



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

"A place of learning – A community of Christ"

12th February 2021

Dear Parents,

It is the end of another strange and unexpected half term. As I have mentioned before, after the summer I didn't think we would ever be in this position again. However, it is what it is and there certainly is no reason to worry too much about the children academically. There is evidence that children from disadvantaged backgrounds may struggle more than most. However, in schools like Our Lady's, where parents and children value education as much as they do, they will catch up any lost ground very quickly. A lot has been written in the media this week about how to help children to "catch up". However, I think the most important thing is that we get all the children back into school as soon as possible which will hopefully be the 8th March. Once the children are back, we will be able to work with families ensuring their emotional wellbeing is looked after and identifying any gaps in learning. There is no need to panic as everyone will rise to the challenge. Up until the 8th March, please continue to focus on the basic skills – reading, times tables, written methods in maths, spelling etc.


Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. It is a time when we prepare for Easter by saying sorry for our sins, almsgiving and self-denial. Normally in school we would have a Liturgy to distribute ashes. Unfortunately, we won't be in school but I know that Father Alessandro is planning a live children's liturgy on Zoom. If you would like to access this liturgy, I can provide you with a link, but the parish needs to know who is coming. If you fill in this form by Tuesday at 5pm, I will send you the Zoom link and order of service.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kGkTyKD6PUGQWkaV9jj75zPmN_aU225HqvVOWSR9QORUQjAyN0k1UIFUMDNRWkQwSDk0MEtHWFcyVi4u

There are limited places so please book early to avoid disappointment

I hope you all have a lovely, well deserved half term holiday.

God bless,

M. Hold 



Are you reading to your child?

I wanted to use this newsletter to remind parents how important reading to their children regularly. This is essential for young children in Year 2 and below but also important for other primary aged children. It is a great way of showing children how much you value reading but also the chance for them to develop their inference and deduction without getting bogged down in the decoding.

Please remember to read to the children in your first language. You don't need to read to them in English and there is a lot of research in the benefits of children listening to books being read in their mother tongue.

The Book Trust have a great website with lots of advice for sharing books. It even has a video by Ali Sparkes about sharing books remotely which might be useful for grandparents:

[Tips for reading with your child | BookTrust](#)



February 2021

The Power of Prayer

For the 3rd – 5th Sundays in Ordinary Time, the Scriptures are taken from the Gospel of Mark. Children have had the opportunity in assembly to ‘interview’ an on-screen version of the Gospel writer, to find out more about the amazing things Jesus said and did.



During the week commencing 8th February, children will play/hear about* a game where a blindfolded child has to navigate their way to an agreed position with instructions from another child. This will help them to realise how important it is to listen for instructions, and how good it feels when you get given the help you need!

Why not watch this condensed version of the interview with Mark from this week, to see how this game will help children learn more about the power of prayer:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

Children learned that prayer is a way to find guidance from God. Just like Jesus, we can tell God all our worries and concerns, as well as things that we’re happy about and thankful for.

They also learned that we can pray to help us make decisions, just like Jesus did. We talked about how when we don’t listen to God, it’s like we’re wearing a blindfold and can’t hear anything. But when we talk to Him, it’s like He takes the blindfold off and speaks to us!

** For children who are remote learning at the moment, why not play this blindfold game at home to help them understand the teaching more?*

Pray. Stop. Go.

This theme of prayer sets us up very well for the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (17th February), which for many children falls during half term.

Here's long standing friend of Ten Ten and sadly now departed Fr Digby writing about Lent, which we pray will bless you as you prepare for this important season in the Church year.

Within six weeks, we'll celebrate the most important feast of the Church's year, Easter. Through baptism, we share in the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Our Lord Jesus Christ and then, at Pentecost, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are given the new life of Christ to be lived out in this life but to be experienced in its fullness in heaven, sharing the very glory of God's life.

