



# Newsletter

No. 1. 12th September 2025

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

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.

## Welcome Back to School!

A very warm welcome to all our pupils and families as we begin a new school year at Our Lady's. A special welcome goes to our new pupils and parents – we are delighted to have you join our school community and hope you will be very happy here.

## School Dinners

Thank you for your support and patience with our new school dinner ordering system. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we get everything running smoothly.

## Free School Meals – Year 3

Parents and carers of children in Year 3: if you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please speak to a member of our office team who will be happy to advise you.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

We are excited to be hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 26th September at 9:00am in the school hall. This is a lovely opportunity for parents and carers to get together over coffee and cake while supporting a very worthwhile cause.

Children will also have the chance to buy cakes during the morning. All donations of cakes and treats are most welcome – thank you for your generosity!

We look forward to seeing you in the near future.

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

## Autumn Term Dates

Wed 10th Sep	Y6 Swimming
<b>Wed 17th Sep</b>	<b>Y6 Swimming</b>
Mon 22nd Sep	Y6 Open Morning at The Park School 8.50-10.30am
<b>Mon 22nd Sep</b>	<b>Open Evening for Y6 at Pilton Community College 6pm</b>
Mon 22nd Sep	Open Evening for Y6 at Pilton Community College 7pm
<b>Tue 23rd Sep</b>	<b>Y6 Open Morning at The Park School 8.50-10.30am</b>
Tue 23rd Sep	Author Visit—KS2
<b>Wed 24th Sep</b>	<b>Y6 Open Morning at The Park School 8.50-10.30am</b>
Wed 24th Sep	Open Morning for Y6 at Pilton Community College 9.30am
<b>Wed 24th Sep</b>	<b>Y6 Swimming</b>
Thu 25th Sep	Open Morning for Y6 at Pilton Community College 9.30am
<b>Fri 26th Sep</b>	<b>Author Visit—KS1</b>
Fri 26th Sep	Open Morning for Y6 at Pilton Community College 9.30am
<b>Fri 26th Sep</b>	<b>Macmillan Coffee Morning in school hall at 9am</b>
Wed 1st Oct	Y6 Swimming
<b>Wed 8th Oct</b>	<b>Y6 Swimming</b>
Fri 10th Oct	Individual School Photos
<b>Wed 15th Oct</b>	<b>Y6 Swimming—last one</b>
Fri 24th Oct	Last day of half term
<b>Mon 27th Oct</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
Fri 31st Oct	Deadline for secondary school places
<b>Mon 3rd Nov</b>	<b>Non Pupil Day—School Closed</b>
Tue 4th Nov	Pupils Return to School
<b>w/c 10th Nov</b>	<b>Parent/Teacher Consultations</b>

The next newsletter will go home on:  
**Friday 26th September 2025**

**Individual School Photos will be taken on  
Friday 10th October 2025**



### Special Educational Needs

I would like to make sure all parents are aware of the SEND section of the school website which gives information about our school's provision for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities as well as support for families who may be experiencing difficulties at home. There are lots of helpful information sheets and links to other sites too, so please take a look in the Parents' section labelled 'SEND'.



I hope you find the resources useful. Please get in touch, via the school office, if you need further advice or support.

Eve Daunton  
Acting Head of School and SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator)

### Parking

Please be considerate and help us keep everyone safe by not parking on pavements or blocking neighbours' driveways. May we also remind parents and carers that cars must also not stop or park on Chanter's Hill outside the gates school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Breakfast and After School Club

Sessions for our Breakfast and After School Clubs are available. These can be booked and paid for via Parentpay.

Breakfast sessions are from 7.45am until 8.45am at £5.50 without breakfast and £6.00 with breakfast.

Afterschool Club sessions are from 3.15-4.15 with a snack for £5.50, or 3.15-5.15pm for £9.50.

You can pay for these sessions in advance via Parentpay. Please see a member of the Admin Team if you need log in details.

### PE Days

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

**Robin Class** Tuesday & Thursday

**Heron Class** Monday & Friday

**Puffin Class** Tuesday & Thursday

**Owl Class** Thursday & Friday

**Eagle Class** Wednesday & Friday

**Kingfisher Class** Monday & Wednesday

**Swallow Class** Monday & 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 Swallow class will be attending swimming lessons every Wednesday afternoon from Weds 10th September until Weds 15th October. Swallow class can wear their PE kits on a Wednesday during this time.

God of wisdom and might,  
we praise you for the wonder of our  
being,

for mind, body and spirit.  
Be with our children as they begin  
a new school year.

Bless them and their teachers and  
staff.

