

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



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The Olive Branch 13th February 2026



Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way

Head Teacher: Mrs Cathy Blatchford



HEAD TEACHER UPDATE AND HALF TERM HIGHLIGHTS

As we come to the end of another busy and productive half term, it is a good opportunity to reflect on all that the children have achieved and experienced over recent weeks. School life has been full of learning, creativity and enrichment, and it has been wonderful to see the children engaging so positively with the wide range of opportunities on offer.

We have recently held our second set of Consultation Evenings this academic year, and we hope that parents and carers found these meetings useful and feel well informed as we move forwards. We value the strong partnership between home and school and would like to remind parents and carers that there is no need to wait for Consultation Evenings if there is something you would like to discuss — staff are always happy to arrange a time to talk.

It has been a particularly fun-filled half term, with many memorable experiences for the children. These have included drumming workshops, the Year 6 residential, trips to Teignmouth Museum, a Viking workshop, an informative visit from the charity Stella Maris, and our NSPCC Number Day; we raised £64.75 for NSPCC, thank you so much! These experiences help to enrich the curriculum and bring learning to life.

We are also very proud of the creative work completed by each class for an upcoming art exhibition at Teignmouth Pavilions, running from 4th to 26th February. Families are warmly encouraged to pop along and view the exhibition — it is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the children's artistic talents and hard work.

As we come to the end of the half term, we would like to wish all our families a happy and restful break. Please remember that school will reopen on Tuesday 24th February, as Monday 23rd February is an INSET day. On this day, staff will be working together to review and reflect on the mission of the school. We look forward to welcoming everyone back after the holiday.

God Bless to you all
Cathy Blatchford

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

First Reconciliation: An Important Step on the Journey to First Holy Communion

We are delighted to share that our children who are preparing to receive their First Holy Communion have now celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time.

This is a very special and prayerful moment in their faith journey, as they experience God's love, mercy and forgiveness in a personal way. Through this sacrament, the children are learning that God always loves them and never stops forgiving them.

When they come to Reconciliation, they take time to think about their actions, talk to God, and open their hearts to receive that forgiveness. It is a chance to make a fresh start, feel God's peace, and try again to follow Jesus in their daily lives. After they received the sacrament, the group enjoyed a delicious party-style breakfast together.

In their preparation sessions, the children have also explored the themes of forgiveness and prayer, discovering how prayer strengthens our relationship with God and helps guide us in our daily lives. These experiences are helping them to grow in confidence and understanding as they continue their journey towards receiving Jesus in the Eucharist.

We keep all of our children in our prayers as they continue this important time of preparation, and we thank our families and parish community for supporting them as they grow in faith.



SPRING 2 CLUBS:



These are the clubs that are running during the second half of the Spring term.

Please copy and paste the google form link below to sign your child up.

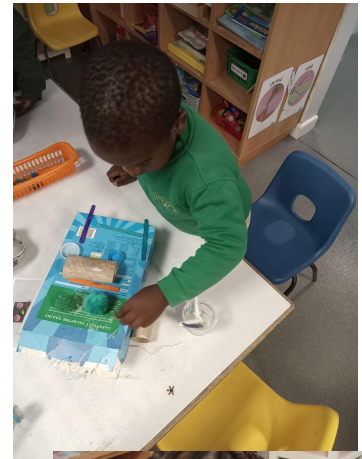
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfJlPdfGOZ0zumDIKlwlyUWe9HCCyQYdA4_r194vutsfA_7A/viewform?usp=pp_url

- Maths Sats Booster class with Mrs Blatchford Wednesdays 3.15pm - 4.15pm (Year 6 ONLY)
- Lego club with Miss Humphrey, Wednesday, 3.15-4pm, KS1 and KS2 (max 20 spaces)
- Girls Football with Mr Stamp Thursdays KS2 only 3:15pm - 4:15pm Max 20 - Own Shin Pads Essential!
- Handball with Premier Sport Fridays 3:15pm - 4:30pm



NURSERY - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 1

In nursery we have been looking at Robots as all the children seem to be fascinated with them. We have been looking at how they are made and constructing our own using junk modelling, Popoids, magnetic construction and connecting bricks. We have had such fun with this theme some of us have drawn our own robots and then built them with help from our teachers.



