



Our Lady Catholic Primary School

'Inspiring all to achieve their best everyday'



Spring Term 2 2024

News from Mrs Snowball

The Spring term at OLS has certainly brought lots of joy. The hall has been a hub of excitement with so many joyous events. Our class assemblies have continued this term and Year 1 and 2 have welcomed family and friends to share in their learning and experiences from the year so far. Year 3, 4 and 5 wowed us all with their fantastic production of 'A Tale of Three Trees'. Year 6 led the annual Lenten games. The children continue to make us proud everyday through their hard work, commitment to do their best and the kindness and joy they bring to school with them each day. As we past the half way point and the weather starts to improve, we look forward to the summer term which promises to be another busy one. I wish you all a happy and holy Easter weekend and a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 17th April.



News from The Chaplaincy Team

We went to each class and helped them make Lenten Crosses and led the Our Father prayer with them. We went to Church and we read the Stations of the Cross then the classes walked the stations. We held our annual Lenten games and raised money for the Kanyike project. It was great fun!



Catholic Life at OLS

As a community we have journeyed through Lent together. The Chaplaincy Team have continued to support the prayer life of the school through their Lenten Cross workshop. We joined the Parish community at Mass and the children have worked together to support The Big Lent Walk raising funds for Cafod. We end the term with the Year 6 Lenten games which is an annual event we enjoy together as a school.

The children have been set a whole school homework challenge to write a new OLS school prayer. We look forward to sharing the new chosen prayer with you in the summer term.



Teaching & Learning at OLS

This half term we had a visit from our Hertfordshire School Effectiveness Advisor and we are delighted to share the outcomes of the visit:

"Pupils were able to talk about their learning and to see how it linked back to previous learning. This suggests that pupils are being helped to make progress through the curriculum in a sequenced manner."

"The impact of provision in the early years foundation stage was evidenced by the high levels of engagement from children."



"Effective adult interactions helped to develop pupils' thinking and supported their learning."

"The EYFS leader has ambitious plans to bring about further change and improvements. Their clear understanding of effective early years provision underpins and informs decisions."

Enrichment at OLS

The OLS curriculum isn't just made up of maths, English, geography, history etc... Our curriculum is also about the 'extra' activities that the children experience.

- Year 2 took a train to Paradise Wildlife Park.
- World Book Day - children dressed as their favourite characters, listened to authors reading their books and went on a book hunt around the school.
- Years 3, 4 and 5 excelled in their singing and acting skills when they performed their Easter production.
- Years 5 and 6 have continued to represent OLS in many sporting events.
- Year R ended their term with a heritage day. We are blessed with a community that represents cultures from around the world. The children dressed in their own cultural wear, shared foods from around the world and celebrated each individual for the unique and special person that God made them to be.



Attendance at OLS

Congratulations to the children who achieved 100% attendance this term:

Reception: Emilia, Austin

Year 1: Sofia, Victor, Elon, Leo, MMA, Charvi

Year 2: Isla, Dante, Darerca, Gabriel

Year 3: Annabelle, Finlay, Cassius, Evie, Xander, Alex

Year 4: Mercy, Sophie, Theo

Year 5: Alexa, Ryan, Luisa, Neriah, Zara, Menura

Year 6: Lukasz, Jaden, Ava, Sam, Chimmere, Kira





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PTA at OLS

Thank you to our PTA for arranging our Mother's Day sale and Race night this half term. Money raised has funded the whole school circus workshop, art and science resources and helped us reach our target to purchase our safe parking signs. Please see Mrs Snowball to find out how you can support our PTA with future events.



A spotlight on..... SEND by Mrs Hobbs

At OLS our whole community play a pivotal role in supporting our children with additional needs. Additional needs children who have SEND are part of our community and in every classroom. Children with SEND are celebrated at OLS, alongside their peers, as they bring so much joy to our classrooms.

