



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

"A place of learning – A community of Christ"

Faith . Hope . Love

22nd September 2023

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who managed to get to the Meet the Teacher Evening on Wednesday. I know the traffic in Chesham has been horrendous and the weather was apocalyptic. I'd have been really tempted to stay at home but we really do appreciate your support. It is really important that we give you the tools to support your children in being ready for school.

I have had a busy week this week working with the MAT and Diocese. On Tuesday, I met the Bishop with Joe Richardson, the Strategic Lead, and leaders from OLICAT from the north of the Diocese. It is really lovely to hear him talk about his vision for the Diocese. He talked a lot about mission and he really does see our schools as central to this.

Then, on Wednesday, we had a visit from Pauline Cuddihy to discuss how we were moving towards the new RE curriculum which we are expected to implement next year. However, as you would expect with any guest, we started with a tour of the school. I was delighted to get the following email from her later in the day:

Hi Mark,

Thank you so much for spending time with me this morning, it was really helpful.

It was lovely to see round your school too- your children and staff are wonderful and there was such a positive and calming feeling everywhere - well done you!

Well it is less well done me and more thank you to the staff who work tirelessly to ensure your children get a first-class education, thank you to the children for being so keen to learn and easy to mould and last, but not least, thank you to all of you the primary educators.

Finally, a massive thank you to the PTA who organised a lovely BBQ for the new Reception parents on Sunday. It is a great event and a lovely way for the class parents to get to know one another. There is something really nice about the fact that the families start together with a BBQ and then in Year 6 finish off with a BBQ at the camp night.

I look forward to seeing lots of children at the cross country this weekend

Have a lovely weekend,

God bless,

M. Howarth

Year 6 Laptops

It is exciting times in Year 6 as we go paperless. This year, we have leased a set of laptops for the class as part of our transition to secondary school. No more worksheets as they can be distributed on Microsoft Teams and it also gives us the opportunity to teach the children to become more independent by using all of the online resources available to them.

We have only been able to do this with the support of the OLS Trust as the lease on the laptops is £4000 a year. We are paying half and the trust are paying the other half. We are so lucky to have the trust who support so many different areas of school.

If you don't already contribute to the trust then please consider doing so. Remember all of your children will be in Year 6 eventually and they are already benefitting in so many other ways.

If you wish to set up a standing order the bank details are:

**BANK: HSBC BANK PLC, AMERSHAM ON THE HILL
A/C NAME: OUR LADY'S DISCRETIONARY TRUST
SORT CODE 40-08-41
ACCOUNT NUMBER 21375113**

There is more information at

[Our Lady's Trust - Our Lady's Catholic Primary School \(olschesham.co.uk\)](http://olschesham.co.uk)

Homework

We always set our homework on a Wednesday and return them on a Monday. This is to give the teachers the chance to take the books in and review what they have done. However, some parents have asked to have the homework on a Monday. We can't set all of the homework on a Monday as obviously we need time to take the books in and have a look at the work. However, I have asked the teachers to set the Century nuggets on a Monday morning. You might find they set them on a Sunday night so the work will really need to be done by then. This means the children can get started earlier if you wish. Please remember they have a lot of overlearning to do too i.e. reading, spelling, tables etc.

Thank you

OLS Vision, Values and Philosophy

As part of Meet the Teachers evening they will have shared with you some information about the Catholic Foundations of our school. It sets out our vision, values and philosophy which are rooted in the charism of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. This isn't completely finished though as I still have a section about the Principles of an OLS Pupil to write. The reason however that it isn't finished is that I would like some input from a few parents and children. So, if you are interested in giving up a few mornings to think about this then please will you let myself or Miss Mansfield know.

Thank you

PE Days

Coming into school in PE kit on PE days seems to be working really well. Just in case you haven't seen the days yet they are as follows:

	Session 1	Session 2
Year 1	Monday	Wednesday
Year 2	Tuesday	Thursday
Year 3	Wednesday	Friday
Year 4	Monday	Friday
Year 5	Tuesday	Wednesday
Year 6	Tuesday	Thursday

Local Academy Trust Parent Directors

We are currently looking for parent directors (or governors in old language) and will be holding elections over the next few weeks. If you are interested, please keep an eye out on parent app for the information.

First Communion classes - St Aidan's and Our Lady's Churches

We have heard from Our Lady's and St Aidan's that very few children have been signed up for this year's First Communion programmes, and with such low numbers, Fr Roy has made the difficult decision to cancel the classes at St Aidan's for this year and have all the children prepared together at Our Lady's. He will be contacting the parents of the four children who have already been registered for St Aidan's shortly.

If your child is in Year 3 or above and you would like them to make their First Communion in 2024, please contact Debbie, the parish secretary, on 01494 763518 or email parish.ourladycbstaidanlc@northamptondiocese.org as soon as possible.

The catechist for the First Communion class at Our Lady's is Liz McCarthy. If you have any questions over the weekend, please feel free to call her on 07973 715396.