RECEPTION - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 1?





We have been busy in reception and our writing skills are really coming along. We have changed the role play area in to a cafe and we enjoy taking food orders and writing them down using clipboards. In maths we are starting to add together two groups.

We have been learning all about animals and their habitats and we have learned that animals seek what they need in a home, helping them to survive.

In PE we have been experimenting with our giant parachute and we love the new games that we have played which sometimes involve laying underneath it and watching it 'mushroom' above our heads! This always brings lots of fun and excitement!

RECEPTION STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

| SPRING 1 | Stars  | Value | Disciples  |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Star of Autumn Term | Audrey | Disciple of Autumn term | Ricky |
| 9th January | Henry | Peace | Bobby |
| 16th January | Monty | Compassion | Mia |
| 23rd January | Aindry | Tolerance | Chloe |
| 30th January | Mia | Hope | Thaddeus |
| 6th February | Tabitha | Love | Alfie |
| 13th February | Billy | Humility | Emerson |



YEAR 1 AND 2 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 1?

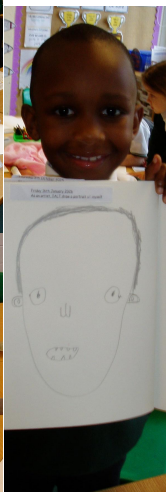


DRAGONS IN SCHOOL!

Did you hear that we have had dragons in our school? That's right! This half-term, Class one was invaded by dragons and they left one of their dragon eggs in their nest. We have really enjoyed the story 'Dragon Machine' and we have done some beautiful, descriptive writing about what we have seen.






In Art with Mrs Emmerton, we have been learning how to use different mediums. We have also been drawing self portraits using pencils.



On Fridays, we have been having computing lessons with Mr Hopkins. We have been using Beebots and mice to learn how to use algorithms. We have been pressing the buttons to control the robots whilst thinking about where we want them to go. It has been great fun!

YEAR 1 AND 2 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

| SPRING 1 | Stars  | Value | Disciples  |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Star of Autumn Term | Jesum | Disciple of Autumn term | Seb |
| 9th January | Dora | Peace | Billy |
| 16th January | Noah | Compassion | Chloe |
| 23rd January | Poppy | Tolerance | Nate |
| 30th January | Angel | Hope | Wilma |
| 6th February | Evie | Love | Jesum |
| 13th February | Polly | Humility | Emily  |

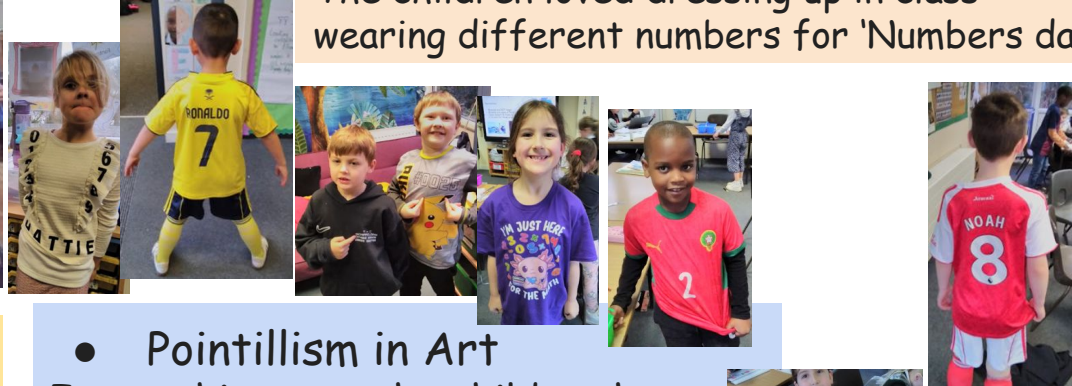
YEAR 3 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 1



The class enjoyed a walk to Shaldon to attend Mass together with Father Albert. The children were well behaved and represented the school superbly. Massive thank you to the parents and volunteers who were able to help walk the children.

NSPCC Numbers Day

The children loved dressing up in class wearing different numbers for 'Numbers day'.






