



# Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter

*"A place of learning – A community of Christ"*

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20<sup>th</sup> January 2023


Dear Parents,

There have been lots of great things happening this week but the absolute highlight must be finally getting the Key Stage 1 playground complete with the Reception Playground not too far behind. They have hit a slight issue in that the sand is completely frozen but they are hoping to be back on Monday to finish. As you can imagine, it is proving to be very popular with the children who are having great fun. A massive thank you to everyone for being so patient but most importantly thank you to the PTA who have raised over £30 000 to get this work done. We are so lucky to have a PTA that can raise that sort of money. The children really are privileged to be part of this community.

On Wednesday this week, Year 4 went back in time to Ancient Egypt. They dressed up in some fantastic costumes and I know they took part in some great lessons; from mummifying each other to writing in Hieroglyphics. There was a procession of children at my door showing me work from all sorts of fun lessons.

Finally, there has been a lot of sport this week. The Tag Rugby Team continues to make a strong start in the tag rugby league. They won against Hawridge and Cholesbury on Monday and then drew a tough game against Chesham Bois last night. Also, the school swim team competed in the School Games qualifier at Chesham Prep school and came second in both the girls and the boy's event. We were the first placed school without their own swimming pool ourselves so those lessons in The Beacon's Pool seem to be really paying off. Well done everyone.

God bless,

M. How 



## PTA NEWS

I am delighted to announce that Laura Kriesal, mother of Francesca in Year 1, has agreed to become the New Chair of the PTA. It will need to be officially agreed at an Emergency General Meeting which we are hoping to hold on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. I am really grateful to Laura and the rest of the PTA team as they are so important to the community. They raise a lot of money but it is the community aspect of it that is so important. The next event being arranged is a sustainable jumble sale.



The poster has a bright yellow background. In the top left, there is a circular graphic with the words 'REDUCE', 'REUSE', and 'RECYCLE' in a stylized, overlapping font. A string of colorful triangular bunting flags hangs across the top right. The words 'Jumble Sale' are written in large, bubbly, purple letters with a yellow outline. To the right of this, in smaller purple capital letters, is 'OUR LADYS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL'. Below that, in large pink capital letters, is '26TH FEBRUARY' and '1-3PM'. The text 'Help us in our mission to reduce, re-use and recycle!' is centered below the date. A line of text says 'We are looking for donations of:'. This is followed by a list of items, each preceded by a colorful starburst icon. The items are: 'Clothes and shoes you or your children no longer wear or have grown out of (no underwear or socks please, unless unworn and in packaging).', 'Complete toys, games and puzzles.', 'Unwanted gifts and unopened toiletries.', 'Good quality household goods, crockery, bric-a-brac (no electronics please).', 'Books.', and 'We will also have a cake and refreshments stall, so any donations of cake on the day would be fantastic.' At the bottom left, it says 'Donations will be collected every Monday before and after school under the shelter. Last collection Monday 20th February.' In the bottom right corner, there is a graphic that says 'CHOOSE TO REUSE' in a stylized font.

**REDUCE  
REUSE  
RECYCLE**

# Jumble Sale

**OUR LADYS CATHOLIC  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**26TH FEBRUARY  
1-3PM**

**Help us in our mission to  
reduce, re-use and recycle!**

**We are looking for donations of:**

- \* Clothes and shoes you or your children no longer wear or have grown out of (no underwear or socks please, unless unworn and in packaging).
- \* Complete toys, games and puzzles.
- \* Unwanted gifts and unopened toiletries.
- \* Good quality household goods, crockery, bric-a-brac (no electronics please).
- \* Books.
- \* We will also have a cake and refreshments stall, so any donations of cake on the day would be fantastic.

**Donations will be collected every  
Monday before and after school under  
the shelter.  
Last collection Monday 20th February.**

**CHOOSE  
TO  
REUSE**

## **Catholic Social Teaching**

This half term, our Catholic Social Teaching theme is the Common Good and Solidarity. On Monday, I talked to the children about how we can learn a lot about common good and solidarity when we play team sports. How we work alongside people to get the best for our team. In a world which often feels very selfish, a me and my family first world, it is really important to teach children about the common good.



## **Provision Maps**

If your child is on the SEN register, you should receive their new provision map today. In the past we have shared them in meetings but going forward we will be sending them home at the beginning of each term. If you think you should have one and don't then please ask your class teacher.

