

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



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The Olive Branch 27th March 2026



With helping hands we grow, with curious minds we learn.

Head Teacher: Mrs Cathy Blatchford



HEAD TEACHER UPDATE AND HALF TERM HIGHLIGHTS

As we come to the end of another busy and joyful term, we reflect on how the season of Lent has shaped much of our time together. This began with our chaplains leading us in a thoughtful and prayerful Lenten Penitential Liturgy, setting a reflective tone that has carried through many of our activities. We will finish the term with our usual beautiful celebration of the stations of the cross.

Throughout the term, pupils have enjoyed a rich and varied curriculum. We celebrated World Book Day, sparking a shared love of reading, and took part in inspiring art workshops, including a whole afternoon dedicated to creativity for the International Day of Happiness. During Science Week, curiosity and investigation were at the heart of learning, and the following pages of this newsletter showcase what this looked like across each class.

Our older pupils had some fantastic enrichment opportunities, with Year 4, 5 and 6 attending a football festival at Teignmouth Community School. Pupils also enjoyed another visit to TCS later in the term to watch their amazing musical, *School of Rock*, which was a truly memorable experience for all.

Both our girls and boys football teams have taken part in matches and we are very proud of how well they have played.

Across the school, pupils took part in CAFOD workshops focused on "*A Better World Needs All of Us*", encouraging meaningful discussion around compassion, justice, and our role in creating a fairer world.

Finally, this term we say a sad farewell to Paige who is moving on to pastures new. We are very grateful for all the time and hard work she has given to OLSP and wish her all the best.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We wish you all a restful and happy break.

God Bless
Cathy Blatchford

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

As we journey through the season of Lent and approach the joy of Easter, our school community has been reflecting deeply on prayer, sacrifice and service to others. This special time in the Church's year has provided many opportunities for our children to grow in faith and live out our Gospel values.

Cake Sale for BenevoLENT

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their generosity and enthusiasm in supporting our recent cake sale for BenevoLENT. The event was a wonderful success, with children, families and staff all contributing delicious baked goods.

Through this act of charity, the children have shown a true understanding of almsgiving—one of the key pillars of Lent. Their efforts will help support those in need, reminding us all of the importance of compassion, kindness and putting our faith into action.

Thank you to everyone who donated, baked and supported this special event.

Weekly Lenten Reflections

Throughout Lent, each class has taken part in weekly reflections, providing a calm and prayerful space to think about the meaning of this important season.

These reflections have encouraged the children to:

- Think about how they can grow closer to God
- Reflect on their actions and choices
- Consider ways they can help others

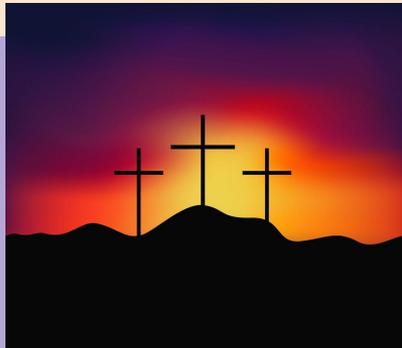


It has been wonderful to see the reverence and maturity shown by the children during these times. Through prayer, scripture and quiet reflection, they are developing a deeper understanding of the journey towards Easter.

As we enter into Holy Week (next week), we look forward to celebrating the hope and joy of the Resurrection at Easter. Thank you for your continued support in nurturing the Catholic life of our school.



PALM SUNDAY



SUMMER 1 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/1FAIpQLScKPAm5qhxP7D7DHJgRJ-SgxpIBAzfUrtA98iPPygd7pcSA2Q/viewform?usp=pp_url

- Maths Sats Booster class with Mrs Blatchford Wednesdays 3.15pm - 4.15pm (Year 6 and for the first 3 weeks for term ONLY)
- Girls Football with Mr Stamp Thursdays KS2 only 3:15pm - 4:30pm Max 20 - Own Shin Pads Essential!
- Dodgeball with Premier Sport Fridays 3:15pm - 4:30pm (Max 20 spaces)
- Drawing club with Miss Wathen Thursdays 3:15 - 4pm KS1 and KS2 (Max 20 spaces)



NURSERY - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 2

In Nursery this term we have been looking at new life and spring. The children have enjoyed exploring flowers and how they grow we enjoyed painting pictures of our favourite ones. We have enjoyed creating our own farm building with the lego. We have had great fun outside while the weather was nice and enjoyed our water play.



RECEPTION - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 2?



This half term we have been looking at texts involving pirates. The children have loved learning about pirates and creating their own pirate names. In maths we have been learning how to split a group into two before we looked at subtraction and how to start writing this as a number sentence. We have also been making observations of plants and we have started planting and watching our seeds grow as part of Science week.

We enjoyed Shrove Tuesday and made pancakes out of playdoh - we then flipped and tossed them in the air using a frying pan! We wrote our ingredients list and recipes in the home corner. We also had a lovely time for World Book Day and we enjoyed showing off our costumes to each other alongside sharing books with our friends and doing fun activities.

RECEPTION STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

SPRING 2	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
27.2.26	Emilia	Hope	Sam
6.3.26	Arlo	Fortitude	Andrii
13.3.26	Thaddeus	Charity	Emerson
20.3.26	Henry	Courage	Chloe
27.3.26	Sam	Peace	Billy
Star of Spring Term	Mia	Disciple of Spring term	Bobby



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

What are the signs of spring?

