



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

"A place of learning – A community of Christ"

24th March 2023

Dear Parents,

Wow it seems to have been an incredibly busy week! We started the week with a visit from Chris Donovan and Sister Mary from the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. They have become our link with our founder over the last few years. We were gifted a lovely triptych with paintings of Mother Magdalene, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary at the Annunciation. Our Year 5 faith ambassadors worked with them and are now the school "experts" and will be sharing their knowledge with everyone else.

Also on Monday, Year 2 had a drama workshop linked to the Fire of London. It is a great way to make their learning memorable and I've been hearing lots of facts all about the history they are learning.

Then on Tuesday, we had the Capture the Flag day organised by the Year 6 faith ambassadors and Key Stage 1 Forest Schools. It made for a great day. The children really enjoyed playing capture the flag. In fact, they enjoyed it so much that they objected to me bringing them out of the rain for 5 minutes. It is also great to get the forest school going again as we missed last month. As we move towards spring and summer there is so much to see and learn about.

Thursday was a sad day for the school, as it was Mrs Hodgson's last day. She has been working at Our Lady's for over ten years now supporting in particular the administration of the finances, trips etc. These things often don't get noticed by parents but if they weren't being done believe me we would all notice. However, it is great seeing people move onto bigger and better things and I wish her the best of luck.

Have a great weekend

God bless,

M. Holden

Breakfast Club Opportunities

It is with great sadness that I have to let you know that Mrs McElwee, our Breakfast Club Supervisor, will be leaving in the middle of April as she has been offered a full-time administration job at the Chiltern Hospital. We will be very sad to see Mrs McElwee leave after 6 years but this is a great opportunity for her.

This does leave us with a vacancy for a Breakfast Club supervisor. If you know anybody who would be interested then please pass the advert below to them. This is a post that can be difficult to fill so please spread the word as I really wouldn't want to lose this provision.

Breakfast Club Playworker

Thank you,
Mr Holdsworth

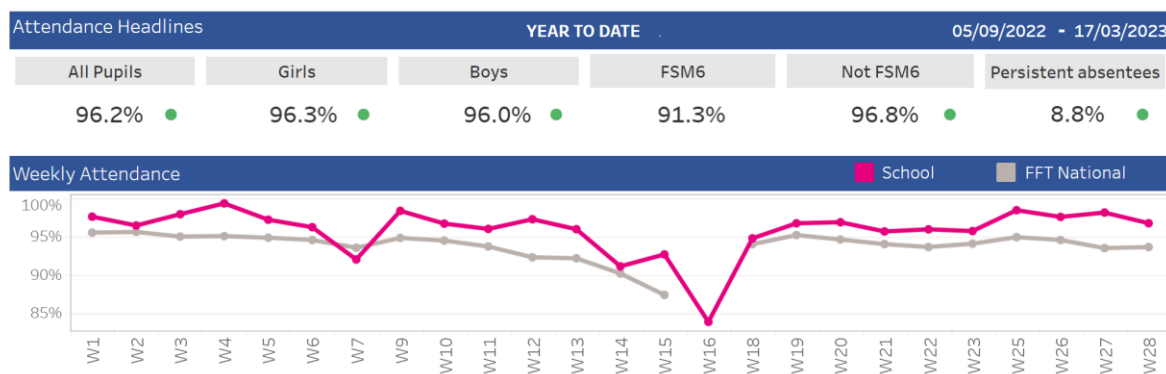
Attendance

Last year, the Department for Education produced guidance for schools on attendance which included the following fact.

‘at Key Stage 2, pupils not meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths had an overall absence rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% among those meeting the expected standard.’

(DfE ‘Working Together to Improve School Attendance’ 2022)

This shows why, as a school, we put so much emphasise on the children's attendance. I am absolutely delighted with the attendance over the last few weeks which has seen a rapid improvement.



The attendance for our Free School Meals children is improving the fastest. In fact, last week they had an attendance of 99.2% which is great. Well done everyone.

Our Lady's Trust Fund

Thank you so much to everyone who donates to the Trust Fund. We have been given a cheque for just over £8000 which paid for the groundworks connected with the Key Stage 1 and Reception Playgrounds as well as the 10% contribution for some work we did over the summer. This money is invaluable to the school and the children. We are really grateful for your kind donations.

The trust have also been able to claim back about £2000 in Gift Aid over a two year period and that is with only a third of the donors having filled in a Gift Aid declaration. If you do donate to the trust, and pay tax, then please consider making a declaration with the form on our website. If everybody claimed, we would get about another £1000 a year. Just fill the form in and hand it into the office. It doesn't cost you anything!

Thank you

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

Passion of Christ

Dear Parents and Friends,

We would like to invite you to join us in celebrating the Passion of Jesus.