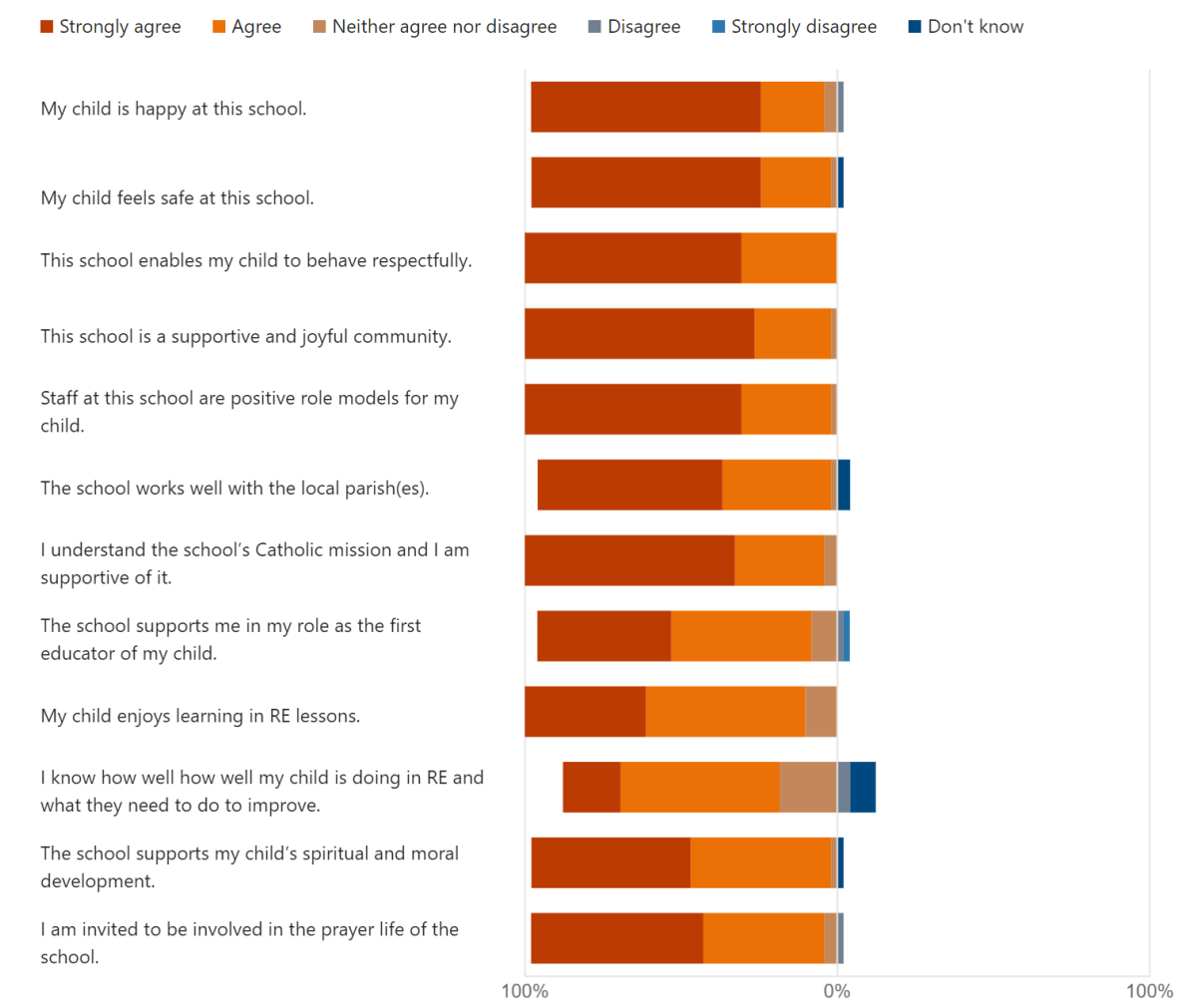
## **NEU Teachers Strike**

I am sure you will be aware of the result of the NEU ballot of teachers which has been in the news this week. I am not expecting it to affect Our Lady's so please don't make alternative arrangements. I will expect all the children to be in school as usual.

