



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Lockdown Newsletter

01271 377164

admin@olcs.uk

www.ourladys.devon.sch.uk

Issue 1 - 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is an absolute pleasure to share my first newsletter of 2021. When I wrote to you before Christmas I mentioned that I didn't think it would all be plain sailing this term and alas it has transpired that way.

As you can imagine it has been a busy first few weeks for all, somewhat complicated with the national lockdown! I think it is very important that we reflect on the magnificent efforts shown by all of the school community in ensuring the education and well-being of our children remains the main focus of our work.

Firstly I would like to say a big thank you to the entire teaching team at OLCS, who, in little under 24 hours, switched to a completely new way of learning through our remote classrooms. I think you will agree that the home learning is very different this time around but we are already seeing very favourable outcomes in terms of pupil engagement. I am delighted we have received some excellent feedback from parents too.

The children in school continue to access high quality provision and I would like to say a special thank you to the support staff who are working so hard to help the children with their learning and well-being. They are a great team.

The school cannot function without the support of our fantastic admin team and this has never been more evident than in the last 3 weeks. Through their hard work and commitment to the children, we have been able to manage the transition to remote learning. They have ensured school places for those children who need them and provided care packages, FSM vouchers and laptops to support our families.

To our Catering team who have continued to feed the children with a hot food lunch provision in

school as well as providing care packages on a weekly basis.

To our wonderful Caretaker and Cleaner who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the school remains spotlessly hygienic and clean on a daily basis.

I would like to say well done to the children. They have shown tremendous resilience to adapt, once again, to a period of home learning. Teachers tell me how enthusiastic they are on the video calls and that they are completing work and sending it in for their teachers to see. I have enjoyed visiting the classrooms and sharing the learning that is happening and I am looking forward to attending some live sessions with our remote classes in the coming week or two.

Finally, I would like to say a heart-felt thank you to you. I know how hard this is, and in the darker days of winter, it seems doubly hard compared to last spring. The support you have shown to the teachers and to our children really does make a difference. It has been great that some of you have attended virtual parent coffee meets with the teachers and I look forward to attending some of these myself next week. As a school we are here for all members of our community and anything we can do to support you through this tough time then please do ask.

I can't wait for the time when we can all be together again as a school but in the meantime please stay safe.

REFLECTION

Lord, In these uncertain times we lean into you Heavenly Father and ask for your guidance and wisdom. Please help us to turn to you in times of need.

'The Lord will guide you always.' (Isaiah 58:11)

Kind regards

Mr Meech, Executive Headteacher

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JAMES



Family life flourishes with stability and certainty. This is hard enough in normal times with all the pressures and stresses that come with living in the 21st Century, but

lockdown goes a step further and can make our world seem small and make us think day-to-day rather than towards the years of family life ahead. But although our families thrive when we can plan ahead and get some routines set up, lockdown before and lockdown again shows us that our families can thrive and grow and deepen in adversity as well.

The way that our children are taking the uncertainty and instability in their stride should fill us with hope for their future. The way that so many of you parents, and our children too, have taken home learning so seriously should show us that our potential as families is perhaps even greater than we thought before. The way that each of us have adapted each day to changing times, shows us that we all have the ability to overcome every obstacle and challenge in our lives. And perhaps most importantly, through the way we have had to work together to make the future bright, we have learned about each other and deepened our community.

As we continue as that community to work on all these things, and to keep each other and our children safe, as well as to keep our precious children learning and thriving, I pray that we will make every potential in our families a reality so that, when we leave this crisis behind, we are filled with hope and light. May God bless each of you and the precious family life that we hold so dear.



BARN A BS PRE-SCHOOL

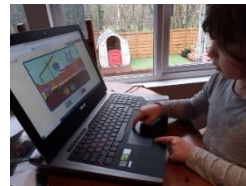


Barn-a-b's are learning about winter. We have loved seeing your online observations about your winter activities. We had some great weather reports and science experiments going on. Percy the park keeper had a full house on the snowy night! We have been recreating the story and learning about the different types of animals.

We love hearing what you are up to. We are still open for all, so get in touch if you would like to take up your place again.

In the next few weeks we will learn about people who help us, especially our NHS heroes, starting with a look at opticians. Opticians and dentists are still open now, so it might be a good time to get up to date with all those check ups!

ROBIN CLASS



Remote learning has been a brand new concept to our Reception children, but we are embracing the changes and the children have blown me away with how quickly

they have adapted to their new routines!

