



# School Newsletter

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**For parents, carers, staff, pupils, governors and parishioners**



It has been a busy couple of weeks since the first newsletter, and I wanted to share some of the highlights with you, as well as share some more exciting news and important dates.



A big well done to children in Year 5 and 6 who went swimming last week. The children's efforts and positive behaviour was noted over the week, and there were some really impressive success stories and progress made!

Likewise, the children who participated in their 'Bikeability' sessions this week earned glowing feedback from the group leaders for how they represented the school and listened really well. Always lovely to hear!



We led a joyful whole school mass yesterday, with an overarching theme of 'Mission'. Each class presented their Class Mission Statements to the rest of the school, which was the perfect way to tie up their early work in RE this year. Our school corridors are also getting decorated with Class Mission Displays as an ongoing reminder and celebration of this important aspect of school life.

## ***In the classrooms...***



After successfully welcoming back the children and setting the right climate and environment for learning, it is now full steam ahead with our curriculum learning. Children have started their Science, History and Art units of work, as well as their Reading, Writing and Maths sequences of learning. As a school, we are all focusing on Keeping Safe Online in our Computing lessons, while 'Created and Loved by God' is the theme of our Relationship and Health Education in the Autumn term. PE is taught twice a week.

In addition, you might be aware that there is a new Religious Education Curriculum Directory called 'To Know You More Clearly' published which takes effect from September 2025. However, with the help of Clifton Diocese, we are teaching according to the new curriculum in Reception, Year 1, Year 2 Year 3 and Year 4 this year. The first 'branch' of learning is called 'Creation and Covenant'.



For more detail on the different topics and units of work happening this term, and across the school year, [please check out the 'Curriculum Overviews' on your child's class page on our new website](#). More on that later!



Last week, we had our Challenge and Support Partner visit the school as part of our ongoing journey of school improvement. Ms Laver visited all classrooms to see the teaching and learning happening during the day, and was really impressed by the calm and purposeful atmosphere in the school. I'd like to share her summary evaluation with you all:

***"This was a positive visit and the climate for learning and expectations from teachers are well embedded considering how early it is in the term. There was evidence of many of the strategies identified in the teaching and learning policy being used. Behaviour management was exemplary across the school. There is still work to be done, but good progress is being made."***

## **Toilet Twinning...**



Following the refurbishment of our KS1 and KS2 toilets over the summer some children have reflected about how lucky we are to have not only brand-new flushing toilets but clean, fresh water to maintain good hygiene. With this in mind, we plan to twin our new toilets with a community in Zambia through the Toilet Twinning charity- Home - Toilet Twinning.

Toilet Twinning enables families living in poverty to have lifesaving loos. 2 billion people in the world don't have somewhere safe to go to the toilet. Almost 900 children die every day from diseases linked to dirty water and poor sanitation. Partners of the charity spend time getting to know the communities that will benefit from improved sanitation.

They strongly believe that the best way to bring transformation in poor communities is to work with them, rather than doing things for them. It's all about dignity and self-respect.

As you enter the school through the main reception area, you will see a (new) toilet. No this is not for use but somewhere to 'spend a penny' or more if you are able to!! Please throw some coins into the toilet to help us raise enough money to twin our toilets. A donation of £60 is enough to enable a community to have a clean, hygienic flushing toilet. Could we raise enough money to twin both our KS1 and KS2 toilets? If this was possible, we would all feel 'flushed' with success!!!

Mr Hamlen



## **Calling All Leaders...**

Pupil Voice is something incredibly important for us at Our Lady of Lourdes. We see our children as Agents of Change and want them from an early age to have their voices heard and feel like they can make a positive difference to communities – local and global!

I have already spoken to the children about re-introducing the following established groups:

### **CHAPLAINCY TEAM**



Every year, our Chaplaincy team helps lead the prayer life of the school. This is perfect for children who are passionate about our mission as a school and how we are called to Love, Live and Learn. Being part of the Chaplaincy Team can be great fun, and in the past we have enjoyed visiting Clifton Cathedral, working with other chaplaincy teams and leading whole school prayer opportunities. Any child is welcome to apply to be part of the Chaplaincy team.

### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**



Last year, we introduced a school council who played a key part in improving school life. The 'Our Lady of Lourdes Talent Show' and our amazing 'Culture Day' were inspired by school council members, and I am looking forward to hearing more fantastic ideas about what we can do this year!

### **ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS**



Our new group of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors helped lead an assembly and contributed to the design of our 'Anti-Bullying Week' last year, though we hope to do even more this year! Promoting the happiness and safety of all the children and staff is such an important role, and anyone who sees themselves as a fantastic role model should apply!

If your child is interested in joining one of these three Pupil Voice groups, then they should write me a short letter to say which group they would like to join, why they would like to join, and why they think they would be a great fit for the team. This also applies to children who may have been in one of the groups last year. The deadline for letters is **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**.

In the near future, we will also be looking to recruit members of our 'Modeshift Movers' group, promoting active travel to school, an 'Eco-Council' and also a team of writers who can come together to produce a regular 'OLOL Magazine'! Watch this space!

### **New Website...**



It has been a little while coming, but we are delighted to have our new school website now live and accessible!

We really feel the design and interface of the new site will help to market the school and improve our ability to keep you as informed as possible to life at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Please bear with us as we train staff on how to use and update pages with important information and pages of interest. Going forward, it would be worthwhile to check-in with the calendar and class pages.

Calendar - <https://www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.org.uk/events>

Class Pages - <https://www.ourladyoflourdesprimaryschool.org.uk/classes>

### **Asda's Cashpot for Schools Scheme...**

Thank you to all our parents and staff who have already signed up to Asda's Cashpot for Schools scheme. For those of you who have not yet already signed up, we would be so VERY grateful if you were able to do so and please also spread the word to your family and friends!

Please note that if you are already 'a member' of the normal Asda Rewards scheme you just need to link up to our school in your Rewards App - you will not give up any of your own earnings, your own personal cash pot will continue to grow!

Here is the link for more information about how to sign up:-

Source: [www.asda.com](http://www.asda.com)

<https://search.app/rddxtKVyTbkN98457>

We have also attached more information to go out alongside this newsletter.

### **Special Celebration Menu – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October**

We have arranged a 'special celebration' lunch for our pupils for next Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Not only will this be celebrating a 'welcome back' to our existing school pupils, but will also celebrate the joining of our new Reception class children and many other new pupils who have joined Our Lady of Lourdes since the start of September!

We plan on creating a special 'celebration atmosphere', with table clothes and party music playing whilst the children are eating. Remember to book your child's lunch on the School Food United App!



## *Some back to school reminders...*



### **ATTENDANCE**

The importance of children attending school every day is a national priority. Regular attendance is essential for a child's wellbeing, attainment and wider life chances. In line with the Government's new documentation, '[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)', Our Lady of Lourdes are committed to doing all we can to ensure children attend school daily, and, naturally, we need your support!

#### Punctuality

- Children should arrive on the school premises and be in class, and ready to learn, by 8:55am every morning. Arriving even 10-15 minutes late daily could equate to over an hour's worth of lost learning over a week!
- If your child is going to arrive late for school you will need to contact the school office and let us know the reason why.
- Children should be collected promptly at 3.15pm at the end of the day. Again, telephone the school office and let us know if you are going to be late.

#### Absences

- Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school every day during term time, with the exception of illness and medical appointments. Any other absences need to be notified to school in advance and consideration for this absence will be made as to whether it will be recorded as an authorised or unauthorised absence, in line with local authority guidelines.
- All absences due to illness should be notified to school before 9.30am on the first day of absence.
- Proof of appointment may be requested for any medical, dental, dance/music exams etc.
- Unauthorised absences (holiday) or persistent absences will be monitored and may attract a fixed penalty notice from South Gloucestershire Council. There have been new changes to the penalty system from 19 Aug 2024 - [Holidays during school term time | South Gloucestershire \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)



### **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

Key Stages 1 and 2 children will continue to enter the school via the entrances they use at present. The doors/gates will open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am. For our new Reception children next week, the staff team will come out to welcome you in at the arrival time to show you the way in.

Please do all you can to have your child in school punctually, and attending regularly so that we can help them to settle in and flourish – socially, emotionally as well as academically.

End of day pick up is 3.15pm. Parents are invited into the school grounds for collection, and this can be a chance to have a quick chat with the class teacher, or to agree arrangements for an alternative time to meet.



