



# Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School Newsletter

Executive Headteacher: Mrs Angela Folland

*Living, Loving and Learning in God's Way*

5th March 2021

## Headteacher's News

We are so excited to be welcoming all of our children and families back to school on Monday! I know that all of the class catch ups this week have been full of conversations about coming back to school and seeing friends again.

We now know what the Road Map out of the pandemic looks like over the next few months as set out by the Prime Minister, and are delighted that schools are the priority first step for this. What we also know is that this is not a time for complacency and that everyone - staff, children and parents, have their role to play in supporting the continued measures to keep everyone safe and prevent further infections. You were wonderfully supportive of the safety measures in place before Christmas and this has helped us to keep infection rates to almost zero.

We would like to thank all of our children; those who have been in school and those learning from home, for their resilience and positivity during this challenging time. We have been so pleased with how everyone has engaged with their learning and particularly impressed with our home learners' efforts and participation. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their continued support, feedback and kindness - this has kept us all going while we have learnt to work in new and creative ways!

We look forward to seeing you all on Monday!

## **Important Information for reopening OLSP - Monday 8th March**

### **Attendance**

All children from Reception - Year 6 are expected back in full time school from Monday 8th March. Attendance returns to being mandatory and will be monitored in the normal way.

### **Homework and blended learning**

Homework will continue to be set on Google Classroom on a weekly basis. Any children needing to self isolate will have home learning provided via Google Classrooms.

### **Uniform**

Children will need to be in their school uniform when they return to school. However, we are very aware that shops have been closed and children grow at rather a speed! Please do your best to make sure they have the correct uniform but if they have grown out of jumpers, trousers, skirts, shoes etc then please let us know and try to ensure they are in shoes/trainers that are appropriate for school for the rest of this term. We do have a limited supply of uniform items that we can give out to parents and I am sure that there will be children who no longer need particular sizes. We plan to try and collect out-grown uniform later in the year to redistribute.

### **Access**

Please continue to use the main drive to access the school and the pathway to leave.

Children In Years 3,4,5 and 6 will continue to go around the building to access their classrooms.

Year 6 children will not go through the music room, but use their back door straight into the classroom.

Doors will be open from 8.30am to enable children to come straight into the classroom.

The staggered finish remains in place to try and alleviate the congregation of so many adults at the bottom of the drive:

Nursery/Reception: 2:50pm

Year 1 & Year 2: 3:00pm

Year 3 & Year 4: 3:05pm

Year 5 and Year 6: 3:15pm

### **Social Distancing**

***This remains one of the best ways of reducing the spread of infection.***

Children will remain in their class bubbles during the school day.

Break times and lunchtimes will continue to be staggered during the day.

We ask that wherever possible only one parent brings their children into school - this is to reduce the number of adults on site.

Parents are asked to continue wearing face coverings when coming onto site (unless medically exempt).

We are still unable to run any extra curricular clubs or do any educational visits at this moment in time.

### **Equipment and Cleaning**

Children are able to bring their school bags with the equipment they need for the day (packed lunch, PE Kit etc) but please keep this to a minimum; no toys or books from home please.

The library will remain open and the children are able to access Accelerated Reader books in class bubbles. Any book returned will be put into the 'book jail' where they will be quarantined for 72 hours before being put back on the shelf.

Phonics books will continue to be rotated (via a quarantine period) to support Read Write Inc but we have also subscribed to a new online library through the English Hub so we're able to share specific books with your child to read online at home.

### **Test and Trace**

**Please ensure you let us know if anyone in your family tests positive. You must isolate your family for the 10 day period.**

### **Asymptomatic testing for adults in households with school-aged children**

NHS Test and Trace announced earlier this week, that all adults in households with school and college age children without symptoms can now access regular rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. Undertaking regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing helps reduce transmission of the virus. Parents and other adults in households with children at school or college, who do not have symptoms, can now access regular, rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) testing. This includes childcare and support bubbles. Tests are fast, easy and completely free.

There are [different ways](#) for a household, childcare or support bubble to collect their test to take at home, twice-weekly:

- through your employer, if they offer testing to employees.
- by collecting a home test kit from a local test site - anyone aged 18 or over can collect 2 packs of 7 tests.
- by ordering a home test kit online - please do not order online if you can access testing through other routes, this frees up home delivery for those who need it most.

If you have any queries about the tests, and you live in England, please call 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day from 7am to 11pm

## **Music Lessons**

These will resume from next week. All peripatetic teachers will follow social distancing, wear face coverings and thoroughly clean all equipment between lessons.

## **Other news:**

### **CAFOD: Walk for Water**

This Lent, we can Walk for Water to help people like Abdella. Abdella lives in a remote village in Afar, Ethiopia – one of the hottest, driest places in the world. To keep his family alive, he must walk for ten hours through the mountains to collect just two jerry cans of water. You can watch a short film to learn more about Abdella's journey here: <https://vimeo.com/496861225>

Sadly, there are billions of people around the world like Abdella. But we can help bring clean water to the people who need it most. By raising money for Walk for Water with CAFOD this Lent, we will be raising money to reach remote communities with solar powered water pumps and we will make a massive difference.

As a school, each week, different classes will be walking 1 mile around the school grounds to walk for water.

### **CAFOD Voluntary Contributions**

At home, families are encouraged to also go for a 1 mile walk together. Families are encouraged to donate online to CAFOD whether their children are at home or at school; there is a minimum £2 donation online. Please do not send money into school as we have decided that donations will be anonymous. If you are able to make a donation, please click this link:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD/Lent-Appeal>

### **World Book Day - Book Tokens**

Mrs Newton-Browne and Mrs Gordon have arranged book tokens for the children or there are e-vouchers available so that all children can still have the opportunity to get a book. All of the tokens will be given out to the children when they return next week or email Mrs Gordon should you require an e-voucher instead.

A huge thank you to our masked readers who read their stories yesterday. Did you guess who they were?

Frog	-Mrs Day
Cat	-Mrs Grout
Man on the Moon	-Mrs Webber
Yoda	-Mrs Cutts

### **British Science Week w/b Monday 8th March**

Next week is British Science Week. The children will be taking part in various activities in school and the theme of the week is "Innovating for the future". Please see the attached flyer for details of a poster competition that will also be taking place. There will be various prizes for this competition

## Friend's News



Missing school discos? Us too! We can't have the St. Patrick's Day school disco this year but that doesn't mean we can't have some fun. So instead on the 17th March, all pupils can come to school wearing what they would like to wear for a disco - this could be their favourite clothes or maybe a party dress or neon t-shirt. There will be a £1 donation on the day to help raise funds for the Friends of OLSP which will go back into the pot to enable us to support the school to buy the extra things that they would like!

## Prayer

This week's liturgy focused on the feast day of St David - Patron Saint of Wales and one of our houses here at OLSP.

*God of Compassion,*

*It's hard to watch others suffer. Sometimes we don't know what to say, especially when we see others who are lonely, sad or in pain.*

*Open our hearts Lord, so that, like St David, we can offer kind words, gentle actions and healing hands to those around us.*

*Through Christ, Our Lord,*

*Amen*

## Community News



**Road safety** - with all the children returning next week, please remind them of the dangers of running across the road at the bottom of the drive at the end of the day. There have been a couple of near misses recently and we want all of our children to stay safe!

**Our Lady and St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery**

**Website: [www.olsp-rc.com](http://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 Governors for Child Protection: Mrs Lorraine Coulter**