may feel compelled to say so – in no uncertain terms. This could lead to a public bombardment of hurtful messages. Likewise, Reddit users are highly likely to encounter trolling (where someone posts a deliberately inflammatory comment to provoke a reaction) on the platform, which can be distressing.

FAKE NEWS

Absolutely anyone can post a story on Reddit, so sub-reddits are occasionally prone to bias, misinformation and opinions being repeated as if they are facts. Fake news articles often grab users' attention with catchy or controversial headlines, and Reddit is no exception. It's important that young people are able to identify fake news – and disregard it rather than sharing it.

GIFTING AND SPENDING

Users can gift awards to the authors of posts that they like (thereby encouraging their favourite redditors to keep contributing) by spending Reddit Coins. This virtual currency can be bought on demand (with real money) or received as part of the paid-for premium package. Users sending a gift can also leave an anonymous private message, a feature which has been abused by groomers.

'SUPPORTIVE' STRANGERS

By definition, Reddit users interact with strangers in public through their community – but also have the option to do so privately. Groomers could repeatedly up-vote a child's comments or respond encouragingly to their posts to win their trust. Once they've built a rapport, the predator then begins messaging the child in private to obtain personal details or try to lure them into meeting in person.

NEVER-ENDING NOTIFICATIONS

Reddit's default is for all notifications to be on. There are a total of 26 types of notification on the platform, ranging from chat messages and comments to updates and mentions of usernames. This would lead to a child's device being pinged almost constantly with alerts, frequently causing them to be distracted by incoming notifications rather than being present in the moment.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SORT THE SETTINGS

Reddit's user settings can help ensure that minors don't view adult material. Under the ‘Feed Settings’ tab, switch the Adult Content toggle to ‘off’, and enable Safe Browsing Mode (this blurs out any explicit images). Also in settings, you can turn off all unnecessary notifications, to prevent your child being distracted by every post or comment on Reddit, allowing them some tech-free time.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

It can often be difficult to tell if something online is real or fake – particularly for young people. It's important to encourage your child to double-check with reputable sources if what they've read is genuine. Remind them to consider what motives might be in the message – and to watch out for scams. Chatting about this regularly helps to develop critical thinking skills and good online habits.

RISE ABOVE IT

If a person says something critical or offensive to your child on Reddit, it's natural that they'll want to respond. Explain to them, however, that it's exactly the reaction that trolls look for. Don't give them the satisfaction! Instead, report the comment to Reddit Support for investigation. Blocking a user stops them from messaging or following your child on the platform.

AVOID PRIVATE MESSAGING

Through their Reddit profile, young people can control who's able to message them privately – with options including ‘no-one’ and ‘accounts older than 30 days’. These controls help ensure potential groomers can't talk to your child in private, and that Reddit's admins and other users will be able to moderate and report anything they spot which causes them concern.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Sources: <https://www.reddit.com/policy/privacy-policy>; <https://www.reddit.com/policy/privacy-policy>; <https://www.reddit.com/policy/privacy-policy>



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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