In Class 1/2 this half-term, we have been learning about the signs of spring. We began by finding things that happen in spring and identifying all of the signs that spring is on its way.

We then went on a field trip to the Nature Reserve to see how many signs of spring we could spot!

Thank you to all of our parent/helpers.



YEAR 1 AND 2 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

SPRING 2	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
27.2.26	Elliott	Hope	Henry
6.3.26	Rowan	Fortitude	Beloved
13.3.26	Gypsie	Charity	Dora
20.3.26	Florence	Courage	Rune
27.3.26	Mae	Peace	Max
Star of Spring Term	Lumen	Disciple of Spring term	Amelia



YEAR 3 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 2



World Book Day 2026!



Throughout this term, Year 3 + 4 have been looking at flowers and plants in science. The children have been looking at the different parts of each flower as well as investigating what helps plants grow. We have been growing watercress for the past few weeks.

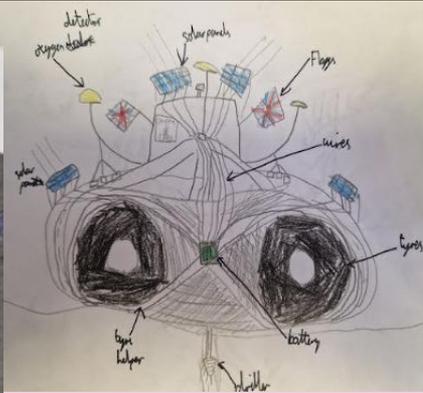


YEAR 3 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

SPRING 2	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
27.2.26	Issac	Hope	Isla
6.3.26	Tyler	Fortitude	Ellie
13.3.26	Scarlett	Charity	Hattie
20.3.26	Nela	Courage	Samuel
27.3.26	Noah	Peace	Sarah-Anne
Star of Spring Term	Arthur	Disciple of Spring term	Patrick

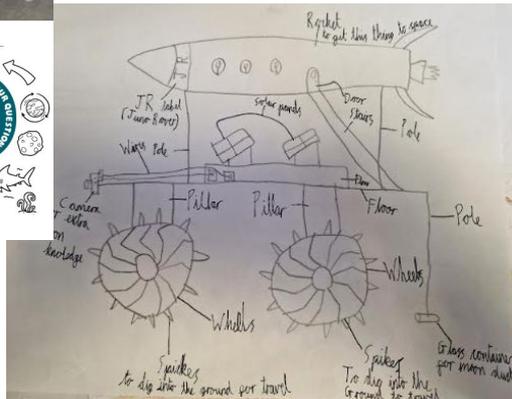


YEAR 4 AND 5 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 2



World Book Day
We had a lovely day exploring books and sharing time with others across the school.

An amazing art workshop too, with the Daisy Foundation.



Some great pair working in class when designing a vehicle for the exploring the moon. This links well with our science unit based on Earth and Space.

YEAR 4 AND 5 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

SPRING 2	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
27/2/26	Izzy	Hope	Muno
6.3.26	Max C	Fortitude	Ryan
13.3.26	Eva	Charity	Sophie
20.3.26	Arthur	Courage	Emilia
27.3.26	Raffy	Peace	Sophie
Star of Spring Term	Grisha	Disciple of Spring term	Arlo P



YEAR 6 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN SPRING 2

This half term, our Science and DT learning has focused on electrical circuits. The children have been experimenting with different components and designing their own security systems to protect something precious. Using their knowledge of circuits, they have created pressure switches and sensors in an attempt to catch the mischievous Burglar Bill in the act! It has been a brilliant opportunity for them to apply their scientific understanding in a fun, hands-on project.



YEAR 6 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

SPRING 2	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
27/2/26	Beloved	Hope	Oscar Se
6.3.26	Iris	Fortitude	Indya
13.3.26	Caitlyn	Charity	Jasmine
20.3.26	Hollie	Courage	Oscar Summers
27.3.26	Lyra	Peace	Jayden
Star of Spring Term	Ava	Disciple of Spring term	Zach





Diary Dates

		1st July	Sports day - Back up day
1st April	Dojo Afternoon	6th July	Year 6 Dress rehearsal
2nd April	Stations of the cross in the hall 3:30 - 5pm Year 5/6 Girls football match vs Starcross (On the field) Last day of Spring Term	7th July	2pm - 3pm Y6 performance to parents 5:30pm - 6:30pm Y6 performance to parents
23rd April	St George's Day	8th July	Moving up day (TCS transition day)
6th May	10:30 - 11:30am Year 3/4 Striking & Fielding festival @ TCS	13th July	Y6 enterprise week
2nd June	1pm - 2:30pm Magistrates in the Community workshop with Y6	15th July	Dojo Afternoon
16th June	Junior Speaks Heats	20th July	2pm - 3:30pm Y6 enterprise selling event Ice-cream with the HT for 100% and (99% attendance)
19th June	4pm - 6pm School BBQ - times TBC	21st July	9am - 10am Leavers mass - whole school to attend Ice-cream with the HT for 100% and (99% attendance) Dojo Afternoon
24th June	Sports Day	22nd July	9am - 10am Year 6 Leavers assembly Last day of the year
29th June	9:45am - 10:45am St Peter and St Paul's mass - whole school		
30th June	Recycle Devon Waste Workshops Y1/2, Y3 and Y6	Mon 28th September - Fri 2nd October 2026	Year 6 Residential - Barton Hall

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Whyte".

Bridget Whyte
CEO of Music Mark

The UK Association for Music Education - Music Mark | 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



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.