



Newsletter

No. 16. 13th June 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

Welcome back to the final part of the school year! We hope you had a restful break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting weeks ahead.

This final term promises to be filled with lots of learning, creativity, and fun experiences for all our students. From hands-on classroom activities to outdoor adventures and special events, there's so much to look forward to.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Let's make this last chapter of the year a memorable one!

A huge congratulations to our Year 4 children who have completed their Times Table Checks this week! They have shown fantastic focus, determination, and effort throughout, and we are incredibly proud of how hard they've worked.

We also want to say a big well done to our Year 1 children, who have been taking part in their Phonics Screening Checks. They have been absolutely brilliant and approached the challenge with enthusiasm and resilience.

A heartfelt thank you to all the staff involved in supporting the children through these assessments – your dedication makes all the difference.

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for the Pilgrimage of Hope at the end of last half-term. It was a truly lovely day, blending moments of prayer and reflection with time to relax and have fun in the park with family and friends.

We're especially grateful to our PTFA for the much-appreciated ice lollies, which were a perfect treat on a warm day!

A very special mention goes to Mrs Cohen, who organised the event so brilliantly – thank you for making it such a meaningful and enjoyable experience for all.

We're pleased to let you know that Mrs Jury will be returning at the end of the month. She will be working alongside Mrs Hynes in Puffin Class, and we're excited to welcome her back to the team! From the 30th June Mrs Jury will be working on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Hynes will be working on a Thursday and Friday.

Looking ahead, end-of-year reports and information about class organisation for the 2025/26 school year will be shared with families later in July. Please keep an eye out for further updates.

As we head into the final weeks of the school year, there are lots of exciting events to look forward to:

- PTFA Summer Fayre, Friday, 20th June - 2pm - 6pm
- Sports Day, Friday, 4th July at Pilton Cricket Club - 10am
- Class Trips – Various dates coming up across all year groups
- Year 6 Production and Leavers Mass.

These events promise to be fun-filled and memorable for our children, and we can't wait to enjoy them together. More details will be shared closer to the time, so please keep an eye on Class Dojo and Parent Mail to stay up to date.

We look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks. Many Thanks.

Mr Meech, Executive Headteacher and Mrs Daunton, Acting Head of School and SENCO

Meet Your Child's New Class Teacher

There will be an opportunity for you to meet your child's new class teacher for September. The dates and times of these will follow along with more details.

Our Lady's Food Pantry

The Chaplains have been very busy today and have checked the School Pantry and were very surprised to see quite a lot of food there. They would like to remind everyone that the pantry is open at all times, so if that extra bit of food/toiletries or some other items are needed, please come and USE the pantry.

Many Thanks from The School Chaplains

Means Tested Free School Meals

Don't forget that all children in KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) receive universal free school meals. Once your child goes into Year 3 you may need to start paying for any school dinners that your child has. Parents need to be in receipt of certain benefits to qualify for Free School Meals for their children. Please see the link below for more information:-

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/administration-and-finance/administration/free-school-meals/>

Parents should apply through the [Citizen Portal](#) which is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision.



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

We hope you have a lovely Father's Day and love the children's cards. We are excited about the school summer fete on the 20th June. The PTFA have been working hard to put on this community event. It opens at 2pm, you are invited to come along from 2pm. If you cannot make this time, we will walk around with your child (maybe you could send them in with £1).

Please can we ask that you keep us informed if you want your child to stay with you. Normal collection time of 3pm on this day. Please support this event as it is all for your children's benefit.

Please stay up to date with codes for working entitlement funding. Start to think about which hours you would like for September so we can start booking them in.

Cathy, Jane, Liia, Lisa and Tracey

Our Brilliant Puffins

Puffins were very proud of their very own books that they individually wrote, illustrated and published! They were all brilliant authors and read their stories beautifully to Robins in the Wooded Area, where their stories were based inspired by The Disgusting Sandwich! Mrs Hynes is very proud of you.