There is a meeting for the parents of the First Communion candidates in the guildroom behind Our Lady's Church at 6:00 pm next Saturday (30 September), after the 5:00 Mass, and the first class for the children is in the same place the following Saturday (7 October).

Ten-Ten Resources

September 2023

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope that this first newsletter finds you well-rested after the summer break. The beginning of a new school year is exciting and busy, and a time ripe for new resolutions. Children may have mixed feelings as they settle into new routines at school, and you'll be easing back into school-time routines as a family too.

This newsletter gives a glimpse of some of the Collective Worship resources that children will experience during September and suggests ways to support your family prayer times.

Education Sunday

Education Sunday is a special day dedicated to celebrating Catholic schools. It's one of the oldest *Days of Special Prayer* in the Church calendar and this year is the 175th anniversary!

Catholic schools are communities of faith, working in partnership with families and the local parish to nurture children in their learning and faith.

To celebrate this special year, children will receive a special message of encouragement from Bishop Marcus Stock – Chair of the Department of Education and Formation, for the Catholic Bishops' Conference in England and Wales.

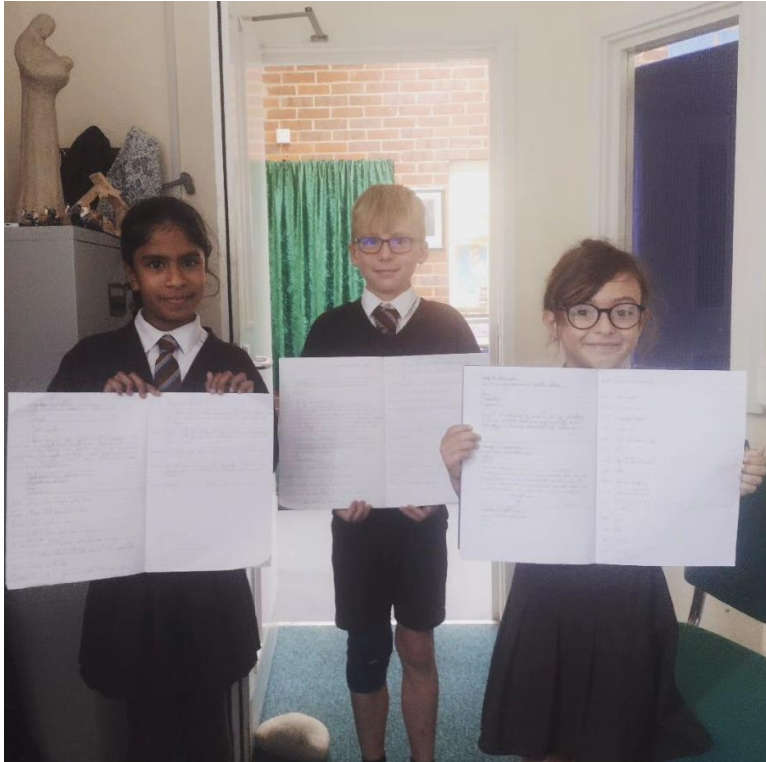
<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/prayers-for-home/parent-newsletter/>

Through the Ten Ten Resources [Online Parent Portal](#) for Collective Worship, you can access the Daily Classroom Prayers that children will be praying each day in school. Perhaps you could pray the prayers at home as a family too! Ask your child's school about the login details if you don't already have them.

@OLScheshambois

Here is a quick snapshot of our learning this week:





olscheshambois ...

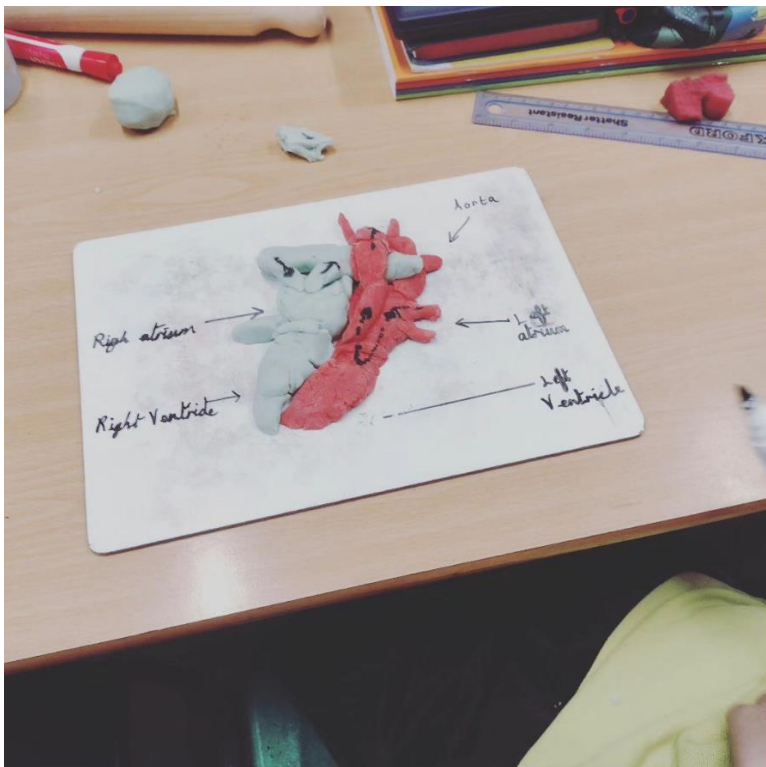
olscheshambois This year we are using a new Literacy Scheme @theliteracytree. The children learn to write after being inspired by a book. I've just read some lovely playscripts #OLSyear4 #OLSliteracy