It is lovely to see each other every morning on a video call. We have been enjoying playing lots of little warm-up games together with Fred the Frog or a number challenge. In the afternoons, we have been meeting again to share our learning from the day and to join together to share a special prayer. We have perfected the skill of finding and pressing the 'mute button' and the 'hand up button'!



This term's topic is day and night. We have read the stories 'Peace at Last', 'The Gruffalo' and 'Owl Babies'. The children have really enjoyed the creative learning that has come with this topic. They

have created some amazing artwork using paints, pencils, playdoh, and craft materials. We even made fantastic musical instruments to entertain the grown-ups at home when they feel fed up in lockdown! 😊



The children have also enjoyed the outdoor learning aspect of this topic. We have thought about sounds we can hear at different times of the day and the children have enjoyed going out on listening walks. We have been finding out about nocturnal animals and their habitats, and the children have built houses for different animals we have been learning about!



Robins – you are all superstars! Well done to you all; you are all making me a very, very proud teacher! I am so impressed with how quickly you have all settled into this new routine and of how hard you are all working! 😊



Parents – you are all wonderful! Thank you for your patience, support and enthusiasm as we work together to ensure that the children's learning is both successful and happy! 😊



HERON CLASS

A message from Heron Class and Miss Wilby

Hi everyone. I hope everyone is doing okay during this strange time. Heron Class have been working really hard on their school work but at home! Their home has become the place where they do all their school work. I have seen some fantastic work stations set up at home and both the children and adults have adapted brilliantly to the changes. I am blown away by your positivity and enthusiasm.

Heron Class meets online every morning and every morning the children make me smile. They show me the school work they have completed or they tell me about things they have done with their loved ones, lots of baking :-)

We have just finished learning a story about Monkeys and Hats, and found some interesting facts about monkeys! Did you know the largest monkey in the world is called a Mandrill. We've even made our own hats for the monkeys, here is a photo of Poppy in her hat. A huge thank you to all the support we've had from parents/carers, you are all doing an amazing job.

Keep smiling, keep communicating and keep sane :-) stay safe, Miss Wilby

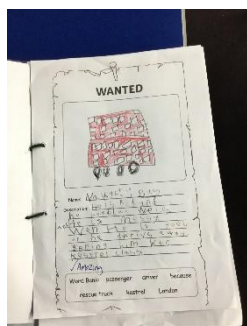


KESTRAL CLASS (KS1 KEY WORKER CLASS)

Kestrels have been working very hard. We received a parcel last week that was a little, wooden bus. As the days went by, we realised he was moving around our classroom overnight, just like in the story of Naughty Bus that we have been reading and learning in English!

Last weekend, Naughty Bus got up to all kinds of mischief in class like, driving through some food, sharpening pencils messily and drawing his self-portrait, marking Lacey's Geography and practising his sounds with Fred Frog! Then he disappeared from school and 'PC Everett' from the Police came to speak to us on Tuesday to ask us to help find Naughty Bus as he had also been cheeky outside of school. Kestrels decided to create Wanted posters and put them up all around school so everyone can keep a look out for him. Kestrels hope he hasn't been causing any problems in your street!

Mrs Everett



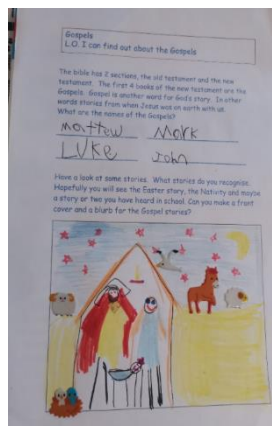
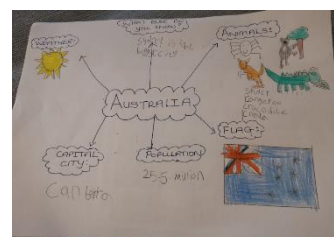
PUFFIN CLASS

Hello friends

Puffin class here. How are you all?

We hope you are all well. Well, we have had lots of fun and worked very hard.

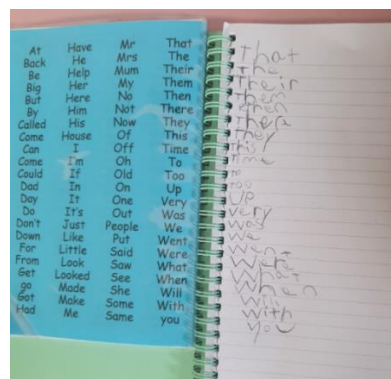
In English we have been exploring characters and using our adjectives and other English skills. In maths we have been looking at arrays and multiplication. We did a bug hunt for our science and found lots of different bugs that like the cold and dark and we have learnt about the oceans, continents, capital cities as well as finding out more about Australia.



