

# OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL



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*Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way*



**Newsletter: 4th July 2025**

Head Teacher: Mrs Cathy Blatchford

# HEAD TEACHER UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have continued to have a busy couple of weeks at OLSP. At some point today you should have received your child's school report via email. If you would prefer to have this in paper format, just pop into the office and ask. Please do let us know if this has not been received.

**Sports Day Success!** What a wonderful Sports Day we had! The sun shone brightly, and the atmosphere was full of energy and encouragement. The children showed fantastic team spirit, determination, and good sportsmanship throughout the day. A big thank you to all the parents who came along to cheer and enjoy the occasion with us.

**Feast of St Peter and St Paul** Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome Fr Albert, who joined us for a special liturgy to celebrate the Feast of St Peter and St Paul. It was a thoughtful and reverent time of prayer and reflection, and we thank Fr Albert for being with us on this special day.

**Pilgrim Walk and Reflection** As part of our spiritual life, our recent Pilgrim Walk provided the children with a meaningful opportunity for reflection and quiet contemplation. It was a peaceful and moving experience that reminded us of the importance of taking time to pause and appreciate our journey, both physically and spiritually.

**Parent Questionnaire – Your Voice Matters** Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to complete our parent questionnaire. Your feedback—both positive and constructive—is incredibly valuable to us as we strive to continue improving our school for all children and families. If you haven't had a chance yet, there's still time! We would love to hear your thoughts.

As always, thank you for your continued support. God Bless,

Mrs Cathy Blatchford

# GOVERNORS MESSAGE

Here we are almost at the end of another academic year and what a wonderful year it has been!

On behalf of the Governors I would like to thank all the staff, children and Friends for their tireless efforts this year and we hope year 6 settle into their new schools quickly in September.

Wishing you all a relaxing and enjoyable Summer break!

Lorraine Coulter

Chair of Governors

# THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

## "A Faith-Filled Moment of Transition



At our Plymouth CAST Leavers' Mass, Year 6 pupils took part in a special moment of reflection and responsibility as they passed the mantle to Year 5. Rooted in our Catholic faith, this symbolic gesture represents the handing on of service, leadership, and the light of Christ. As Year 6 prepare for the next stage of their journey, they entrust the values of love, compassion, and faith to those who follow in their footsteps. May God guide both year groups as they continue to grow in His image."





# NURSERY

Nursery have a had a brilliant few weeks we have made the most of the sunshine, released our butterflies and had so much fun doing our own mini sports day.



# REC & YEAR 1

We had a lovely time at Stover last week. The coach was a big hit! When we arrived we walked around the lake and made observations of the wildlife. After a picnic lunch, we played games in the woods. The children thoroughly enjoyed the day. Thank you so much to our parent helpers.



# Year 1 & 2

Last week, the children in Key Stage 1 and reception went to Stover. During their visit they learnt about different habitats and plants. The children particularly enjoyed seeing the rats, ducklings, signets, birds and squirrels and playing games about seed dispersal in the afternoon. Thanks again to all our parent helpers.



# YEAR 3 & 4

Last week, Saturn class had the pleasure of taking the train to Exeter and visiting the Exeter RAAM Museum. The children saw a wide range of artifacts, interactive displays and historical objects. The children had a chance to play in Northernhay Gardens as well as visit Exeter Cathedral. The children had an excellent time. A massive thank you to parents who were able to help support the children on the trip - thank you!



# YEAR 5

The children really enjoyed the Pilgrimage walk to Teignmouth Letters. Some of the children chose to walk along the water's edge. The weather was very warm but all the children managed it well.

Well done for reflecting and taking part.



# YEAR 6

Year 6 have been busy earning different sewing techniques to create their own pencil case. We have learnt running stitch, over stitch and backstitch. We established that backstitch was the most secure stitch for the sides of our pencil case. We are looking forward to finishing them next week by adding the zips.