Every morning of the last week of term (27th – 31st March), the classes will be presenting the Stations of the Cross based on 'Born for This' by CJM Music.

This will take place at 9.15am and should last for approximately 20 minutes.

We look forward to seeing you.

Change of diary dates

Please note these changes to the school diary dates.

Leavers' Assembly is now on 19th July at 10.30am.

Leavers' Mass is now on 19th July at 2pm.

A Message from Ten Ten Resources March 2023

Have you ever noticed how we like to characterise different months and seasons? For example, January is painted as the longest, bluest month of the year – so much so that ‘Blue Monday’ is a term coined to refer to the third Monday in January. Other months and seasons similarly characterised include February – romance and playfulness due to Valentine’s Day and being the shortest, quirkiest month; and October – pumpkin-spice and all things nice! But these characterisations don’t leave much room for nuance. Even the bluest Januarys will have some light, and the most playful of Februarys will have harder moments. And for most people, October doesn’t consist of endless pumpkin-spice lattes!

This year, the month of March is taken up wholly with the Liturgical Season of Lent. In the Church, Lent is represented by the colour purple, worn by priests and seen on the altar. Purple, like the season of Lent, symbolises a time of prayer, penance and preparation for Jesus’ death on the cross and Resurrection at Easter. It offers a chance for us to reflect on our relationship with God and make a fresh start as the Church focuses on the three pillars of Lent, almsgiving, fasting and prayer – or as children in school will know them, GIVE, ACT, PRAY:

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

But even in this somewhat austere season, there is room for nuance! On the fourth Sunday of Lent, called Laetare Sunday, Catholics are invited to celebrate! ‘Laetare’ is the Latin word for ‘rejoice’ and on this day only, the purple of Lent is swapped for rose pink, symbolising hope and a reminder of what is to come on Easter Sunday. This Sunday is also Mothering Sunday, where historically believers would return to the mother church where they received the Sacrament of Baptism.

This newsletter shares some of the content children will experience in school throughout March and suggests ways for you to engage with them about it. We hope and pray that your Lent will be a time of prayer, penance and preparation, but with lots of opportunities for rejoicing too!

Good News Certificates

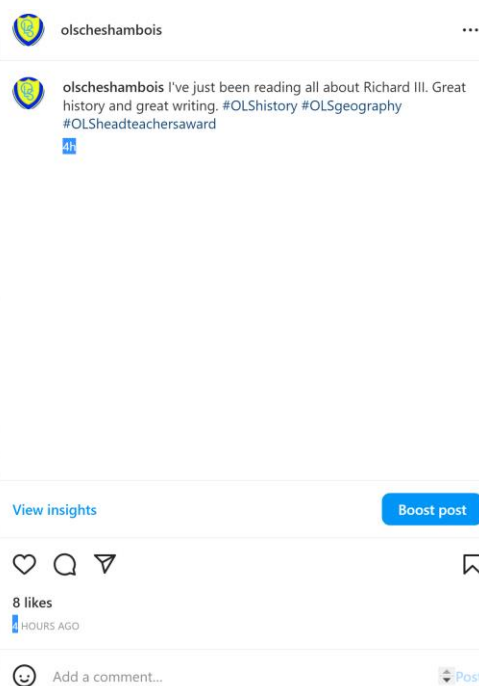
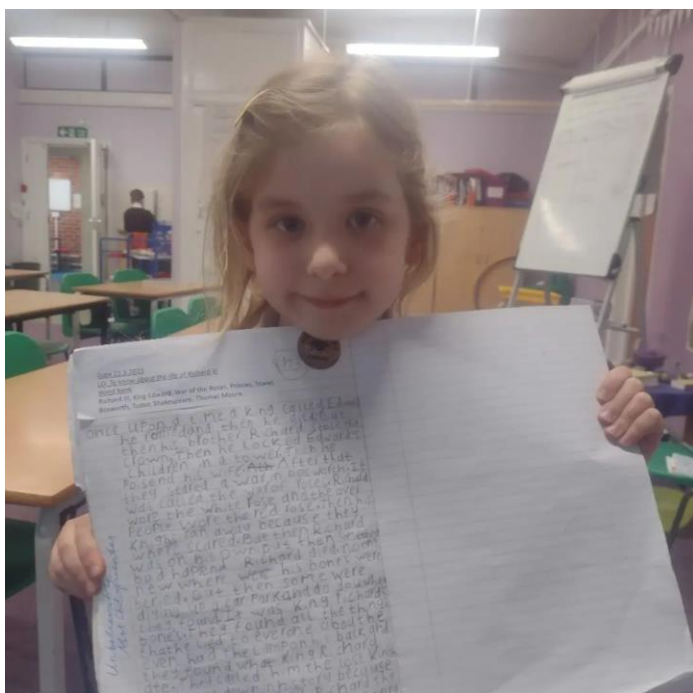
Last week's Good News certificates were:

