



OLQP News

Friday 1st March 2024

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Forthcoming Events

A reminder to parents that the following events are coming up in school over the next fortnight.

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day - please see message below
No classes are attending the Parish Mass today

Friday 8th March

9:00am - Himid Liturgy for parents

Tuesday 12th March

3:30pm - Sacramental Preparation Session 4

Thursday 14th March

10:00am - Himid attending Mass

World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. As a school, we are asking the children to come into school in their pyjamas and bring their favourite book.

A few parents have asked if children can wear costumes which have already been purchased. On this occasion, we do not wish children to be disappointed or costumes to be outgrown, so children can wear costumes if these have been bought in advance.

However, as a school, we do not wish to put extra pressure or financial commitment on parents to buy or make costumes, therefore children can wear their pyjamas for a cosy and comfortable day as originally advertised.

Lunchtime Clubs

This week we have slightly altered the structure of lunchtimes and are offering more opportunities for pupils to engage in activities and clubs during this longer break. These are all being run by staff in school. A big thank you to the staff who have volunteered to run lunchtime and after school clubs.

Sunderland Match

Last Saturday, six of our Y5 and Y6 pupils had the wonderful opportunity to represent our school as flag bearers at the Sunderland - v - Swansea home game. They were lucky enough to watch the players warm up and experience pre-match activities. The children were wonderful ambassadors for our school and we are very proud of them. They waved their flags with pride. Well done to you all!

House Point Winners

Following our Celebration Assembly this morning, James House are the winners of our House points and are looking forward to some extra playtime next week!

Lenten Celebrations

Over the last fortnight, we have marked the start of the Lenten season with special liturgies, prayers and a wonderful visit from Fr. David Smith.

Father David has devoted much of his life to working in a village in Muhoroni, a small town in Kenya. Father has raised much needed funds to support the community there and ensure the families have access to food, water and education. In a special assembly, Father David shared his journey with us and told us heart warming stories about the people he has met.

Father David helped to set up the *Asante Sana* Women's Basket Weaving Project. Each class in our school was given a present from the ladies who weave beautifully coloured baskets from sisal to make a living to support their children.

Father was amazed at how well we listened and our wonderful manners as many children thanked him personally for visiting our school.

As part of our preparations for Lent each child has been given a purple ribbon to wear to mark this special time in the church's liturgical calendar. Children and staff will also have a 'prayer partner' who they will try to do little acts of kindness for and pray for during Lent. Before we break up for the Easter holidays, prayer partners will make a small card which will be presented to their friend, revealing who has been praying for them.

Our Parish family have invited some of our children to church each week to pray the Stations of the Cross. This will take place every Wednesday at 12:00pm until Easter. All parents and family members are welcome.

Neon Disco

Many thanks to the amazing members of our PTA who helped to lead, support and sell sweets and hot dogs at the Spring Neon disco. Special thanks to Mrs Forbister and Mrs Ludford for their organisation.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the evening; staff and pupils put their best dance moves into action! A staggering £695.60 profit was raised in total which has already been added to our separate PTA account. This is ring fenced for our long term project of refurbishing our library which will benefit all pupils in school. Thank you to you all for your support.

Look out for further information about future events!

Attendance

Our whole school attendance from Reception to Year 6 for this fortnight has been 96.6%. This is so close to our target of 97% - keep up the hard work everyone!

We are delighted to announce that Seurat class are the winners of our attendance trophy for this week with an overall attendance of 100% - amazing! Congratulations everyone.



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Uniform Reminders

Staff have noted a few recurring issues with uniform over the last few weeks.

We would please ask all families to be mindful of our uniform policy, which can be found on our website under [Parents - School Uniform](#)

If any parents need support with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. We have lots of wonderful donations of uniform in our swap shop store cupboard that parents are welcome to take. Thank you very much.

Trainers – trainers are only to be worn for PE.

Grey jogging bottoms for PE - these do not need to have the school logo on them. Please can we ask that leggings are not worn.

Earrings – children are not permitted to wear any earrings other than flat plastic spacers.

Smart watches – in line with our mobile phone policy, these are not permitted during the school day.

Water bottles – a polite reminder that water bottles in classrooms should not contain juice. As a healthy school, juice is only permitted at lunchtime and should be separate to children's water bottles that they bring into the classroom.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Payments on Arbor

Please could we remind all parents to top up their child's Arbor account and clear any outstanding debts, particularly for Breakfast and After School Club and for school lunches if schools meals are paid for.

Outstanding debts have to be paid directly to our supplies from the school's budget. This is very quickly taking money from our limited funds if we cannot clear the outstanding monies owed.

At present, the number of parents in debt on their accounts is rising and, therefore, the cost to school is increasing. The financial team at Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust are currently looking into this.

We understand that times are hard at the moment and there are many financial pressures upon families; we are sorry that we have to write such reminders on our newsletter. If parents are having financial difficulties and would like to set up a payment plan, please speak to Mrs Ludford in confidence.

Payments can be made online via the Arbor app or parent portal, or alternatively you can pay by cash at the school office. Please note; all meals should be paid for in advance of your child receiving them. We would suggest topping up the account each weekend for the coming week or making a monthly payment in advance, where possible, so the account does not go into arrears. Thank you for your understanding.

Parents' Evening Appointments

Our Spring term Parents' Evenings will be held on the following dates:

Monday 18th March

Nursery and Reception - in EYFS classrooms
Year 1 - Year 5 - in the Hall

Tuesday 19th March

Nursery and Seurat classes - in classrooms

Wednesday 20th March

Year 1 and Year 2 - in the Hall
Kandinsky and Picasso classes - in the Hall

Thursday 21st March

Reception (both classes) - in EYFS classrooms

Monday 25th March

Seurat class - in classroom

Wednesday 27th March

Year 6 only with all Year 6 staff - in Himid classroom

Appointments can be booked via Arbor in 10 minute slots, usually from 3:30pm to 6:00pm.

Bookings are now live.

There will be an opportunity to view the children's books in the Hall / classrooms before or after your appointment time. We will also be asking parents to complete our annual questionnaire which will be sent as a link via Arbor after all parents' evenings have taken place. Please try to attend on time and stay for your allotted 10 minutes only. If parents have more questions, or would like more detail following the 10 minute appointment, please contact the school office or your child's class teacher and a follow up appointment can be arranged. It is so important that teachers keep to time, where possible, in order to reduce waiting times. Thank you for your support in this matter. We look forward to seeing you all in the next couple of weeks.

School Lunches

A reminder that a school meal costs £2.65 per child, per day, from Year 3 to Year 6 or £13.25 for the week. If your child would like to change from packed lunch to school dinner, or vice versa, we do need this in writing please with a two week notice period. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Car Parking

We are very blessed to be able to use our church car park at drop off and pick up times. Please could we remind all parents to drive and park safely during this busy period. Many thanks. Have a lovely weekend.