22 h

[View Insights](#) [Boost Post](#)

15 likes
22 HOURS AGO

Add a comment... [Post](#)



olscheshambois ...

olscheshambois Year 6 are making some fantastic play dough models of the heart. #OLSscience

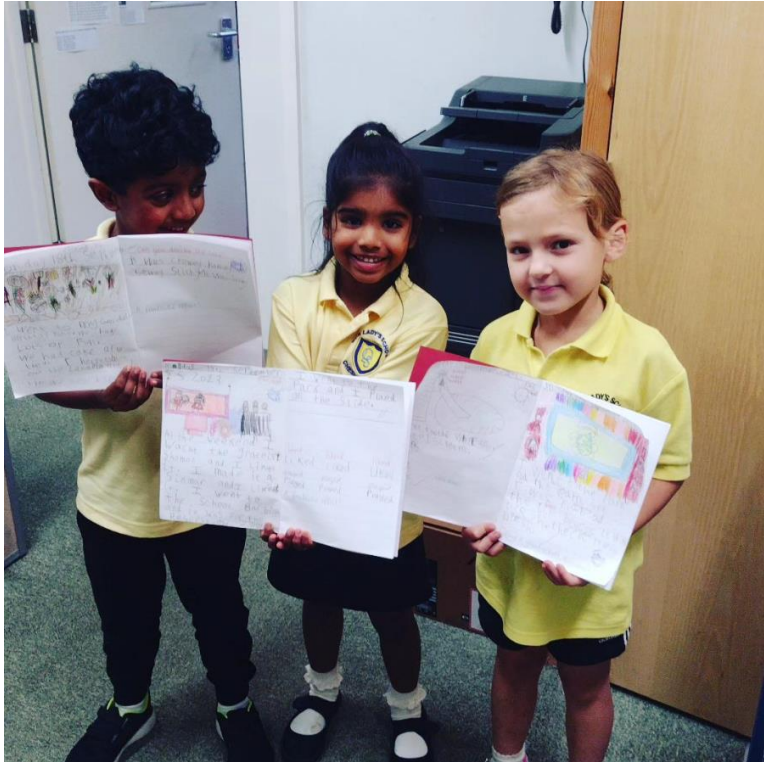
1 d

teresawatson7 🥰💙
1 d Reply

[View Insights](#) [Boost Post](#)

16 likes
1 DAY AGO

Add a comment... [Post](#)



olscheshambois

olscheshambois I've seen some lovely diary writing from #OLSliteracy #OLYear1

2 d

View Insights

Boost Post




20 likes

2 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...

Post






olscheshambois

No comments yet.

Start the conversation.


View Insights

Boost Post



25 likes

3 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...

Post



 **olscheshambois** ...

 **olscheshambois** It is lovely to welcome all of the new families at our annual Reception BBQ #OLSBUILDINGTHEKINGDOM
3 d

[View Insights](#) [Boost Post](#)

28 likes
3 DAYS AGO

 [Add a comment...](#) [Post](#)

Good News Certificates



Last week's Gratitude Assembly certificates were awarded to:

Year 1	Rory, Maxim
Year 2	Nathan, Josephine
Year 3	Aoife, Logan
Year 4	Grace, Tamsin
Year 5	Archie, Behtin, Charlie K, Curtis
Year 6	Sabrina, Franek

Accelerated Reader

Year 6 Reads!



In September 2023, students have read...

41 Books

2,127,267 Words

for **64** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE

Accelerated Reader®

Year 5 Reads!



In September 2023, students have read...

47 Books

783,957 Words

for **24** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE

Accelerated Reader®

Year 4 Reads!



In September 2023, students have

19 Books

148,347 Words

for **11** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE

Accelerated Reader®

Year 3 Reads!



In September 2023, students have read...

41 Books

154,581 Words

for **12** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE

Accelerated Reader®

Meeting Targets and above 85% in Quizzes

Year 3

Keera
Logan
James
Aoife
Renske
Misha
Hansini
Annie

Year 4

Aliza

Year 5

Mia
Archie
Rio
Elodie
Finley
Charlie
Michael L
Robert
Zuzanna

Year 6

Igor
Ellie
James