



# Newsletter

No. 13. 25th April 2025

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

**This week, we have taken time in school to remember and pray for Pope Francis, following the sad news of his passing.**

**Through our class prayer times and assemblies, children have reflected on his life, his message of peace and compassion, and the impact he had on the world. We continue to hold Pope Francis, the Church, and all those mourning in our thoughts and prayers during this time.**

We hope you all had a restful and joyful Easter break. The children have returned with big smiles and plenty of energy, ready to dive into what promises to be an exciting and eventful summer term!

This term is packed with fantastic opportunities for all year groups to enjoy, learn, and grow together. From classroom adventures to outdoor experiences, we're thrilled to share a little taste of what's coming up...

Year 2 will also be taking part in a Tennis Festival, where they'll learn new skills, enjoy fun games, and experience a taste of friendly competition with children from other local schools.

Year 4 will enjoy an exciting residential trip to Wildside, where they'll experience outdoor learning, nature trails, and team challenges in a beautiful woodland setting.

Year 6 will be heading to Torquay for their much-anticipated residential trip – a fantastic opportunity for team building, adventure activities, and making lifelong memories by the sea!

The Devon County Show – a brilliant day out packed with farming displays, crafts, local produce, animals, and rural life demonstrations that link beautifully with this term's curriculum.

The whole school will take part in a Pilgrimage Walk to mark the Pope's Jubilee Year – a reflective and joyful event celebrating faith, unity, and the global Catholic community.

Our Whole School Sports Day will take place at Pilton Cricket Club on Friday 4th July starting at 10am – a fantastic day of friendly competition, teamwork, and celebration. We can't wait to see you there cheering the children on!

We look forward to sharing these wonderful events with the children. With best wishes

**Rob Meech, Executive Headteacher and Eve Daunton, Head of School**

Heavenly Father, we commend to you the Soul of Our Holy Father Francis, who has died. May he be admitted into paradise and may his works of love and care for the poor accompany him on his journey into his heavenly reward.



May he, like St Joseph, be held in the arms of Jesus and Mary, and may our sorrow turn into Easter Joy, trusting in your gift of eternal life as we celebrate these Easter Days. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto Francis, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon him. And may his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.



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

Barn-a-b's are closed on 1st May for a polling day. This is just Barn-a-b's, the rest of school is open. This day will be factored in to your 38 weeks funding. Unfortunately we will not be able to offer any swaps.

Thank you so much to Mrs S yzmankiewicz for donating some plants for our garden. The children loved planting them and can't wait to see all the lovely colours. We have also been promised some more raspberry plants—thank you Alex. The garden is looking amazing, such great little gardeners!

As the weather warms up, please can you provide sun cream for your child, and apply cream before they start their session with us. Your child will still need sensible shoes as we are out in the garden for most of the day. No sandals please.

We are learning about weather for the next few weeks.

We hope to have an umbrella day! We will let you know more in due course.

Cathy, Jane, Liia, Lisa and Tracey



## Welcome to Mrs Schubert

We are delighted to introduce our new Parent and Pupil Support Advisor, Mrs Schubert, who joined our school recently.

Mrs Schubert has a wealth of experience having worked in a variety of schools in Devon supporting pupils and parents.

She will be working with groups and individual pupils providing nurture and learning support as well as being a first point of contact for parents who would like support with any worries around their children or family life.

If you would like to meet with her, please call into the office and make an appointment.





### Headteacher's Awards

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



Robin	Kingfisher
Fletcher	Ezra
Zachary	Freya
	Millie
	Eliza
	Hayley

### 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:-



Toby M	Ian
Harry	Poppy
Jewel	Aneta
Harleigh	

### 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.

### Y6 Leaver's Hoodies

These should be arriving in school shortly. Thank you to those of you that have brought in payment for these. If you are still to do this please can you bring £17 in cash to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

### Whole School Attendance

Congratulations go to **Heron Class** with the highest class attendance this week at 96.7%

Very well done, let's keep up the good work with attending school every day. **Whole school is 95.3%**

**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**

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.



## Summer Term Dates

Wed 30th Apr	Y2 Tennis Festival
<b>Wed 30th Apr</b>	<b>Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics—selected children only</b>
Thu 1st May	Polling Day—Barn A Bs Closed
<b>Mon 5th May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday—School Closed</b>
Wed 7th May	Robin & Heron trip to Exmoor Zoo
<b>Mon 12th May</b>	<b>Y6 SATS Week (Mon-Thu)</b>
Tue 13th May	Y4 Residential—Wildside
<b>Fri 16th May</b>	<b>Devon County Show</b>
Wed 24th May	Y4 Residential—Wildside
<b>Sun 18th May</b>	<b>Y6 Residential until 21st May</b>
Fri 23rd May	Last day of half term
<b>Mon 27th May</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
Mon 2nd June	School Closed—Non Pupil Day
<b>Tue 3rd June</b>	<b>School Returns for Pupils</b>
Wed 11th June	Y6 Trip to see War Horse
<b>Fri 20th June</b>	<b>PTFA Summer Fete</b>
Tue 1st July	BaB's Visit to Caffyns Farm
<b>Fri 4th July</b>	<b>Sports Day, Cricket Club 10am</b>
Fri 18th July	PTFA School Disco
<b>Tue 22nd Jul</b>	<b>Last day of summer term</b>