# DISCIPLE OF THE WEEK

	27.06.25	4.07.25
<b>Value</b>	Courage	Solidarity
Stars	Zhiyu	Henry
Moons	Mae	Ivy
Mars	Max	Samuel
Saturn	Robert	Estrella
Neptune	Ossie	Teddy
Supernova	Archie B	Theo F

# STAR OF THE WEEK

	27.06.25	4.07.25
<b>Stars</b>	Arthur	Percy
Moons	Henry	Emily
Mars	Noah	Nela
Saturn	Albie	Eva
Neptune	Zach	Ethan
Supernova	George and Ada	Patrick



# Diary Dates



		<b>18th July</b>	<b>9:15 - 9:45am</b> Year 6 v staff football match
<b>7th July</b>	<b>9:30 - 11am</b> Swimming Lessons at The Lido Years 3 -6	<b>21st July</b>	<b>3:15 - 4pm</b> Enterprise Selling Event Y5 and 6
<b>8th July</b>	Moving up day <b>9am - 11am</b> Tempest Class photos TCS Induction Day	<b>22nd July</b>	<b>9am</b> Leavers' Mass <b>2 - 3pm</b> Year 6 water fight on the school field <b>1 - 2pm</b> Ice-cream and games for 99% and 100%ers (attendance)
<b>9th July</b>	Presentation evening for Y6 Civic Award <b>10am - 3pm</b> Back up - Sports Day	<b>4th Sept</b>	First day of term
<b>10th July</b>	<b>1 - 3pm</b> Year 5 Forest School	<b>23rd July</b>	Last Day of Summer Term
<b>11th July</b>	<b>3 - 3:45pm</b> Ice Pop Friday	<b>22nd November</b>	<b>5 - 7pm</b> Christmas light switch on and lantern parade
<b>14th July</b>	<b>9:30 - 11am</b> Swimming Lessons at The Lido Years 3 -6 <b>1:30 - 2:30pm</b> Y6 dress rehearsal to school?	<b>Mon 26 Jan - Fri 30 Jan 2026</b>	Year 6 Residential - Grenville House
<b>15th July</b>	<b>5- 6pm</b> Y6 performance Charlie and the Chocolate factory	<b>Mon 28 Sept - Fri 2 Oct 2026</b>	Year 6 Residential - Barton Hall
<b>16th July</b>	<b>2pm - 3pm</b> Dojo award afternoon		
<b>17th July</b>	<b>1:15 - 2:15pm</b> Music concert		



Did you know that children who attend school regularly are more likely to succeed—academically, socially, and emotionally? Here at Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School, we believe that every day counts, especially in the early years when lifelong habits and foundational learning are formed.

### **Why Does Attendance Matter?**

In primary school, each day builds upon the last. Missing even a few days a month can lead to gaps in learning, difficulty keeping up, and a sense of disconnection from classmates and teachers. Research shows that children who miss just two days a month—even for valid reasons—can fall behind academically.

### **Consistent attendance helps children:**

Develop strong reading and math skills early on,

Build routines and responsibility,

Form positive relationships with peers and adults,

Feel more confident and connected to their learning

### **What Can You Do as a Parent?**

We understand that illness and emergencies happen. But there are many ways you can help your child stay on track:

Set a regular bedtime and morning routine to help your child feel rested and ready,

Schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible,

Avoid taking holidays during term time,

Reach out to us if you're facing challenges with transport, health, or any other concerns—we're here to help

### **Celebrating Good Attendance**

At the end of term, we are recognising students with excellent attendance so keep an eye out for certificates, small rewards, and class shout-outs. Let's work together to give every child the best chance at success—because every day counts in building a bright future.

23rd June - 4th July 2025	
Moons	95.25%
Mars	96.92%
Saturn	95.89%
Neptune	96.17%
Supernova	99.38%

Well done to Supernova!