Perhaps all that sounds a bit much to get the head round! No matter. Let's just receive the message that Easter is worth preparing for. The period of preparation is 'Lent', a word closely connected with 'Spring' and new life. Contrary to some images of Lent being bleak, one of the prayers of the Church calls this penitential season a 'joyful season of grace'.

As outlined in the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, we're asked to emphasise three aspects of Christian living: prayer, fasting and alms giving.

Fr Digby

Our theme for Lent this year is 'Pray. Stop. Go.' which is a child friendly interpretation of this same Gospel. Throughout Lent, our resources will encourage children to make their **prayer** life richer, to **stop** doing some things which in turn will free them to **go** out to others with acts of service.

Please do ask children about their 'Lent Adventure'. Here's a teaser trailer to help you get excited:

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-newsletter/>

Prayer

This is a prayer which children will use daily throughout the week commencing 8th February, to remind them that prayer can happen at any time, in any way! Why not pray it together with your child at home:

Dear God,

As I breathe in and as I breathe out,
help me to remember you.
Help me to love you and love others.

Amen

SHOP for OLS PTA – AVAILABLE VACANCY

The PTA would like to pass on our appreciation and gratitude to Annabel Grindley, who has served as our 'Shop for OLS' representative for 5 years!

We are now on the lookout for a volunteer who is able to commit to 5-10 hours per month, to oversee the day to day running of the scheme, in collaboration with Ray McCarthy who deals with the banking, accounting and record keeping.

WHY WE NEED YOU:

The scheme raises, on average, £10,000 per year!

BENEFITS:

There are so many reasons to become a volunteer for the school...

- 1. An opportunity to meet and talk to parents across all year groups**
- 2. The voucher scheme is such a great way to fundraise extra money for the school, as it costs you nothing to register or to sign up**
- 3. To become part of a great community**
- 4. Extremely rewarding to know that you are facilitating much needed funds for our wonderful school**

If you are keen to get involved and would like to find out more about the role, please contact Sharon Dodd on ourladysschoolpta@yahoo.co.uk

We can't wait to hear from you!