**Next Newsletter will go home on  
Friday 9th May 2025**

## PE Days

We have changed the PE days for Kingfisher and Owl classes for after the Easter Holidays. The new days for each class are as follows:-

<b>Robin</b>	Tuesday and Thursday
<b>Heron</b>	Thursday and Friday
<b>Puffin</b>	Tuesday and Wednesday
<b>Owl</b>	Wednesday and Friday
<b>Eagle</b>	Monday and Thursday
<b>Kingfisher</b>	Monday and Friday
<b>Swallow</b>	Monday and Tuesday

Children should be coming into school in their PE kits and remaining in them all day. PE lessons will continue to be held outside even in the rain so please ensure that your child has a thin waterproof coat.

## Big Lent Walk

We would like to thank all the pupils and members of our joined our school family for raising awareness of the needs of our brothers and sisters all over the world by participating in the Sponsored Big Lent Walk to raise money. Thanks to the youngsters determination we walked over 200 miles and raised just over an amazing £700. One of our year 6 children has raised over £150. Plus even the youngest members of our school have managed an incredible mile each. Well done everyone we are very proud of you all.

Well done everyone we are very proud of all.



## PTFA News



A huge thank you to the PTFA for funding the recent cinema trip. All the children had a fantastic time.

Some future dates for your diaries:-

We will be holding a school fete on Friday 20th June from 2pm-6pm. We are looking for any parents to help with the BBQ and help in general. There will be stalls available for hire to sell arts and craft type items. Each class will be running a stall with summer fete games and activities and there will also be face painting and an ice-cream van.

We would love everyone to come and support us.

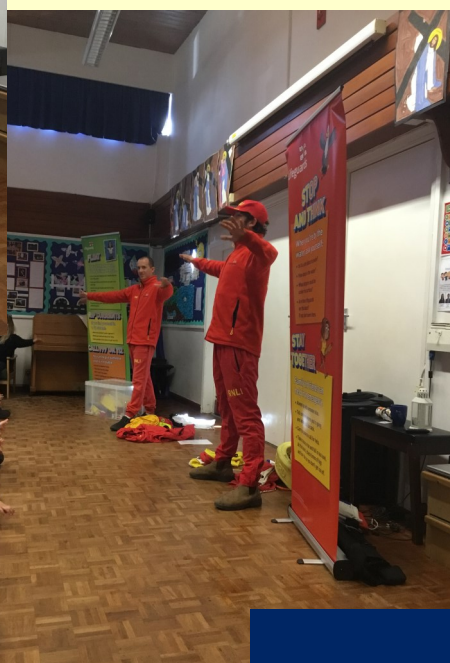
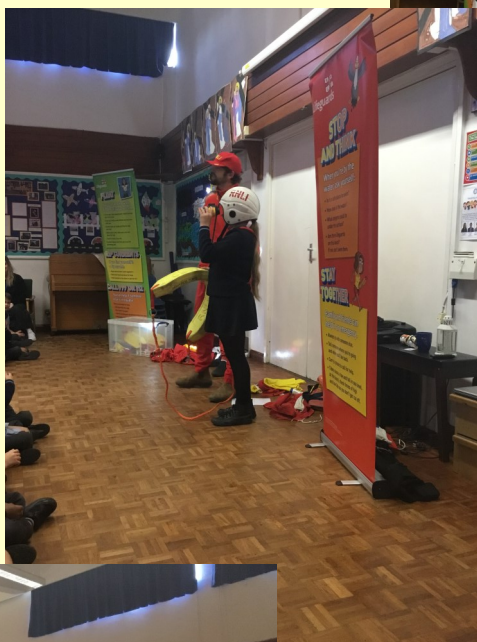
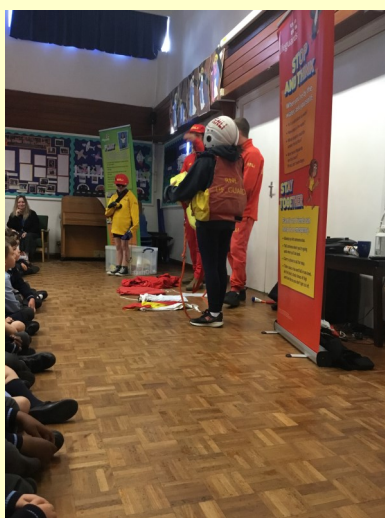
Friday 18th July we will be holding an end of year school. Disco.

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.



## RNLI Lifeguard's Visit

We had a visit from our wonderful local Lifeguards this week. Here are a few photos from the assembly held with them.



  
Lifeboats



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# INSTAGRAM

AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers, and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.

#### AI CHATBOT CONCERNS

Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an in-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidant. Privacy issues also arise, as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.

#### RISKS OF GOING LIVE

The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.

#### THREADS INTEGRATION

Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.

#### SCHEDULED MESSAGING

Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.

#### EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH

Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unfollowed, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often hurts as much as in real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS

Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.

#### OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION

Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or chase 'likes' to feel valued.

#### SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI

Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.

#### BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS

Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

#### Meet Our Expert

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



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