



## Newsletter – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a very busy and successful first half term to this academic year.

Our Reception children have settled in so well to school life – they are absolutely fantastic: as are all our children!

Well done to Year 6 who led on the Welcome assembly for the Reception children and to Year 5 who delivered their class assembly on Family Fast Day. A huge thank you, to you our parents for your generosity in supporting both Widnes Food Bank and Marie Curie Cancer Support.

The Government is having a real push on attendance and punctuality in schools, therefore, as a school we will be monitoring attendance and punctuality on a fortnightly basis. Our school target is 96.5% and anyone with less than 90% is deemed to be a 'Persistent absentee'. This will mean that there may be Educational Welfare Officer involvement. If you have any concerns or would like support from school please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs McGuffie



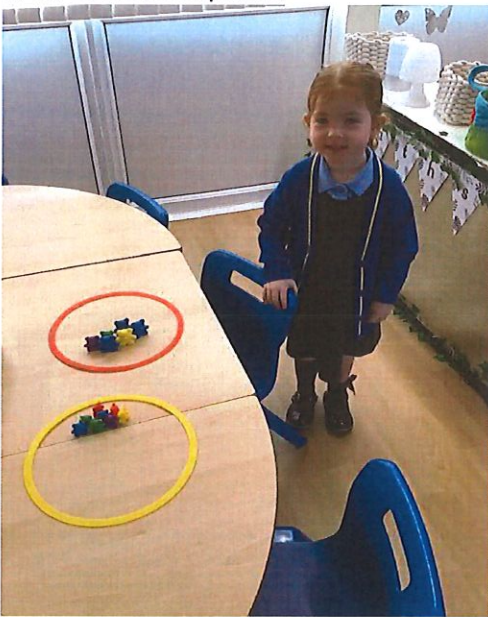
## Reception

Reception have had a lovely first half term at Our Lady's. They have all settled in excellently and have really enjoyed all the activities and lessons we have been doing.

We have been learning about patterns, matching, sorting, size, height and length in Maths and the children have had lots of fun completing activities around these topics. We have also been learning Phonics and practicing our letter formations in different ways.

Reception have loved our topic 'Ourselves'. We have been learning about who is in our family, where we live, how to look after ourselves, which foods are healthy and unhealthy, our senses and how we use them and we have been making portraits with lots of different resources.

Well Done Reception!



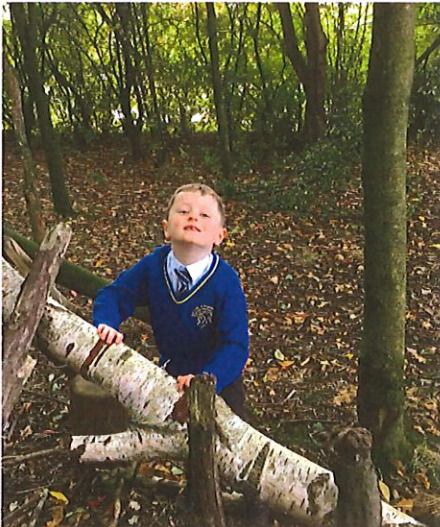
## YEAR 1

Year 1 have really enjoyed the topic 'Unity in the Community' this first half term. They have been learning about their local area and finding out where Widnes is on Google maps as well as having fun being weather reporters talking about the weather in Widnes.

In Science, the children have also enjoyed learning outside the classroom and going into the forest to learn about plants and seasonal changes. They now know the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees and can name some of the trees in our school forest.

In English Year 1 have enjoyed reading the storybook 'The Bog Baby' and have been doing lots of descriptive writing about the Bog Baby and describing the pond where the Bog Baby lives. When we went into the forest, we were amazed to find the Bog Baby living in our school forest. Children have really enjoyed this story and were able to complete their own narrative writing to re-tell key parts of the story using the words first, next, then and after that.

Well done for all your hard work this half term Year 1.



## YEAR 2

Year 2 have really enjoyed their topic 'NESW' this half term. We have been looking at compass directions and we had lots of fun creating our own treasure maps. As part of our topic, we have also been learning about our local area, so we planned a route to Ditton Library. We followed our directions to the Library and enjoyed looking at our local area during the walk! The children's behaviour on our walk and in Ditton Library was excellent as always!



