

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

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The Olive Branch 23rd October 2026



**We grow together with kind hearts and curious minds, living out our
faith in all we do**

Head Teacher: Mrs Cathy Blatchford



Headteacher's Update

What a busy and positive start to the new school year it has been!

We are delighted to welcome two new governors to our governing body. Ben Banks and Sam Peat will be joining us, replacing Fr Albert and Darral Saw. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Fr Albert and Darral for the time, commitment and support they have given to our school during their time as governors. We are incredibly grateful for all they contributed and look forward to working with Ben and Sam as they take on their new roles.

This half term has certainly been a full one! Our Year 6 children enjoyed their residential visit to Barton Hall and, for the first time, our Year 5 children joined them for two nights. The general consensus was that they absolutely loved it and are already looking forward to returning next year! It was wonderful to see the children embracing new experiences, challenging themselves and stepping outside their comfort zones. We were incredibly proud of the way they supported and encouraged one another throughout their time away.

A huge thank you also goes to our Year 1 and 2 children for their fantastic contribution to our Harvest Festival. Thank you to all our families for the generous donations, which resulted in a wonderful collection of goods for our Community Larder. It is always lovely to see our school community coming together to support others.

We have also held our first parents' meetings of the year, which I hope you found both useful and informative. Please remember, however, that you never need to wait until a formal parents' meeting if there is something you would like to discuss. We really value open communication between home and school, so please speak to your child's class teacher if you have a question, concern or simply something you feel it would be helpful for us to know.

As we reach the end of a very busy first half term, I would like to thank our children, families and staff for such a positive start to the year. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back refreshed and ready for another busy half term!



THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

Bringing Our Mission Statement to Life

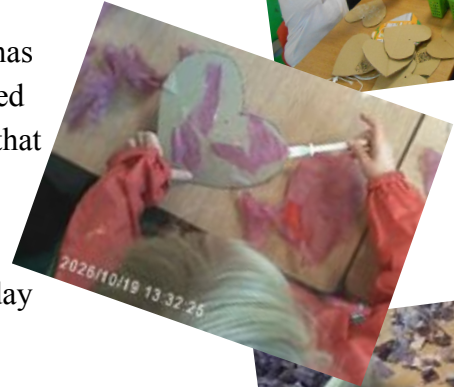
Last academic year, OLSP took time to review our school mission statement. Following consultation with our parents, parish and children, we agreed on a statement that truly reflects who we are as a school community and what we aspire to be:

“We grow together with kind hearts and curious minds, living out our faith in all we do.”

Throughout the final week of this half term, the whole school has taken part in a special **Art Week**, with the aim of bringing our mission statement to life through creativity. Every class has had the opportunity to explore what these words mean to them and contribute towards a shared piece of artwork that reflects our values, our faith and our sense of belonging. It was lovely that Fr Albert joined us to take part too

This has been a wonderful opportunity for the children to think about how we grow together, show kindness to others, approach learning with curiosity and live out our faith in our everyday actions.

We hope that the finished artwork will be a lasting reminder of our mission and the important part that every child plays in making OLSP such a special community. After all, our mission statement is not simply a collection of words; it is something we want everyone to see, feel and experience in our school every day.



ATTENDANCE

We are delighted to share that our attendance is currently 97.6% compared to this time last year which was 95.7% - this puts us in the top 10% of schools in Devon.

This is a wonderful achievement and something our whole school community should be proud of.

Please can I remind parents that the school gate opens 8.30am and closes at 8.45am, children will be marked as late if they are not in class when the registers are taken at 8.45am. A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support in making sure children are in school, on time, ready to learn and ready to reach their full potential.

WINTER UNIFORM AT OLSP

From after October half term until Easter

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform every day.

Wearing the correct uniform helps children to feel part of our school community, proud of their school and ready to learn.

KS2: WHITE SHIRT & SCHOOL TIE Years 3 – 6



EYFS & KS1: POLO SHIRT Reception – Year 2



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ✓ Follow the correct uniform for your year group.
- ✓ Wear plain school shoes (no trainers or coloured flashes).
- ✓ Plain socks or tights (white, green, black or grey).
- ✓ Wear a school tie (Years 3 – 6).
- ✓ Label all clothing and footwear.

Socks and tights



Plain white, green or black socks/tights (grey socks also permitted).

School shoes



No trainers, boots or shoes with coloured flashes.

School tie (Years 3 – 6)



Plain green tie (no stripes).

Label everything



Please label all clothing and footwear.

Need uniform?

School ties are available through ParentPay.