- **Pointillism in Art**

In art this term, the children have been learning how to do 'Pointillism' which was first started by George Seurat. This was where you could create art using dots. The children loved doing this and feel inspired of creating and decorating their own designs.



YEAR 3 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

| SPRING 1 | Stars  | Value | Disciples  |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Star of Autumn Term | Tyler | Disciple of Autumn term | Evelyn |
| 9th January | Noah | Peace | Jayden |
| 16th January | Hattie | Compassion | Alby |
| 23rd January | Patrick | Tolerance | Arthur |
| 30th January | Oliver | Hope | Issac |
| 6th February | Ronnie | Love | Sarah-Anne |
| 13th February | Theo | Humility | Steffan  |



YEAR 4 AND 5 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 1



The highlight of the half term was the Viking Workshop Experience. The children had the opportunity to learn about and take part in a wide range of Viking activities, including bow and arrow shooting, battle techniques, brooch making, and hearing a mythical story about Thor and the serpent. All of the children were fully involved and thoroughly enjoyed the day.



YEAR 4 AND 5 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

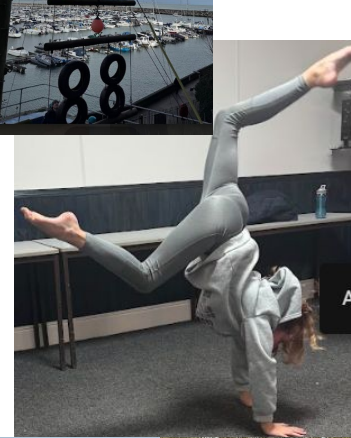
| SPRING 1 | Stars  | Value | Disciples  |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Star of Autumn Term | Albie | Disciple of Autumn term | Florence |
| 9th January | Jake | Peace | Eva |
| 16th January | Estrella | Compassion | Daisy |
| 23rd January | Robert | Tolerance | Max C |
| 30th January | Max S | Hope | Nathel |
| 6th February | Ted | Love | Hal |
| 13th February | Josh | Humility | Grisha |





YEAR 6 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 1




The highlight for Year 6 this half term has definitely got to be the Year 6 Residential to Grenville House in Brixham. The children had an amazing time and we are so proud of their achievements.



YEAR 6 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

| SPRING 1 | Stars  | Value | Disciples  |
|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Star of Autumn Term | Olivia | Disciple of Autumn term | Beloved |
| 9th January | Oscar Sum | Peace | Taylor |
| 16th January | Joy | Compassion | Tara |
| 23rd January | Molly | Tolerance | Ivie-Beau |
| 30th January | Residential Week | Hope | Residential Week |
| 6th February | Grace | Love | Darcey |
| 13th February | Zach | Humility | Teddy |



| <div> <div>Diary Dates</div>  </div> | | 6th May | 10:30 - 11:30am Year 3/4 Striking & Fielding festival @ TCS |
|--|--|-----------|---|
| 18/19th February | Premier Sports holiday camp at OLSP school | 2nd June | 1pm - 2:30pm Magistrates in the Community workshop with Y6 |
| 27th February | St David's day - Wear Yellow | 16th June | Junior Speaks Heats |
| 2nd - 5th March | Parents evening | 19th June | 4pm - 6pm School BBQ - times TBC |
| 5th March | World Book Day | 24th June | Sports Day |
| 9th March | Science week | 29th June | 9:45am - 10:45am St Peter and St Paul's mass - whole school |
| 10th March | Y4/5 Waste Management Trip Exeter | 30th June | Provisional date for Waste Workshops Y1/2 and Y6 |
| 12th March | International Day of Happiness ART Afternoon - whole school | 1st July | Sports day - Back up day |
| 17th March | St Patrick's Day 9:45am - 10:45am St Patrick's Day mass | 6th July | Year 6 Dress rehearsal |
| 20th March | Red nose day | 7th July | 2pm - 3pm Y6 performance to parents 5:30pm - 6:30pm Y6 performance to parents |
| 25th March | 2:30pm - 3pm Colour Run - TBC led by school chaplains to raise funds | 13th July | Y6 enterprise week |
| 30th March | Hot chocolate with the HT for nominated pupils | 15th July | Dojo Afternoon |
| 1st April | Dojo Afternoon | 20th July | 2pm - 3:30pm Y6 enterprise selling event Ice-cream with the HT for 100% and (99% attendance) |
| 2nd April | Stations of the cross in the hall | 21st July | 9am - 10am Leavers mass - whole school to attend Ice-cream with the HT for 100% and (99% attendance) Dojo Afternoon |
| 23rd April | St George's Day | 22nd July | 9am - 10am Year 6 Leavers assembly Last day of the year |

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

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In recognition of a commitment to
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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



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/) -

<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.