I took on the role of SENCO in September and it has been a pleasure to be leading SEND, alongside my many other roles, here at OLS! In these two terms, I have supported the teachers and support staff tirelessly to ensure the needs of children with SEND are met inside the classroom. We work together to ensure personalised provision and adaptations happen, as well as having a team of inclusion teaching assistants who run a range of different additional interventions, such as sensory circuits, movement breaks, emotional support work and targeted intervention time.

Every child is unique and with the right support and understanding, they can achieve their full potential. Together, we can create inclusive learning environments where every child thrives.



What's coming up next half term at OLS

- 15th and 16th April - INSET Days (School closed)
- 17th April - Pupils return for summer term
- 19th April - Year 3 class assembly 9:10am
- 22nd April - PTA meeting 3:20pm
- 23rd April - Year 5 trip to Airbus
- 26th April - Year 5 class assembly 9:10am
- 26th April - Year 2 cake sale 3:15pm
- 3rd May - Year 4 class assembly 9:10am
- 7th May - INSET Day (School closed)
- 9th May - Ascension Mass at OL Church 10am
- 13th - 16th May - Year 6 SATs
- 17th May - PTA disco
- 19th May - Year R class assembly
- 20th May - PTA meeting 3:20pm
- 27th - 31st May - Half Term

Thank you and farewell to Mrs Kelly & Mrs Carpenter

This half term we said some very sad farewells to 2 members of staff. We wish Mrs Carpenter well as she goes off to have her baby and we look forward to hearing the news of the new arrival. After 12 years, Mrs Kelly leaves us to start a new adventure. We wish her every success.



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Governance at OLS

Welcome to our new Governor news letters. Here you will find out about our Governors and the role they play at the school.

SEND visit—Daniela Simmons

"It was great to hear an update on all of the work that Mrs Hobbs has been working on with the children and the progress she has achieved in order to support each child. I had the opportunity to speak to some pupils and hear all about their favourite things about their lessons, it was lovely to hear how much they enjoyed writing and the new letter-join handwriting scheme they are currently using."



PSHE visit—Colette Evetts

It was a privilege to be able to meet with children from years 2-5 to discuss PSHE in the school. The children spoke with confidence about what they are taught in the curriculum and how this is lived out in action in the school. The cross-section of pupils I met with clearly feel safe, happy and understand the importance of the PSHE themes.

'OLS is the best school in the entire universe' - Year 3 pupil



60 seconds with Giulia Lorenzini

What is your connection with OLS? I have a son in Year 2 and I'm a parishioner at Our Lady church.

How long have you been a Governor and why did you get involved? I became a Foundation Governor in September 2022. I decided to volunteer some of my time and 'give something back' by putting my professional skills to the service of the ever-so-important mission of our school: ensure our children receive the best education. For this reason, serving as a Governor for OLS is a rewarding experience, but it's also a great learning opportunity. In December I was elected Chair of Governors. It's a great pleasure to work alongside such an enthusiastic group of Governors and a committed and knowledgeable leadership team.

What is on your to do list next term? We have a busy agenda going forward! I picked the three top priorities... Firstly, I am in the process of writing our Full Governing Body strategy, which will set our key areas of focus going forward. Secondly, the Governors will carry out various link visits in the summer terms. What are these 'link visits' you may think... they form part of the monitoring and evaluation of the school performance; each Governor is 'linked' to one or more subjects and our job is to meet with the relevant link subject leads to assess how they are monitoring progress and hear from the pupils themselves. It's lovely to see the school in action during these visits! Third, but by no means least, with a relatively new Governing Board, my priority is to ensure that we do our job properly and do our best to support OLS.

What has been your highlight so far of being a governor? Being a governor has offered me direct insights on how the school operates (kudos to all involved!) and it has also allowed me to gain a better perspective on the education landscape. The main highlight however for me is the sense of satisfaction knowing pupils will benefit from our efforts as Governors.