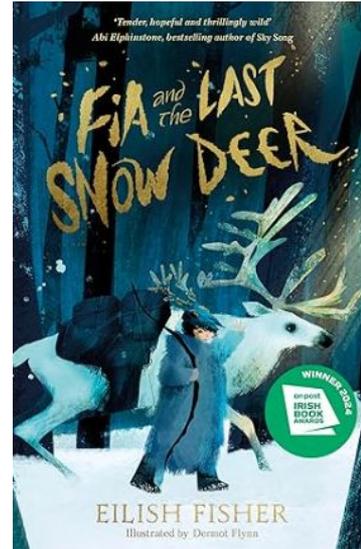
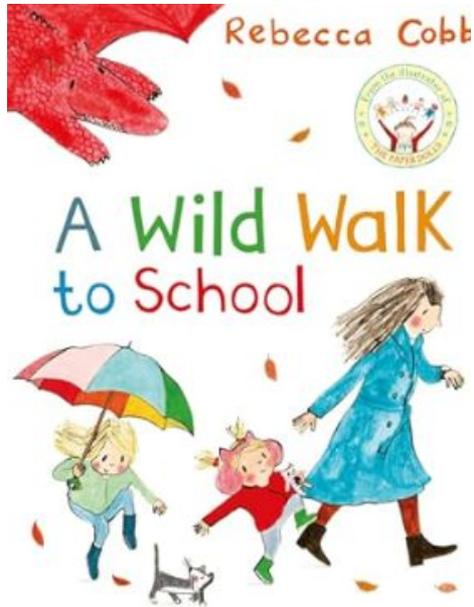
"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall."- Roald Dahl

# THIS NEWSLETTER WE RECOMMEND

## A Wild Walk to School by Rebecca Cobb

Getting the kids to school on time can be filled with hurdles – Rebecca Cobb perfectly captures the *epic adventure* it can be in *A Wild Walk to School*, a witty story full of imagination! It's time to walk to school and mum wants the children to get there on time. But what Mum doesn't realise is that the hill is in fact the tummy of a sleeping giant and it's important to tread carefully when the floor turns to lava! It's just as well Mum has these two Brave Explorers with her . . .

A charming, relatable and beautifully illustrated story that's full of fun: recognisable to children and their grown-ups everywhere!



## Fia and the Last Snow Deer by Eilish Fisher

Fia and her snow deer Solas have always had a powerful and unbreakable connection. But as Fia's village face a seemingly eternal winter, they turn their sights to Solas and an ancient prophecy that promises the return of sunlight and life, if the ultimate sacrifice is made . . .

Refusing to allow the worst to happen, Fia and her cousin Mish run from the village with Solas, seeking out the **Deer Mother** - the

mythical being who wakes the sun at the winter solstice and who might be their only hope.

But the wilderness is harsh and shadows lurk at every turn. Can they make it to the Deer Mother? And, if they do, what choices will Fia face to bring back the sun and save her village?

A powerful and beautiful tale set in snowy pre-historic Ireland, about hope, kindness and the power of friendship, from exceptional new writing talent, Eilish Fisher, brought to life with stunning illustrations from Dermot Flynn.

# News from the Friends

## PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

If anyone is needing uniform for the new school year, please get in touch through our Pre-Loved Facebook page.

[facebook.com/share/15hv86LL8Y](https://facebook.com/share/15hv86LL8Y)