Full uniform guidance:
www.olsp.uk/uniform

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS HALF TERM



Day	Time	What
Wednesdays	Till 4:15pm	Maths Booster with Mrs Blatchford
Thursdays	Till 4:15pm	Lego Club Yrs 1-6 only
Fridays	Till 4:30pm	Archery with Premier sports

RECEPTION & NURSERY - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN AUTUMN 1

We have all settled back into our routines really well and the new reception children have been showing strength and excitement at their new phase in 'school'. We have started PE and the children particularly enjoy playing with the parachute. In English we have been reading a story titled 'We're going to find the Monster' and the children have been acting out parts of the story and creating maps. In maths we have been exploring numbers to 5, as well as learning to subitise. We have been exploring ourselves and drawing portraits alongside discussing our favourite things. The class have gelled well and some new friendships have been formed.



RECEPTION & NURSERY STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

AUTUMN 1	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
WB 7.9.26	Zayne	Living out our mission	Poppy
WB 14.9.26	Percy	Love	Poppy
WB 21.9.26	George	Generosity and Justice	Riley
WB 28.9.26	Lockie	Tolerance	Tess
WB 5.10.26	Aaleigha-Rose	Justice	Ronnie
WB 12.10.26	Chloe	Compassion	Theo
WB 19.10.26	Tess	Faith	Percy

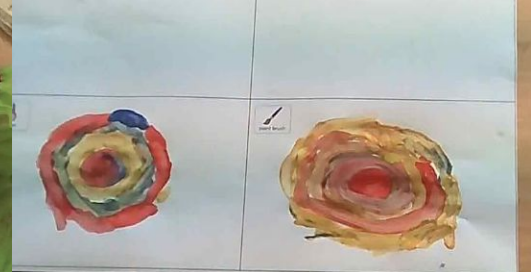
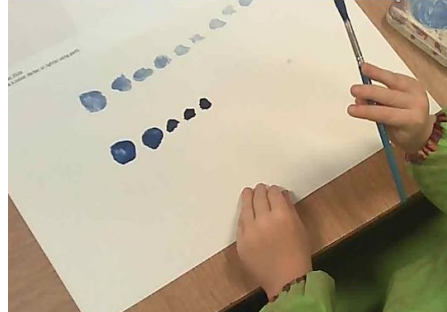
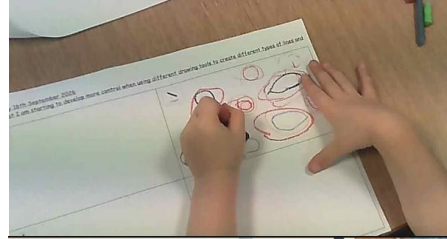


YEAR 1 AND 2 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN AUTUMN 1?

A huge thank you for all your kind donations for our Harvest Assembly! The children thoroughly enjoyed sharing their songs and artwork with you, and your generous support is greatly appreciated by our local community.



The children explored the story of Creation and remembered how special God's world is. We also looked closely at the Our Father prayer, learning how praying helps us talk to God and grow closer to Him every day.



This half-term, the children learned about the artist Wassily Kandinsky. They had fun making colorful circle art using different materials and mixing white and black paint to make their colors lighter (tints) and darker (shades). They did a fantastic job!

YEAR 1 AND 2 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

AUTUMN 1	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
WB 7.9.26	Kaleb	Living out our mission	Ricky
WB 14.9.26	Ushe	Love	Jesum
WB 21.9.26	Emily	Generosity and Justice	Audrey
WB 28.9.26	Chloe	Tolerance	Mia
WB 5.10.26	Henry	Justice	Evie
WB 12.10.26	Emerson	Compassion	Reuel
WB 19.10.26	Arlo	Faith	Wilma

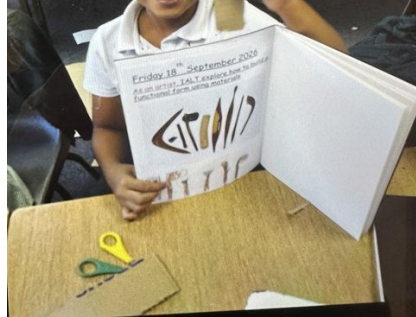
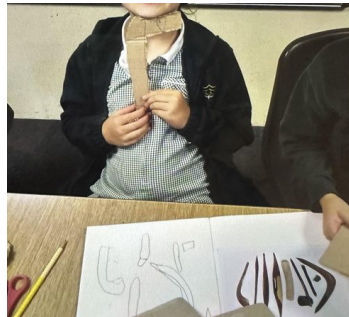


YEAR 3 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN AUTUMN 1

It has been a wonderful first term back! Year 3 have all settled into their routines really well and the children have made a fantastic start to the year. In Maths, we have been exploring place value within 1,000, as well as developing our understanding of column addition and subtraction within 1,000. The children have worked incredibly hard and have shown great progress and confidence in their learning.