### **LUNCH AND SNACKS**

Please ensure you have booked your child's lunch using School Food United (SFU) ahead of each school day as this helps us to work with the catering team to ensure we have the correct number of lunches prepared, reducing waste. You are able to book meals for a whole term in advance! Failure to book in advance will result in a child having a jacket potato as opposed to a meal of their choice.

Children are permitted to eat fruit or vegetable snacks only at breaktimes. Crisps or biscuits and sweets are not to be eaten during breaktimes. If your child is eating a packed lunch from home, please just pack the amount of food that you know your child(ren) will eat to avoid unnecessary waste. Please also respect that we have children and adults in the school with severe nut allergies and so please do not send your child in with anything containing nuts. Children should have a water bottle, which can be filled up at various points in the school day. Fizzy drinks, fruit juice, Prime or other variations of such drinks are not permitted. We want to encourage our children to drink plenty of water. This not only keeps them well hydrated but we know supports attention and brain function too!



## UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Children should return to school in full school uniform and PE uniform. No makeup, nail varnish, jewellery (other than stud earrings and watches) are permitted. Smart watches linked to phones, the internet or have cameras are also not permitted.

To prevent injury, no jewellery at all should be worn on PE days. Earrings should be removed and preferably left at home. If not, the child can take them out at school or cover them with micropore tape. Staff cannot assist children in taking out or covering earrings.

Unsuitable or extreme haircuts, hair dye or shaved patterns are not permitted.

Children are expected to wear black school shoes rather than trainers to school. In coming weeks, Reception and Year 1 children will need a pair of wellies to remain in school for outdoor learning. Your class teachers will inform you when they are needed.

As cloakroom space is limited, it would help a great deal if children did not need bring in large school bags or pencil cases. They really are not necessary, as stationery is provided in school.

Our school uniform defines us as a school community both in school and the local community. We encourage our children to wear it tidily and with much pride. We try to limit the pieces that have the school logo so that most items can be purchased less expensively in supermarkets etc. Please do all you can to ensure that your child's uniform is in good condition – clean and without holes, tears etc. We have rather a large lost property pile and the PTFA will be arranging another second-hand uniform clothes rail in coming weeks.

In all cases, please make sure all uniform and belongings are labelled clearly!



## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Please take the time to ensure we have the most accurate and up to date contact numbers (home / work / mobile / emergency), current full address, email addresses and your child's up to date medical information on our files for the year ahead.

For children in Years 5 and 6, we also need you to complete a consent form if you are happy for your child to walk home from school without an adult.



## MEDICINE

Please ensure that your child's inhalers etc. are up to date and filled. All medicines should be handed in to the office or the class teacher rather than sent in with your child. If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please complete a Medicine Administration form at the office.



## PARKING

Outside of school, I am sure you are aware that we either have a zebra crossing and white zig-zags or yellow zig-zags.

Here are a few rules; these lines are NOT to be parked on unless stated otherwise. Some areas

- have specific times, others have a 24-hour rule in place.

In an ideal world, we would love everyone to walk to school however we accept that this isn't possible all the time. Therefore, we request that you park in a place that doesn't endanger young children or other members of the community, and doesn't block or infringe on our neighbours' driveways.

Our local PCSOs would rather not give tickets to individuals but if people continue to stop/park in the controlled area outside the school premises, they will have no choice but to give a ticket.

For parking in these controlled areas, drivers will be issued a fine and possibly 3 points on their licence.

Please park your vehicle further afield and walk the remaining distance or simply walk to school. If everyone complies with this, tickets will be avoided and people will be safer.



## PLEASE... THANK YOU.... PARDON?... HOW ARE YOU?...CAN I HELP YOU?...SMILE!

Starting our new year with new staff, pupils and parents; we renew our careful attention to good manners. We will remind ourselves of our very positive habit, whereby all staff and pupils acknowledge each other with the best possible manners, positive attitudes and respect at all times. Good manners, like chicken pox, are contagious and can make such an amazing difference! We would ask families to support us with this initiative at home to keep our school (and home) a happy place!