✦ *Great Prices!* ✦



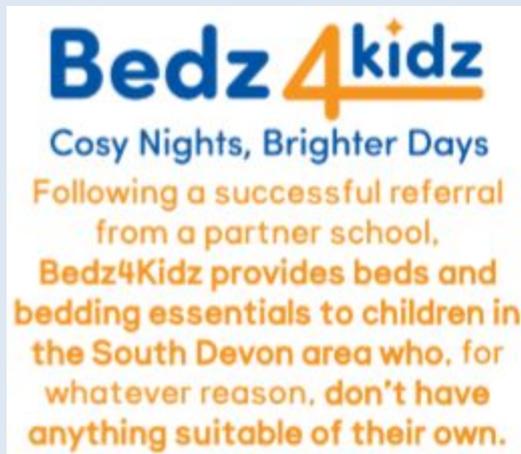
# TUCK SHOP



**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July  
from 3:15PM**

**Come grab your  
favourite treats  
after school!**

We are proud to share that our school is a partner with Bedz4Kidz, a wonderful charity dedicated to ensuring every child has a comfortable place to sleep. Have you ever paused to think about where or how your child sleeps each night? If you feel your family could benefit from support with bed frames, mattresses, or bedding items, please don't hesitate to contact Rachel Ripley our Family Support Worker in confidence. We will make the referral on your behalf.



Drum Lessons  
Now offered  
at school.

For more info contact Ben at:  
devondrumschool@gmail.com  
Tel:  
07966-488481



## CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

This school is proud to be a

# Music Mark School

In recognition of a commitment to  
providing a high-quality music education  
for all children and young people

2024 - 2025

Bridget Whyte  
CEO of Music Mark

The UK Association for Music Education - Music Mark | [www.musicmark.org.uk](http://www.musicmark.org.uk)



Supported by:



Find out more:



**THIS IS NOT  
A REHEARSAL** 

Music Mark's campaign  
on sustainability in  
music education

# Guitar Lessons

Individual and group  
lessons now being  
offered in school  
with Mr Hopkins

To sign up or  
for more  
information  
contact Mr  
Hopkins on  
07979 148929  
or  
[shopkins2112@  
gmail.com](mailto:shopkins2112@gmail.com)



## School Website Free App

Parents and Carers have access to a free app, linking you to our School Website. If you download the app, you will receive a notification every time information is added or updated on our website. This is a very useful tool that we are hoping as many Parents and Carers will make use of as possible. Please use the qr code below to access the download. Or search for “eSchools Lite” in the **App Store**

(**Apple**) or **Google Play (Android)**



### Free behaviour support resources for schools and families

Have you heard of **My Family Coach**? It's an incredible free platform for schools and families for help and support with all areas of behaviour, school and family life.

The platform includes **over 50 hours of free support content** from the experienced team here at Team Teach. There's **articles, podcasts, videos, ebooks and quarterly online parent classes** that you and the families you support can attend and watch on-demand as well.

The resources and support cover a huge variety of topics and we're always adding more: Relationships, Communication, Mental wellbeing, Friendships, Bullying, Calming down, School life, Healthy living, At risk behaviour, Screen time.

And for this time of year, families might find articles on **understanding behaviour, managing changes to routines, how to enjoy a family Christmas, using family support for childcare in the holidays, supporting your child through the holidays** or **why self care isn't selfish** helpful.

It's all available 24/7 and completely free! To access the platform as a parent or a school, simply visit the **My Family Coach website** and create an account.

# Are you missing out?

More money for your school!



Nutritious meal every day!



Access to free holiday clubs!



More teachers, trips, and activities!



Check your eligibility today for Free School Meals

[https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal\\_LIVE](https://oneonline.devon.gov.uk/CCSCitizenPortal_LIVE)



## SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at OLSP is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection: Miss Wathen, or Deputies: Mrs Blatchford or Mrs Emmerton on 01626 773905 Our named governor for child protection is Mrs Lorraine Coulter

### WELFARE

Our Family Support Worker is Rachel Ripley. Please let us know if you would like her to contact you for ANY support. Everyone needs a Rachel in their lives!



### ATTENDANCE

*Hi, my name is Steph, I'm the Attendance and Welfare Officer here at OLSP. I monitor attendance regularly to ensure that, where possible, every child is in school on time every day. If you have any concerns around your child's attendance, please leave a message with the office and I will contact you.*



## CPOMS and Operation encompass

At OLSP we use CPOMs as our system for recording information that we consider to be safeguarding information. As a parent you are entitled to see this information and may request to do so.

Further information about the programme can be found [here](#) -

<https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy-statement/>

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.