We have also been playing describing games and we have enjoyed a quiz. I think the thing that makes us smile the most is being able to see our friends every morning and afternoon when we talk, pray and show everyone all the learning we have done that day.

There has been lots of challenges and lots of smiles. We hope you are all well and safe and look forward to seeing you when it is safe to do so. Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Cohen and Puffin Class



OWL CLASS

Owl Class have settled well into remote learning and have been wonderful at adjusting their routines and learning new skills. We meet each morning to say hello and outlining the day before the class sets off to complete the activities. With only a few technological hiccups to overcome, we are now well into our English sequence of work around the story of The BFG and The Magic Paintbrush and are working well through the White Rose maths topic of multiplication and division.

We are both so proud of how the Owl Class have adapted to the changes, but are looking forward to seeing everybody back in the classroom as soon as it is safe to do so.

Ms Massey and Mrs Harding

EAGLE CLASS

Eagle Class are showing determination and are continuing to have excellent positive attitudes during Lockdown 3.0. As a team we are continuing to remember our expression of: Never give up, try your best, put perseverance to the test as we face new challenges and learning opportunities. Everyone is working hard to continue their learning, with some children learning from home and some learning in the key worker bubble at school.

Our favourite part of the day is our morning and afternoon meetings where we discuss our day, celebrate our learning, talk to our friends and have fun! At times we have found ourselves in the learning pit and faced some tricky days, however we know these are great times to help our brains to grow.

Over the last three weeks we have been excellent mathematicians working hard on our multiplication and division skills. We have been trying to use ambitious vocabulary, fronted adverbials and conjunctions as we learn about the BFG. Eagles have been looking at Europe in Geography and gaining new scientific skills. We have loved learning about our role in the community for PSHE and made some excellent videos. We have enjoyed our RE work

learning about Journeys and the Liturgical Calendar, which we are going to be making our own.

Our class book is Beetle Boy, which is getting so exciting we are all sitting on the edge of our seats. We are excited to use these new skills when we can return to the classroom.

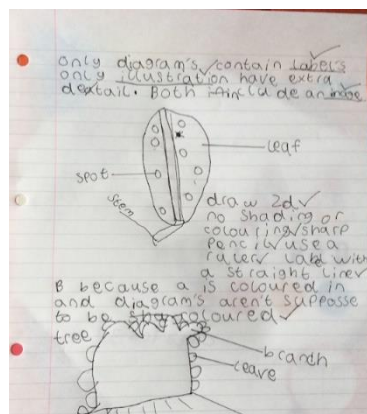
Miss Knill is extremely proud of all the work we have done and how we have shown our grown ups how fantastic we are!

Have a look at some of our fantastic work!

Miss Knill



Lilli and Paige - Earned a Blue Peter Badge in our challenge. They were very excited to receive these in the post this week.



Immanuel - Scientific Diagram



Nnenna - Community shield



Annie-Rose's RE

HAWKS CLASS (YEAR 5/6 KEY WORKER CLASS)

Year 5 /6 have worked really hard during their time in school following the online learning. Inspired by an extraordinary lady, Harriet Tubman, we have spent time preparing notes and research, culminating in writing our own Biographies about her life. In our Art lesson we used chalk and pastels to create lovely snowdrop pictures



We have also joined in, with much excitement, on the Google Classroom Live Meets on a Friday afternoon, where they enjoyed catching up with much missed friends! Year 5 /6 can be really proud of their attitude to learning and of all their hard work!

Mrs Hynes

Pixie – BFG Story so far

BFG

One stormy, dark night an owl was sitting on a tree waiting for a mouse to come by. The big bird heard heavy breathing coming from somewhere. He screamed and flew away and sat on a dirty chimney. Inside of the house there was a girl called Sophie. The young girl woke up because the moonlight sliced through her room. Slowly, the brave girl sat up in her squeaky bed. Quietly, Sophie took her round glasses and put them on gently. Then, she stared at the brown owl flapping its wings in the pitch-black midnight sky. Stealthily, the curious inquisitive girl put her dirty, white shoes on.