## Dates for your diary...



### OCTOBER

<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Start of Black History Month
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	Special Celebration Lunch in Hall
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)
<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents, 10am
<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Fraser Portraits: Individual Photos
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Year 6 Lifeskills Trip
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)
<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents, 2pm
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Chaplaincy Team training - TBC
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Creation & Harvest Assembly – Children can wear their own clothes in return for a donation to our school & local foodbanks Year 6 PTFA Cake and Uniform sale, 3.30pm
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	PTFA AGM, 3.30pm
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	Parents' Evening, 3.30-6pm
<b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	Parents' Evening 3.30-6pm
<b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Term 1 ends, 3.15pm Open Evening for Prospective Parents, 5:30pm
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	INSET 3

### NOVEMBER

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Term 2 starts, 8.45am
<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents, 2pm PTFA Autumn Craft Session, 3.15pm
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 6 Height & Weight Checks with School Nurse
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Whole School Nasal Flu Vaccines
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Non-uniform day in return for Parish Fayre Tombola donations
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November</b>	Open Morning for Prospective Parents, 10am Year 2 and Year 4 Road Safety Workshops
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate) Year 5 PTFA Cake and Uniform sale, 3.30pm
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	Parish Christmas Fayre
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Open Evening for Prospective Parents, 5pm
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	Year 6 Class Celebration Assembly, 9am (Parents of Year 6 class warmly invited)

### DECEMBER

<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	PTFA Christmas Secret Room
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	PTFA Christmas Disco
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Reception and KS1 Nativity, 2pm – Further information to follow
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	KS2 Christmas Celebration, 2pm – Further information to follow
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Term 2 ends, 1pm

## TERM DATES 2024-2025


Term 1	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2024 – Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 – Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024
Term 3	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025 – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2025
Term 6	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025 – Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2025

## INSET DATES 2024-2025

INSET 1	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2024
INSET 2	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024
INSET 3	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
INSET 4	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025
INSET 5	TBC

## OPEN DAYS

1. Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October, 10am
2. Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October, 2pm
3. Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October, 5.30pm
4. Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November, 2pm
5. Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November, 10am
6. Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November, 5pm

 An opportunity for any families who are looking for a place in Reception for September 2025 to have a look around the school and come and hear what we are about. Please spread the word!

*O. Bell*



**KINGSWOOD LANTERN PARADE**

3RD NOVEMBER 2024  
16:30-19:00  
KINGSWOOD PARK  
PARADE BEGINS AT 17:30

FREE FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT!

LANTERN MAKING WITH COLOURFUL MINDS

CAKES & DRINKS FROM KIND REGARDS COFFEE

CIRCUS PERFORMERS

...AND MORE!

Lantern making will be available throughout the day at Kings Chase shopping centre's Social Sunday or you can come to the park at 16:30 to make a lantern before the parade begins!

ANY QUESTIONS? CONTACT [EVENTS@KINGSWOOD-TC.GOV.UK](mailto:EVENTS@KINGSWOOD-TC.GOV.UK)

## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Who: All families

When: June and July, September.

If you're on a qualifying benefit, applying for free school meals makes sense for your child, your finances and your school! You could be one of thousands of families across South Gloucestershire missing out on saving over £400 each year, per child.

[This flyer](#) explains more about applying for benefits-related free school meals and the extra help it offers your child and family. Or visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals)



All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 get universal infant free school meals so you do not need to apply for them.

But please do apply to receive benefits-related free school meals and the extra help they offer your child and family. This includes funded holiday club places in the main school holidays. It will also ensure your child will get a hot, healthy, freshly prepared meal at lunchtime from Year 3 onwards too.

### Contact information

If you require any further information or help using this toolkit please contact

[Catherine.Harrington@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Catherine.Harrington@southglos.gov.uk)

For guidance on HAF please contact [Nicky.Wake@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Nicky.Wake@southglos.gov.uk) or please direct parents to

[HAF@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@southglos.gov.uk)

For queries about FSM vouchers in the holidays please contact [Rebecca.Chatterton@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Rebecca.Chatterton@southglos.gov.uk) or please direct parents to [CAH.FSMschoolse vouchersmailbox@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:CAH.FSMschoolse vouchersmailbox@southglos.gov.uk)

Further information and support for families with:

Free School Meals: [www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals) or schools can contact [CIS@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:CIS@southglos.gov.uk)

HAF: [www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF)

Cost of Living: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/community-and-living/cost-of-living-help/>

Help to get food: <https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/for-your-body/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>