COLOURS of SOUND

Music in Art and Art in Music

**Sunday 1st March
2026 at 3pm**

**The Pavilions
Teignmouth TQ14 8BG**

featuring **Formula 5**

Alfie Pugh – keyboards
Rebecca Willson – violin
David Jones – guitars
John Donnelly – double bass
Gary Evans – percussion

A jazzy twist on music inspired by art and
animation including
How to Train Your Dragon, Pictures From an
Exhibition, Howl's Moving Castle and original
music from original art

Tickets £18 (accompanied under 18s £8)
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Vive la Musique! charity 1190248



A Teignmouth Classical
Music Festival event

Duo Tutti



FREE concert
all welcome!

Any donations to the Vive La
Musique! school concerts fund
would be gratefully received

a classical concert for KIDS and their
grown ups **SAT 28 FEB 11am**

doors open at 10:30am

St Michael the Archangel Church
Teignmouth TQ14 8TB (the church on the sea front)

Refreshments are available free of charge

Organised by Vive La Musique! registered charity No 1190248

Dare to join a top Grammar School? It might not be as hard as you think...

If your son will be in Year 6 in September 2026, you can register to take the entrance tests for Torquay Boys' Grammar School from 1 March 2026. We're excited to welcome our next potential students!

The tests will be on Saturday, 19 September 2026 and they have been thoughtfully-designed to cover the Maths and English that your son has been learning at primary school. No extra tutoring is needed - just bring your enthusiasm.



Additional Support for Pupil Premium Students

We believe every child should have a chance to shine, no matter their background. That's why we're excited to team up with Atom Learning. If your child qualifies for Pupil Premium, they can access a fantastic free online programme to help build their confidence and skills for test success. It has been shown that students with a glimmer of academic potential make more progress in schools such as TBGS, and this offer of PP support is part of our continued effort to

encourage as many students as possible to consider us for secondary school.

Not eligible for Pupil Premium? You can still try Atom Learning with a free five-day trial on their website: atomlearning.com.

To apply to take the tests, complete the online registration form: tbgs.co.uk/join-us

Why you should dare to join us?

TBGS is renowned for providing students with:

- a top-quality, rich and varied curriculum, which enables academic progress, whilst encouraging inquisitive minds;
- a wide range of extra-curricular pursuits, and sporting opportunities, contributing to developing the whole person;
- a caring environment and strong pastoral system allowing the nurturing of academic excellence of each individual.

The essence of what TBGS strives to do is captured in our clear mission to:

- **enable** students' enjoyment of learning for its own sake, whilst developing their creative talents to fulfil their intellectual potential;
- **provide** individuals with the knowledge and skills to respond to a changing world with confidence and humility;
- **encourage** each person to be reflective, open-minded and principled so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.

Excellence Integrity Leadership



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**OPEN
WEEK**

Tours
23-27 March
at 9:30
& 2:00

Dare to be
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enquiries@tbgs.co.uk



TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**OPEN
WEEK**

Come and take
a look
23-27 March
Tours at
9:30 & 2:00

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tour time at
[tbgs.co.uk/
join-us](https://tbgs.co.uk/join-us)

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environment
nurtures academic
excellence

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that fosters
creativity and
curiosity

Outstanding
leadership and
extra-curricular
opportunities

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- No experience required
- Ages 6 -18 (adult sessions also available)
- Email: waterpolo@naswpc.co.uk to book
- Find out more at www.naswpc.co.uk



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NEWTON ABBOT SWIMMING AND WATER POLO CLUB
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- Find out more at www.naswpc.co.uk