Y6 PARENTS/CARERS

You are invited to an online workshop:

SUPPORTING A SUCCESSFUL SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSITION

DATE - MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025

TIME - 15:45 - 16:45

ONLINE VIA TEAMS (joining code below)

Discuss the
common
secondary
transition
concerns.

Helpful tips to
support your
child's mental
health during the
transition.

Explore signs and
reasons for
worries about
change.

Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 367 593 566 991

Passcode: qg2a8U6j



Join us online

Headteacher's Awards

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



Heron	Owl	
Roman	Olivia T x2	Grace
Sabastian	Ehi	Piper
	Daniel	Harleigh
	Ava B	Toby
	Frankie	Reva
	Asher x2	Freddie P
	Ava W x2	Nellie
	Elijah x2	Sunnie
	Ava W x2	Leonor
	Brody	Maya W
	Freddie C	Kingfisher
	Oliver	Ezra
	PJ	Maya
	Asher	Tyler
		Hayley



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

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:-



Arliyah-Rose	Toby S	Maya O
Oliver N	Kadie	
Freddie C	Reva	
	Bella-May	

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.

Heavenly Father,

watch over and protect our families; may the love we share bring joy and hope to the world and make it a better place.



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

Tue 17th June	Barnstaple Carnival Art whole school
Th 19th June	Olympic Legacy—Invited Children
Thu 19th June	Picnic Lunch—whole School
Fri 20th June	PTFA Summer Fete 2-6pm
Tue 24th June	Y2 & Y3 Trip to Combe Martin Dinosaur Park
Tue 1st July	BaB's Visit to Caffyns Farm
Wed 2nd July	Y6 Induction Day at Pilton Community College
Thu 3rd July	Y6 Induction Day at Pilton Community College
Fri 4th July	Sports Day, Cricket Club 10am
Thu 10th July	Induction day at The Park School
Fri 11th July	Induction day at The Park School
Fri 18th July	Leavers Mass at Church 10am
Fri 18th July	PTFA School Disco
Tue 22nd Jul	Last day of summer term
Tue 2nd Sep	Non Pupil Day—School Closed
Wed 3rd Sep	Pupils Return to school

**Next Newsletter will go home on
Friday 27th June 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:-

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

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.

PTFA News



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Barn-a B's pre-school and the PTFA are delighted to invite you to our Summer Fete.

Friday 20th of June 2025 2pm-6pm

This is going to be an exciting afternoon as there will be lots of stalls, games, activities such as:

SPLASH THE TEACHER
HOOK THE DUCK
TIN CAN ALLEY
NETBALL COMPETITIONand many more.

The BBQ will be available from 3.30pm. However the Ice Cream Van will be available earlier. CASH ONLY is accepted at this event - If your child is in after school club, please put some money in a sealed envelope with their name and amount on.

The PTFA are looking for donations for the Teddy Tombola and a bottle of something for the raffle. Please bring any donations to the school office.

Our School Chaplains will be organising a 2nd hand uniform stall, for just a small donation you can pick up a bargain item of uniform for next academic year.

This event is open to everyone at school and the local community to include family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and residents.

We would love as many people as possible 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.



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School and Barn A B's Pre-School Have spaces for September 2025

We currently have spaces in all of our classes (Reception through to Year 6) for September 2025, including our pre-school (Barn A B's).

We take children from 2 years of age and operate a term time only pre-school with wonderful outdoor facilities on-site.

If you would like to arrange to come and visit our wonderful, friendly and welcoming school, please contact our school office on 01271 345164 or email admin@olcs.uk to arrange a tour.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 🍷 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (🧑) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌵 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤 (fire + 'woozy' face + pill emoji) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojipedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to — not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

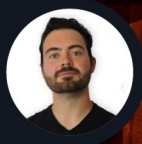
- 🤡 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around
- 😏 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless
- 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement
- 🙄 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered
- 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great
- 🙏 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'
- 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold
- 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
- 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
- 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- 🍷 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)
- ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine
- 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use
- 🌿 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis
- 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse
- 🌵 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
- 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
- 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
- ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil
- 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojipedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



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