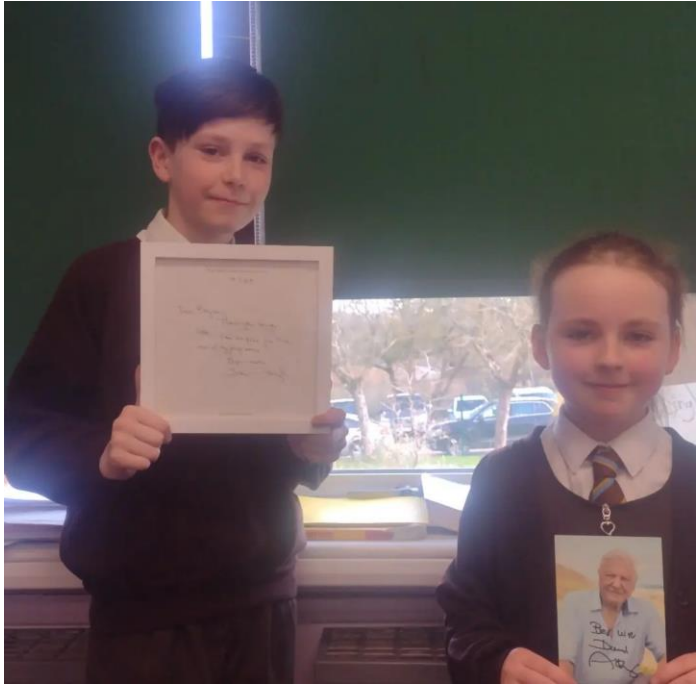
Year 1	Juno, Josephine
Year 2	Victoria, Eloise
Year 3	Erica, Florence
Year 4	Bea, Elodie, Robert, Dominic, Spike
Year 5	Stella, Luna
Year 6	Ula, Cliff





@OLSCshambois

Here is a quick snapshot of our learning this week:










**olscheshambois** ...

**olscheshambois** These two children wrote to David Attenborough as part of their literacy and got a lovely reply #OLSliteracy
6h

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)



10 likes
6 HOURS AGO

 Add a comment... 



**olscheshambois** ...

**olscheshambois** We've had a great time at Forest Schools today #OLSScience #OLSforestschools
1d

**teresawatson7** 🌟💙
1d Reply

[View insights](#) [Boost post](#)



23 likes
1 DAY AGO

 Add a comment... 



olscheshambois

...



olscheshambois Year 6 Faith Ambassadors have organised a great Capture the Flag Fundraiser #OLSFaithAmbassadors #OLSSport #Olsbuildingthekingdom

1d

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[Boost post](#)



11 likes

1 DAY AGO

Add a comment...

Post



olscheshambois

...



olscheshambois Last rugby session of the year. A bit muddy, a couple of knocks but it was great fun #OLSSport

2d



teresawatson7 🍌💙



1d Reply

[View insights](#)

[Boost post](#)



23 likes

2 DAYS AGO

Add a comment...

Post



olscheshambois



olscheshambois · lovely to see so many children from Our Lady's at the youth Mass this evening #OISbuildingthekingdom

3d

[View insights](#)

[Boost post](#)



13 likes

3 DAYS AGO



Add a comment...

Post

Accelerated Reader

Words Read	
Year 6	17,021,158 words
Year 5	12,590,700 words
Year 4	7,654,791 words
Year 3	2,612,283 words

Millionaire Readers

Harry (Year 5)
Pranav (Year 6)
Tue Nhi (Year 6)
Shrikar (Year 6)
Matilda (Year 5)

Double Millionaire Readers

Dominik (Year 4)
Sherlyn (Year 5)
Ula (Year 6)
Kenandra (Year 6)

Meeting Targets and above 85% in Quizzes

Year 2

Hanisini
Cat Cat

Year 3

Sienna-Rose
Donnie
Dominik
Rory
Sean
Stash
Eleanor
Jude
Arthur
Jacob
Erica
Karo
Theo
Aliza
Thomas
Florence
Chanuga
Hugo

Year 4

Leo
Ivor

Ralph
Wanda
Elodie
Liam
Finley H
Charlie K
Finlay M-S
Michael M
Evelyn
Dominik
Robert
Hannah
Louie
Joseph
Curtis

Year 5

Bella
Xavier
Igor
Ellie
Lena
Ethan
Luna
Franek

Year 6

Kenandra
Wiktor
Finlay
Autumn

Sophia

Lucy

Cliff

Thomas

Amelia

Jack

Pranav

Connie