The PTA

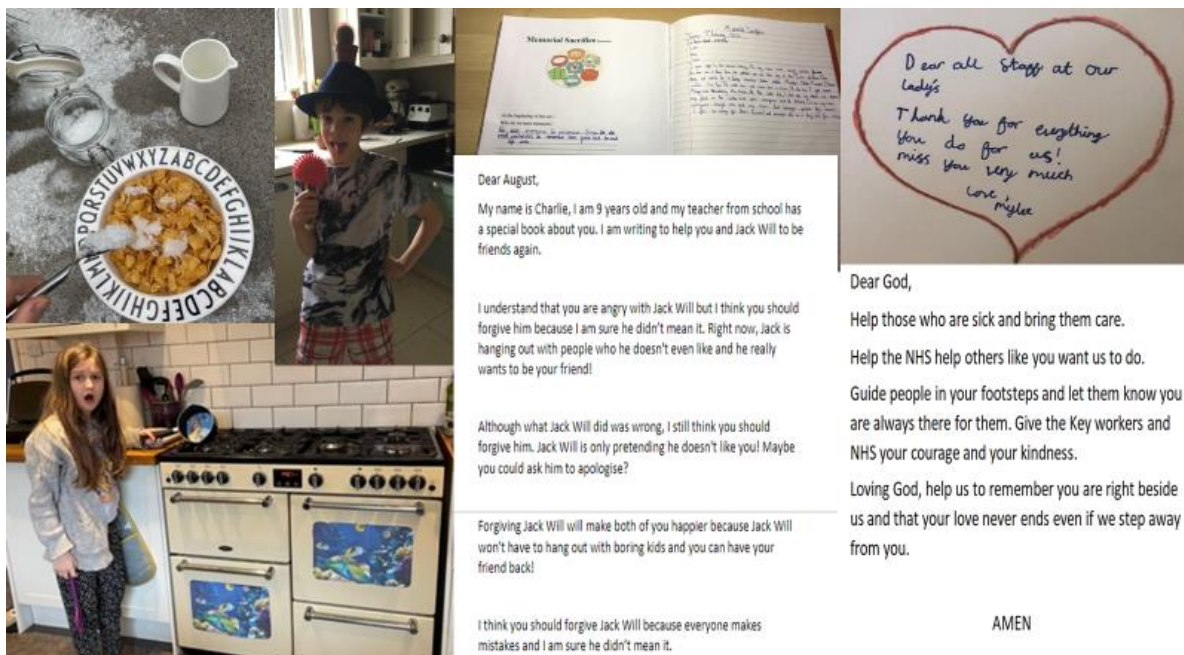
#OLSHappyHomeSchool

This is a selection of work chosen by the teachers for today's Good News Assembly. Well done everyone! Working at home is very intense and much harder than in school. I am proud of everything that all the children are doing:



The children have been learning about Chinese New Year and Theo has been making the most of the cold weather, carrying out some impromptu science investigations about changes of state and even some ice art! So creative!

'Shin-nee-an-how everyone!' Happy New Year!



Missional Narrative
 Dear August,
 My name is Charlie, I am 9 years old and my teacher from school has a special book about you. I am writing to help you and Jack Will to be friends again.

I understand that you are angry with Jack Will but I think you should forgive him because I am sure he didn't mean it. Right now, Jack is hanging out with people who he doesn't even like and he really wants to be your friend!

Although what Jack Will did was wrong, I still think you should forgive him. Jack Will is only pretending he doesn't like you! Maybe you could ask him to apologise?

Forgiving Jack Will will make both of you happier because Jack Will won't have to hang out with boring kids and you can have your friend back!

I think you should forgive Jack Will because everyone makes mistakes and I am sure he didn't mean it.

Dear all staff at our lady's
 Thank you for everything you do for us!
 miss you very much
 love
 nylee

Dear God,
 Help those who are sick and bring them care.
 Help the NHS help others like you want us to do.
 Guide people in your footsteps and let them know you are always there for them. Give the Key workers and NHS your courage and your kindness.
 Loving God, help us to remember you are right beside us and that your love never ends even if we step away from you.

AMEN



Freya Dodd's brilliant shadow theatre (the Nativity) as part of our Light & Dark Science topic.



Art inspired by Louise Nevelson and investigating light.

Safeguarding

As children are at home during lockdown, they are probably online or in front of screens a lot more than normal. It is really important that we use this time to teach our children about being safe online and using the wonderful technology we have responsibly. Net-aware have produced these tips for to help.

[8 tips for keeping your kids safe online during lockdown \(net-aware.org.uk\)](https://www.net-aware.org.uk/8-tips-for-keeping-your-kids-safe-online-during-lockdown)

Top Doodlers

The top 3 classes for earning stars over the last week on the Doodle Apps are:

	DoodleMaths		DoodleTimesTable		DoodleEnglish		DoodleSpell	
Gold	Year 1	1265	Year 3	306	Year 3	138	Year 2	643
Silver	Year 5	860	Year 5	218	Year 1	111	Year 1	361
Bronze	Year 3	852	Year 6	212	Year 2	89	Year 3	338

It is great to see Year 1 doing so well. Mr Weatherill, where are Year 4?

Accelerated Reader

Top readers this term

	Words Read
Year 5	2, 506, 359
Year 4	1, 991, 333
Year 6	1, 912, 855
Year 3	626, 548

Children who have already read over 100, 00 words this half term

Year 3

Harry
Alasdair

Buddy
Charlie
Ben
Amelia
Robert

Year 4

Wiktor
Louis
Ewan
Lucy
Harry
Alex
Amelia
Albert
Ula
Sai

Callen
Michael
Abigail

Year 6

Sarah
Olivia
Gabriel
Malachi
Aidan S
Filip
George
Barnaby

Year 5