



Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Angela Folland

Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way

11th September 2020

Headteacher's News

It has been such a joy to see all of our children coming into school this week. September is a time of excitement and some anxiety every year, but they have skipped back into school and settled in so quickly. I don't think that we realise sometimes how sociable school is and the most lovely part of the week is watching them back with their friends after such a long time away.

Thank you to all of you for supporting the changes and procedures we have put in place to keep our children, staff and parents safe. The Government seems committed to keeping primary schools open, come what may, unless there is a local lockdown so it is in all of our interests to do our bit in making sure the school can stay open.

Important Information



On Thursday 23rd July we said farewell to Andrea Partridge who served the school for many years as Nursery Teaching Assistant. Andrea was presented with an engraved vase to mark her service to the school - something to keep the memory of her time here very much alive! She taught many, many children over the last 30 years - in fact she told us that she taught children of children of children at OLSP (some of you are still with us as parents!). Our grateful thanks to Andrea for her dedication and care that she brought to the school.

Forest School

The children have now met Andy Bayliss who is running the forest school sessions on a Monday and Year 2 and Year 6 children are eager to get going next week. On Mondays please could Year 2 children come to school wearing old clothes and old trainers. They need to bring their school uniform to change into after their session. Year 6 need to come into school in their uniform but bring their old clothes & trainers to change into at lunchtime. Both Year groups will need to have a pair of wellington boots (to cope with the changeable Devon weather!)

Rainbow Wall

Please don't forget to send in a photo of something that your child achieved during lockdown. We will be starting our Rainbow Wall in the next couple of weeks and it would be fantastic to celebrate them all. Whether they did something new, helped someone, raised money, learned something new or got better at something..... let us know so they can see their achievement on the Rainbow Wall!

Friends' News

Welcome back to OLSP from The Friends!

For those who are new to the school, the Friends are the Parents and Teachers Association here at OLSP. We are a friendly bunch of parents and carers who help support the school, by fundraising, organising fun events and by helping to build this fantastic community. We would love to hear from you if you would like to get involved. There are lots of ways to do this and the more people we have, the more we can do, and the more the different responsibilities can be spread out!

Obviously, things are a little different at the moment, and we are adapting some of the activities we would normally be planning for the autumn term, but in the meantime, there are some ways to get involved which would be really helpful.

Firstly, we would love to hear from anyone in the school community who has experience of grant writing or applying for funding. Your skills would be massively appreciated. Does anyone work with a brilliant employer who might have funding or CSR opportunities in place, who we could approach perhaps in the future for specific funding. Please do let us know!

We are also in need of more practical things too - there are plans afoot to improve the area at the entrance to the school, and we would love to hear from anyone who might be able to provide railway sleepers to enable this to get underway.

Have you had a clear out of your wardrobe over the last few months? We will be arranging for a BagtoSchool day in the coming weeks. For those new to this, it is an opportunity to bring a bag of clothes to school, (which must be sealed). These are left on a set day and collected to be recycled, and money is earned through this which through the PTA enables more brilliant resources for the pupils. Please do start a pile ready for when we have the date confirmed!

As some of you may have seen earlier in the year we registered with easyfundraising, which is a great site where you can help Friends of OLSP Primary School raise funds simply by doing your everyday online shopping! Over 4,000 big name retailers are included, such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, eBay, Boden and M&S. Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say 'thank you!' It's completely free and over £31M has been raised for causes just like us so far.

We want to raise as much as possible so please sign up and help us at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friendsofolspprimaryschool/?utm_campaign=raise-more%26utm_content=fb1

If you want to contact The Friends, we are on facebook at @friendsofolsp - we would LOVE to hear from you!!

Prayer

**We thank you for our school, Lord
We thank you that we are back together.
We thank you for our school, Lord
We thank you for the new pupils and staff that
have joined us.
Thank you for our school, Lord
We thank you for everyone here.
We thank you for this new start, Lord,
We thank you for our future.
Amen**

Homework

We are currently reviewing the homework policy. There is an expectation from the Government that all schools have an integrated system for home learning in the event of self isolation or another lockdown so we are using this opportunity to set up Google classroom for all of our children to use from 1st October. We are also trying to minimise the movement of paper between home and school. The children will not be set homework until the first week in October to allow us all enough time to teach them how to log and access their learning platform