



Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Angela Folland

Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way

11th December 2020

Headteacher's News

We hope that you have been able to enjoy the children's Advent reflections via google classroom. It has been such a joy to see each class lead us in a daily moment of calm to prepare for Christmas. We are in the final throes of the Christmas filming and next week you will be able to enjoy the children's contributions to this year's Christmas Story - also via google classroom.

DFE announcement of Friday 18th as a Non Pupil Day

You may have heard last week that the DFE has given schools the option of closing early to children next Friday, 18th December. The Trust does not feel that this late announcement gives parents enough notice of an unforeseen school closure day. It is not a good use of valuable staff professional development time and it will not alleviate the pressure on school leaders to engage with the Test and Trace system. **Therefore OLSP will remain open on 18th December as planned and children are expected to be in school.**

Test and Trace Information - Christmas Holidays

Schools are an essential part of the track and trace system and are required to be actively involved in this during the holiday period until 24th December. It is essential that you contact us immediately if your child receives a positive test result so that we are able to alert parents within the child's class bubble. We are really hoping that this will not happen, but should your child test positive up until Thursday 24th December please email office@olsp.uk immediately. We will be checking the emails daily up until this time but, to enable staff to spend some quality time with our own families, we ask that you mark your email **COVID POSITIVE CASE** as we will not be opening every email during this period.

Free school meals over Christmas

Any children already registered for Free School Meals should have received a letter or email directly from Devon County Council detailing how to receive your "Free school meal over Christmas vouchers". If you think a child may now be eligible for free school meals due to a recent change in your family's circumstances, and you wish to access this holiday voucher support over Christmas please apply online through the Devon Citizen's Portal to check if you are eligible as soon as possible. This is the quickest and easiest way for their eligibility to be assessed and you will get an instant decision. Alternatively, call the education helpline on 0345 155 1019. To ensure you receive the free school meals holiday vouchers for this Christmas period you must apply by Friday 18 December 2020. Any further information can be found at Free school meals holiday voucher scheme - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Christmas Presents for staff

We have had many enquiries from you regarding the purchasing of gifts for staff. We are acutely aware of the financial strain that families have been under this year. Our preference is that you don't give us gifts. We love our jobs and are here for the children - this brings us much joy and satisfaction! If you insist on giving gifts, they will be received gratefully. However, do not feel that we expect anything this year - a simple word of thanks means a great deal.

Important Information



Christmas Dinner

Next Wednesday, 16th December, the children are invited to have a Christmas Dinner (this will be in place of the usual roast dinner option on that date and **there will be no jacket potato alternatives**). If your child would like Christmas dinner, please top up your parentpay account by £2.50 in readiness and remind them to order the meal with their child's teacher that morning.

Help Available

We know that 2020 has been a really tricky year for many of our families in many ways. If you are in difficulties financially through redundancy or for other reasons and are struggling to provide food or presents for your family this year please do get in touch with us. We are blessed to have lots of support from our parish and other community groups who we can ask to help.

Amazing Gymnastics!

We are so proud of Poppy in Year 4 who got through to the Silver category finals run by the South Dartmoor Sports Partnership who we work closely with. Poppy performed her gymnastics routine via zoom and was awarded 1st place in her category. Well done Poppy - what a talented young lady!



Nursery Applications

Our nursery still has places available for children age 3 and 4, for January 2021. Please enquire at the school office for application information.

Reception Applications

Applications are open until 15th January for children to start in Reception at OLSP in September 2021. Please apply via the Devon website

Was your child born between
1st September 2016 and
31st August 2017?

How to Apply for a Primary
School Place in Devon

You can apply online at
www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline
from 15th November 2020 to 15th January 2021

If you cannot access the school
admissions website you can get
more information by calling our
Education Helpline on
0345 155 1019
or email: admissions@devon.gov.uk

Even if you have already given
details to a primary school, you
must apply for a place through the
Admissions Team. This is the only
way to apply; other forms or lists
held by schools will not count.



Devon
County Council

Christmas Tree Competition

There is a cash prize for the school with the most votes!

To enter this year's competition we decided to go for a theme of environmentally friendly decorations this year to reflect the Pope's call to 'save our common home'.

Well done to all the staff and pupils who worked so hard to hand-make the decorations.

Early years made some recycled paper stars

Year 1 made recycled paper snowflakes

Year 2 made recycled paper chains

Year 3 made dried apple decorations

Year 4 made nature-themed, sparkly decorations

Year 5 made wooden Rudolphins using tree circles/discs

Year 6 made the mini woolen hats

Please vote and share with all your friends and family by visiting our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Our-Lady-St-Patricks-RC-Nursery-Primary-School-752279774837307>

The deadline is today at 9pm. Good luck OLSP!



Disciples of the Week

*W/B 30th November
Justice*

Early Years	Sophie
Year 1	Teddy
Year 2	Mia
Year 3	Clarke
Year 4	Louis
Year 5	Austin
Year 6	Lydia

*W/B 23rd Nov
Courage*

Early Years	Donte
Year 1	Lyra
Year 2	Archie A

Friends' News

Firstly and very excitingly we are delighted to announce our new logo winner is Holly in class 6.



Laura Wall said: "I chose this one because it has a really eye-catching bold design and I like the shape of the logo. It's very colourful and the text very clear -perfect for a logo! The rainbow is a sign of hope, and after this year seems very apt. I liked its simplicity but bright and colourfulness and thought the balloon as the 'O' very clever and fun. They were all marvellous and it was a very tough choice to make"

Prizes for each class go to:

Class 1 - Ivie

Year 3	Riley	Class 2 - Zachary
Year 4	Maci	Class 3 - Iris
Year 5	Arthur	Class 4 - Ona
Year 6	Jacob S	Class 5 - Olivia
		Class 6 - Jasmine
<i>Well done to you all!</i>		We have been blown away by the creativity and talent from all the children who entered, thank you so much! Prizes will be winging their way to you soon!
		Also, at this time of year you may find that welly boots have been outgrown! Please do hold onto these as in the new year we will be collecting spare pairs to have in school for Forest School.

Prayer

*Christ, come into our world of darkness
 Light up our lives with your coming.
 Fulfil all our longings
 with the joy of your birth.
 Strengthen our resolve to work for
 change in our world
 and to share the hope of your birth
 that each Advent brings.*



Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery

Website: www.olsp-rc.com

Our Lady and St Patrick's School is committed to safeguarding children.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Rachel O'Sullivan Deputy Child Protection Leads: Mrs A Folland, Mrs R Gordon, Mrs S Emmerton, Mrs J Osborne Named Governor for Child Protection: Mrs Lorraine Coulter