Give them strength and grace as their  
bodies grow;  
wisdom and knowledge to their minds  
as they search for understanding;  
and peace and zeal to their hearts.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.



## 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.

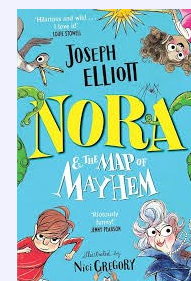
## Author Visits from Joseph Elliott and Duncan Beedie

Miss Knill is excited to announce that we are having a visit from the following authors:-

Tuesday September 23rd Joseph Elliott for KS2 children



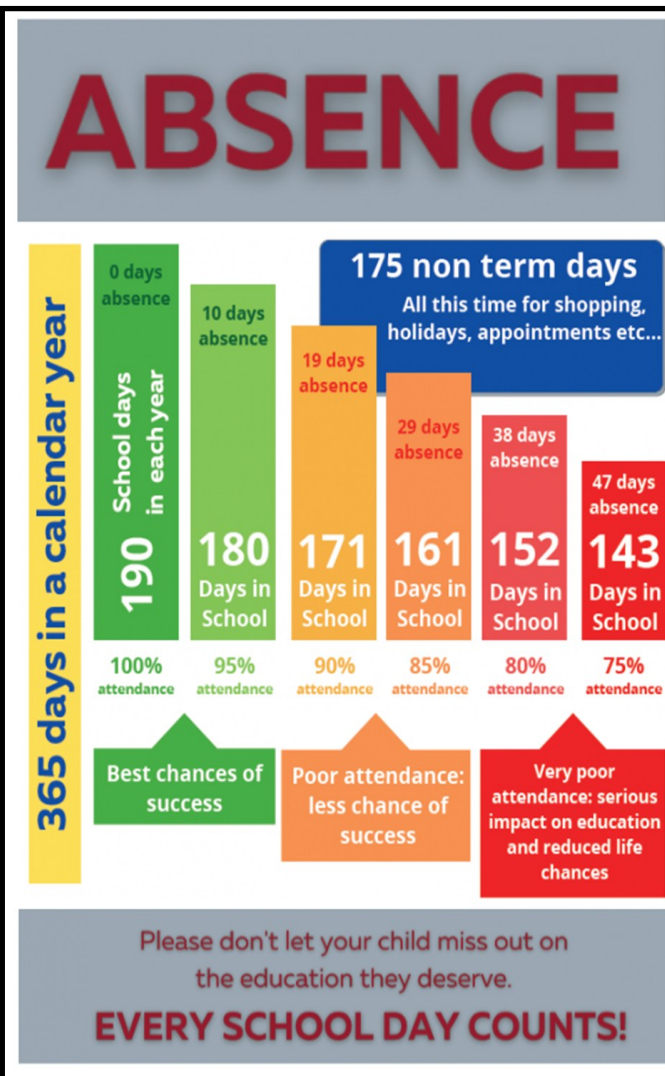
Joseph's award-winning debut novel, *The Good Hawk*, was released in 2020, followed by the sequels, *The Broken Raven*, and *The Burning Swift*. Joseph's new comedy for 8-12 year-olds, *Nora and the Map of Mayhem* will be followed by the much-anticipated sequel *Nora and the Compass of Chaos* in May 2025.



Duncan Beedie on Friday September 26th for KS1 children.



Duncan's debut picture book 'The Bear Who Stared' (Templar) was nominated for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2017 and my follow up 'The Lumberjack's Beard' was shortlisted for the World Illustration Awards in 2018. Since then I have gone on to write and illustrate titles for Little Tiger, Quarto, Walker Books, and was recently commissioned to design the illustrated autumn trail at Westonbirt Arboretum in Gloucestershire.



Very well done to **Heron Class** who had the highest attendance at **98.9%** for the second week running) followed by **Robin class** at **97.3%**.

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

### 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.ourladys.devon.sch.uk](http://www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk)

### School Dinners

We have a wide variety of hot, freshly cooked, school dinners on offer on a 3 weekly cycle. As well as the healthy main choice there is always a vegetarian option and a jacket potato with cheese and/or beans available. The meals are all prepared on-site in our school kitchen. School dinners are free to all children from Robins to Puffin class and are a very competitive £2.81 per day for children in Owl class (Y3) upwards.



School dinners must now be ordered, via Parentpay, by you, for your child, at home by 8am of the morning they require a school meal. You can book for all week or a few weeks in advance if you would like to. Unfortunately, if your child requires a school lunch and you have not ordered this, we will only be giving your child the choice of either a Jacket Potato or Tomato Pasta on the day. If you have any issues logging on to Parentpay then please see Mrs Welland in the school office.