Thank you  
Mr Holdsworth

## Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who completed the Catholic Inspectorate parent questionnaire. It is really useful for us. There were responses from 49 families. This is a summary of the results:



These are really positive results. There were a small number of neutral answers and a very small number of negative answers. It is a shame that the colours are a bit confusing but unfortunately, I don't have any control over that.

There were a few really useful comments. Some really positive comments which I will use going forward on the website and generally when I'm promoting the school. There were also some comments which we will hopefully be able to use as part of our school improvement. A few of these I can answer/address here:

### **There was one request for more notice for Masses and liturgies.**

This is something we will certainly endeavour to do moving forward. We will try and make sure they are always on the app and I will make sure a message goes out before. You can always assume you are invited unless you are told otherwise. Very occasionally we may

need to encourage parents not to come because of capacity but the majority of the time it is fine.

**There were also a couple of comments saying either the parishes should be supporting the school more or the school should try and involve all of the parishes.**

Hopefully, this is something that has been addressed now with two relatively new parish priests. We can be restrained by what parish priests want to do or what they feel their skills are. However, we now have two excellent parish priests and are trying to encourage them to be as involved as possible. We are at times mindful of their workload too.

**One parent requested that the children learn more about vocation and ordination.**

This is a topic that is covered in the curriculum but it tends to be in Year 6. So hopefully they have that to come.

The other area that we will look at comes from the answer about whether you know how your child can improve in RE.

I know how well how well my child is doing in RE and what they need to do to improve.



This is something we will look at particularly as we move to the new RE Curriculum directory set out by the Bishops of England and Wales. Once again, thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaire.

## **Good News Certificates**



Last week's Good News certificates were:

Year 1	Francesca, Alex
Year 2	Whole Class
Year 3	Donnie, Hugo
Year 4	Hannah, Ralph
Year 5	James, Ethan, Karamo, Xavier
Year 6	Bella, Jack



## Attendance

Well done everyone. We have got a certificate for being in the top 25% of schools for attendance in the Autumn term. There is one for being in the top 10% which is the one I'm after this term. So, remember every single day counts.



## **A Message from Ten Ten Resources January 2023**

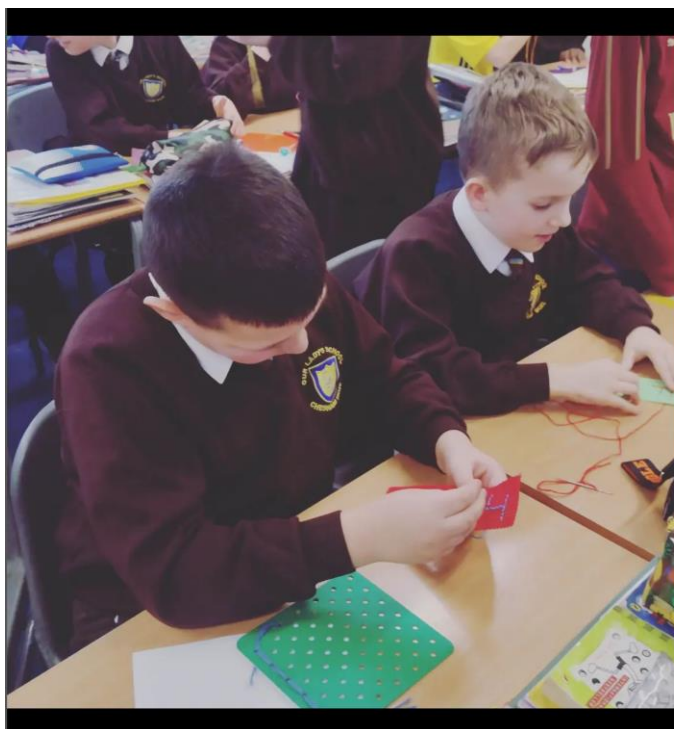
With the arrival of the new year, we start to put away signs of our Christmas celebrations: we finish off festive food, box up decorations, maybe recycling Christmas cards (and Christmas trees!) and perhaps generally breathe a sigh of relief about the return to normality. As we busy ourselves discarding all things of the festive season and look ahead to what 2023 might have in store, it's good to pause and remember that we are still in the season of Christmastide, which officially ends at Candlemas on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. We can leave many things behind, but hopefully the image of Jesus, God's gift of joy, hope and peace for the world remains.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout January and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope and pray that the new year brings peace and blessings for you and your family.