KINGFISHER CLASS

Kingfisher Class have settled really quickly into Lockdown 3 and are making the most of every learning opportunity. Most children are learning from home, but a few are in our Key Worker school bubble. Everyone follows the same timetable and we meet up virtually several times a day, including with our friends in school on Friday afternoon. We've found the technology aspect of learning tricky at times, but we have made SO much progress and Mrs Chavasse is extremely proud of us!

We are all working really hard to make sure we don't miss out on any more learning and are managing to cover all aspects of the curriculum remotely.

We're looking forward to a time when we can all learn together again in school, but for now, we'll stay positive and make the most of every day ☺

Mrs Chavasse

SWALLOW CLASS

The only word I can use to describe my thoughts about Swallow Class over the last few weeks is 'Wow'.

Wow because despite all the choppiness and the changes, they have shown how determined, resilient and passionate they are towards their learning. Wow because I have an incredible 96% of children handing me in at least one piece of work everyday and double wow because I have 77% of children handing me in 3 or more pieces of work a day. Wow because with attitudes like this, I know Swallow Class can reach for the stars and achieve monumental things.



From the word GO! Swallow Class have been engaging with their timetable, completing work and being creative. We have had a few parties (crazy hat, hair) where we paid tribute to the craziness of the current situation by doing a virtual

Hokey Cokey, to sharing certificates for holding a handstand for longer than I can hold my breath underwater. Children have been getting their chef hats on and cooking dinner with their parents, they have put their cowboy hats on and been performing magic tricks. You name it, we can do it!



Pen has been put to paper (or fingers to keyboards) and biographies have been written this week. RE, History and Science are amongst other subjects and some incredibly magical artwork has been produced.



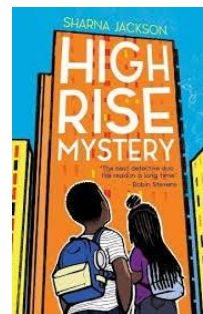
And even though times are tricky, Swallow Class have had the maturity and the ability to adapt and overcome. Their parents have been incredible and I cannot thank you for the support we have received.

In a world where a pandemic tries to stop us, Swallow class just proves that they are indestructible. As we say in class - Negativity, throw it on the fire!

Stay safe,
Miss Newcombe



Book review by Tianna.



TITLE: HIGH RISE MYSTERY

AUTHOR: SHARNA JACKSON

GENRE: MYSTERY

I would rate it as a 5 star because of all the suspense.

Personally, I would describe the characters as people who have mixed emotions because you have people who are over dramatic and some people who don't speak and some who don't take anything seriously.

There are multiple settings in the book because they live on the Tri. Also because they are detectives who are trying to solve the case. Therefore there are multiple settings like the shop and the apartments.

The atmosphere of the text is mournful because hugo has been murdered by *****.

There are lots of techniques used in the story. Mostly onomatopoeia because Sharna Jackson over emphasises the loud noises e.g BANG

My favourite part is when they think it's pap and when they find out who did it because it makes me really excited.

In the story Hugo got killed and 911 were called and the two teenage girls become detectives and have suspicions and end up cracking the case and become true heroes.

Excellent work!

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Our Lady's is a 'Thrive' School, meaning we use a Thrive approach towards supporting and developing all children's social and emotional wellbeing, both in class or in small focussed intervention groups. There is a free Thrive-Online Parent Toolkit available to parents with children ages 4-11. There are lots of helpful videos and strategies tailored to children's ages and needs which will help you to understand your child and make the most of your time and interactions with them.

The toolkit is available here:

<https://www.thriveapproach.com/who-we-work-with/parents-carers/>

There is also a free Facebook page for parents:-
'The Thrive Approach Supporting the Community'
which may well be worth you following.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school website continues to be updated with useful links, tips and video's. Make sure you take a look under the 'Home Learning' tab and then 'Parent Advice'. There are some helpful guides on google classroom as well as some short tutorial videos made by some of our class teachers.

The link below will take you to a short video discussing 10 useful tips for parents on child mental health and wellbeing:-

<https://ssscpd.co.uk/education/parentsandguardians/child-mental-health-10-tips-for-parents/-/MHW1oTkyqTyhYGVjnzShZwNIZD==>

It is always important to look after your mental health and wellbeing but with current lockdown restrictions meaning we are spending more time at home and away from friends and family, it's now more important than ever.



[The NHS Every Mind Matters website](https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/) provides expert advice, practical tips and information about how to look after your mental health and wellbeing and 'make inside feel better'.