If your child has any food allergies please make the admin team aware as our catering team can usually adapt the menu accordingly for your child's needs.

### School Crossing Patrol

Devon County Council are looking for a School Crossing Patrol Officer for the area around Our Lady's School. If interested in applying for this role, please visit Devon jobs <https://www.devonjobs.gov.uk/>



### School Uniform

Thank you for supporting the correct school uniform. Please could you ensure that all long hair is tied back for school, earrings are kept to small studs, no other jewellery is to be worn.

Girls should be wearing either navy coloured tights, knee high socks or ankle socks and boys should be wearing grey or black socks (not white).

Please ensure that all items of clothing, water bottles, lunch boxes and snack pots are clearly marked with your child's name. If they are misplaced or left lying around the school it is much easier to reunite items with their owner if they have a name clearly marked in it.

Jumpers, PE T-Shirts, PE Hoodies, Ties, School Rucksacks, book bags and water bottles are available to purchase from school throughout the year.

We do have some kindly donated second hand uniform. Please ask at the school office and we will check what sizes we have for you.

### Medicines in School

If your child is required to take a prescribed medicine please can you alter the times around the school day. If this is not possible then please complete a medicine form at the school office.

The school can only administer prescribed medicines in line with government requirements.

Non-prescribed medicines such as headache tablets, medicated lozenges, nasal sprays etc must not be carried by the children or left in school bags or book bags.

### Asthma Inhalers

If your child has a diagnosis of asthma and has a prescribed inhaler to use in school, please contact the school office and complete a 'parental agreement for school to administer medicine' form. Please see your class teacher if you wish to discuss any concerns about your child's medical conditions.



### Healthy Snacks

Just a reminder that all Key Stage 1 children receive a free healthy snack for morning break. You are welcome to send Key Stage 2 children into school with a healthy snack (not chocolate or crisps please).



### Ten:Ten RE Resources

Mrs Cohen would like to share the link for the September Newsletter for ten:ten resources with you. As well as the newsletter there are some lovely links to prayers that you can share at home with your child.



<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

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# BACK TO SCHOOL

## Online Safety Tips for Children

Wow, it's September already! The month when autumn officially starts and ... oh yeah, the beginning of a new school year. Every cloud has a silver lining though! Another term means new friends to make, different stuff to learn, fresh online trends to jump on and exciting new games to play on your phone, computer or console. We've compiled a list of our top tips to ensure that - whether you're going online to chat, research things or just have fun - you can do it safely.

### Be cautious with your profile

Be careful not to give out too much info on your social media or gaming profiles. Details like your full name, address or school's name could all help strangers to actually find you offline. A trusted adult can help you make your profiles private - so only your family and actual friends can contact you.

### Lock your devices

Taking your phone or tablet to school? Turn password protection on. It keeps your private info safe and stops anyone accessing your device without permission. Passwords should be memorable to you - but difficult for anyone else to guess. Get a trusted adult to write it down in case you forget it!

### Be smart with screen time

Too much screen time, especially just before bed, can affect your quality of sleep. Losing sleep, or not sleeping well enough, messes with your concentration and energy levels. Try muting notifications so you don't get pinged late at night: you'll feel fresher and more focused the next day.

### Know how to deal with bullies

Sadly there are people online who enjoy picking on other users. If you ever feel like you're being bullied online - by anyone, not just someone from school - talk to a trusted adult about it. Together, you can discuss possible steps, such as blocking or reporting the person who's targeting you.

### Manage online relationships wisely

Most people in a relationship chat to their partner online. Just be mindful that once you send a pic or message (even if it's private), you no longer control who else might see it. Messaging someone you've never actually met - and who might not be who they say - is definitely best avoided.

### React well to inappropriate content

When you're researching something online, there's always a chance of finding content that makes you feel uncomfortable or upset. If this happens, you can report it as inappropriate and (hopefully) get it taken down. Tell a trusted adult what happened: they'll help you decide what to do next.

### Report offensive in-game chat

If you game online with your mates, you'll know things can get competitive and heated on the in-game chat. Playing against people you don't know (especially if they're older) raises the risk of offensive comments and even threats. Our advice? Find out how to block or mute those bad losers.

### Learn to spot fake news

If you're looking into a topic for homework or a project, be careful not to get taken in by fake news: content that's deliberately created to mislead people. Check the story with credible sources, like the BBC or Sky News. Trust your instincts, too - if it seems too unbelievable to be true, it's probably fake.

### Keep it 'real' with online friends

Everyone enjoys adding friends and followers on social media. It's important, though, that the people you interact with online really are your friends. If they're just random people you've connected with to increase your contacts, you don't know if they could be trolls or bullies (or worse).

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# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

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