<http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

## @OLScheshambois

Here is a quick snapshot of our learning this week:



olscheshambois



olscheshambois It has been great having Mrs Walder-Davis teaching Year 5 back stitch today as part of their Design and Technology #OLSdt

13m

[View insights](#)



2 likes

13 MINUTES AGO



Add a comment...

Post



olscheshambois



olscheshambois At last it's here! We are having great fun on our new equipment. Hopefully reception will be finished by the end of the week #OLSpta

2h

[View insights](#)



6 likes

2 HOURS AGO



Add a comment...

Post



olscheshambois



olscheshambois Year 4 have been time travelling back to Ancient Egypt #OLShistory

1d

[View insights](#)



23 likes

1 DAY AGO



Add a comment...



olscheshambois



olscheshambois All ready for Ancient Egyptian Day. What a great costume #OLShistory

1d

[View insights](#)



34 likes

1 DAY AGO



Add a comment...







olscheshambois

...



olscheshambois Well done to the school swimming team. Second place in the School Games gala for the boys and girls #OLSsport

2d



5redcherries Well done you all did so well getting 2nd place



1d Reply

[View insights](#)



29 likes

2 DAYS AGO



Add a comment...



olscheshambois

...



olscheshambois I'm enjoying making train tracks this morning in Reception #OLSreception

2d

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15 likes

2 DAYS AGO



Add a comment...





olscheshambois

...



olscheshambois Reception and Key Stage 1 on the second day of bikeability #OLSSport  
2d

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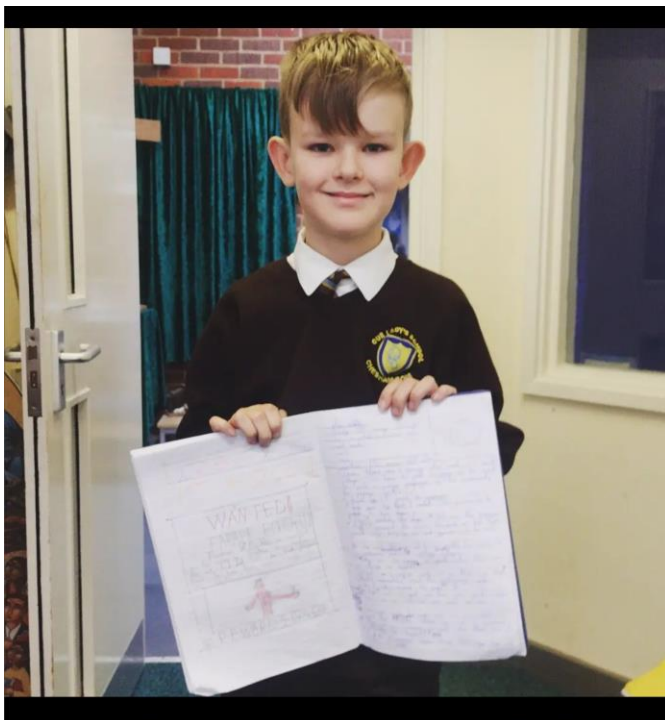
12 likes

2 DAYS AGO



Add a comment...

Post



olscheshambois

...



olscheshambois Mr Weatherill sent this young man with some brilliant writing last week but he didn't want to come until he had "polished" it with his purple pen. Clearly very high expectations of himself. Great work!!!! #OlsLiteracy  
3d

[View insights](#)



23 likes

3 DAYS AGO



Add a comment...

Post



olscheshambois  
Original audio

...



olscheshambois Our first session horse riding in 2023 @rdauk  
Edited · 3d



23 likes  
3 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...

Post

## Accelerated Reader

	Words Read
Year 6	8,655,828 words
Year 5	8,464,918 words
Year 4	4,679,174 words
Year 3	1,595,239 words

### Millionaire Readers

Dominik (Year 4)  
Ula (Year 6)

### Double Millionaire Readers

Sherlyn (Year 5)

### Meeting Targets and above 85% in Quizzes

#### Year 3

Dominik  
Sean  
Eleanor  
Jude

#### Year 4

Leo  
Mark  
Ralph  
Elodie  
Finley H

Charlie K  
Finlay M-S  
Michael M  
Robert  
Hannah  
Louie

Year 5

Isabella  
Xavier  
Ellie  
Ben  
Lena  
Grace  
Matylda  
Emilio

Year 6

Kenandra  
Thomas  
Shrikar