In Art, we have been exploring South American Indigenous functional forms. The children have created their own observational drawings before designing and making their own versions using card. They have really enjoyed getting creative and thinking carefully about the shapes, patterns and details.

We have also been working hard on developing our reading fluency and finding fun ways to encourage the children to enjoy reading. We have been very lucky to have Mr Tumble, a therapy dog, and Debbie visit us to listen to the children read. This has been a lovely opportunity for the children to practise their reading, build their confidence and develop a real love of reading.



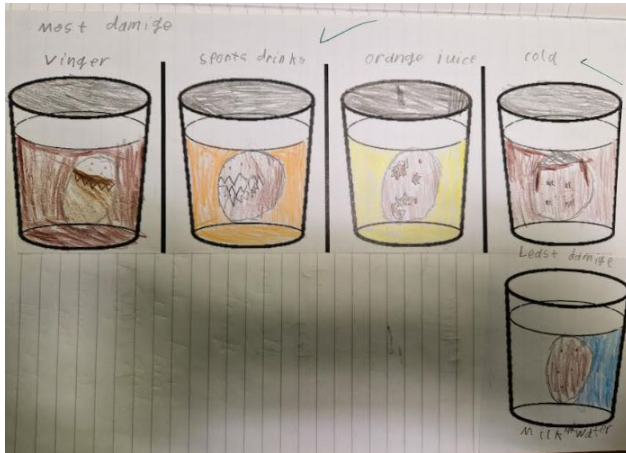
YEAR 3 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

AUTUMN 1	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
WB 7.9.26	Great	Living out our mission	Nate
WB 14.9.26	Ivy	Love	Amelia
WB 21.9.26	Max	Generosity and Justice	Polly
WB 28.9.26	Hughie	Tolerance	Angel
WB 5.10.26	Seb	Justice	Florence
WB 12.10.26	Mae	Compassion	Chloe
WB 19.10.26	Elliott	Faith	Lumen



YEAR 4 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN AUTUMN 1

Science Egg Experiment - All the children were fascinated by the smell after the eggs had been sitting in different types of surgery liquids for a week. They all understood the importance of brushing their teeth twice a day after the experiment.



Greek Workshop Day-They got to make masks, listen to a traditional Greek mythical story, learn how to play traditional games and then use bow and arrows. All the children really enjoyed themselves.

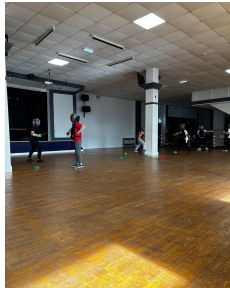


YEAR 4 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

AUTUMN 1	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
WB 7.9.26	Tiffany	Living out our mission	Samuel
WB 14.9.26	Theo	Love	Tyler
WB 21.9.26	Noah	Generosity and Justice	Nela
WB 28.9.26	Isla	Tolerance	Evelyn
WB 5.10.26	Ellie	Justice	Patrick
WB 12.10.26	Ronnie	Compassion	Nela
WB 19.10.26	Alby	Faith	Steffan 

YEAR 5 & 6 - WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON IN AUTUMN 1

This half term has been very busy in Supernova class. We have made a great start with our learning and have been enjoying learning about the circulatory system in Science as well as making sculptures in the style of Giacometti in Art. The most exciting part of this half term though was the residential at Barton Hall! The children had a fabulous time, enjoying activities such as archery and climbing as well as canoeing and giant swing. They amazed me with their courage and positive attitudes and how they supported each other! It was described by some as “the best week EVER!”.



YEAR 5 & 6 STARS AND DISCIPLES FOR HALF TERM

AUTUMN 1	Stars 	Value	Disciples 
WB 7.9.26	Ted	Living out our mission	Alicia
WB 14.9.26	Florence	Love	Paddy
WB 21.9.26	Joshua	Generosity and Justice	Estrella
WB 28.9.26	PGL residential	Tolerance	PGL residential
WB 5.10.26	Max S	Justice	Raffy
WB 12.10.26	Grisha	Compassion	Isla-Rose
WB 19.10.26	Jake	Faith	Daisy



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



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: Mrs Blatchford, or Deputies: Miss Wathen 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.