## YEAR 3

### **Journey to Greece**

Year 3 have enjoyed our topic 'Journey to Greece' this half term learning all about ancient and modern Greece. We have been transfixed by the Greek myths and tales we have learned about whilst studying our English book as well as the history and traditions of this ancient land. We learned that ancient Greece was a very powerful empire between 2000 BC and 146 BC and was responsible for introducing democracy, as well as many new ideas for government, science, philosophy and art.

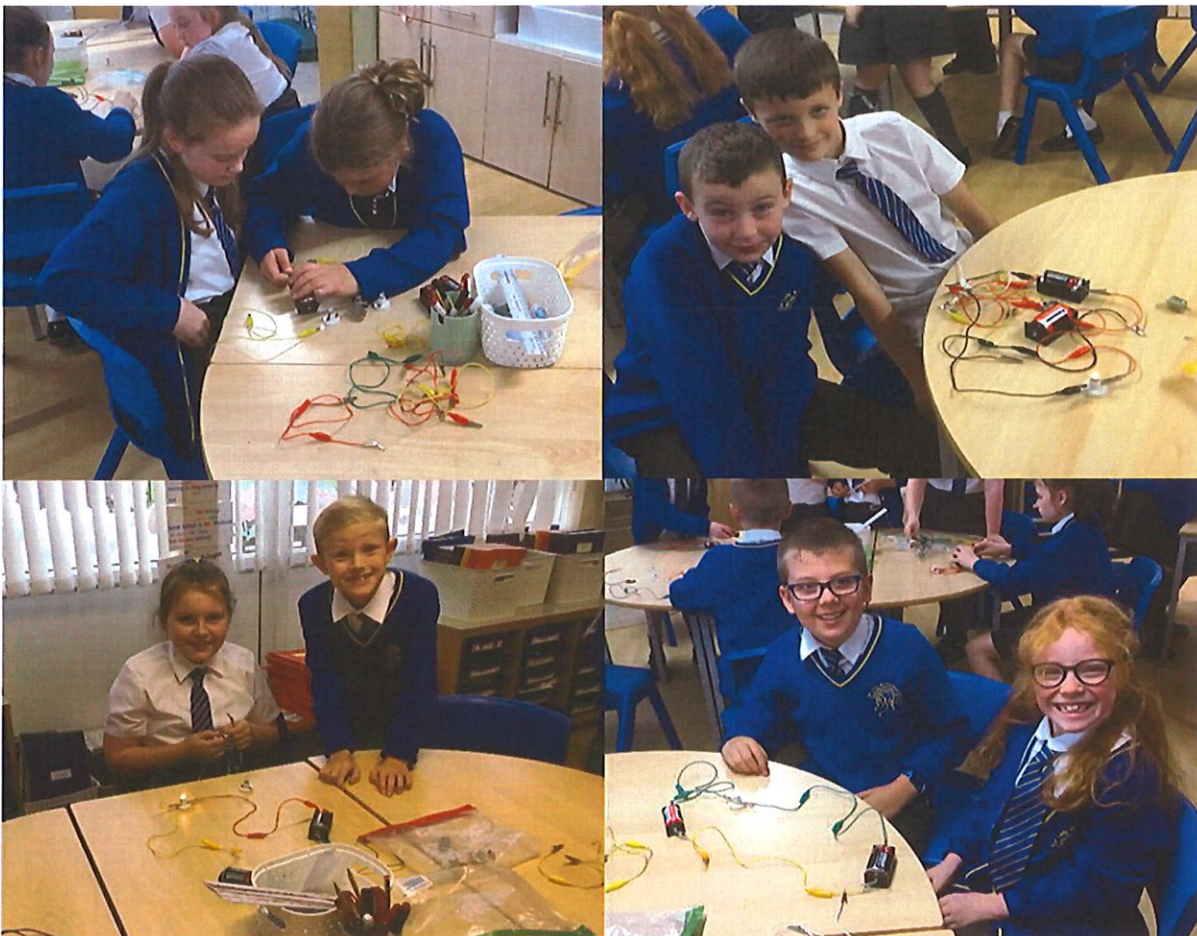
We also compared two cities that existed in ancient times (Athens and Sparta) and looked at their similarities and differences, observing what it would be like to grow up there.

We have listened to traditional Greek music and had a go at dancing the 'Hasapiko'. The highlight of our half term has been our Greek food tasting lesson, combining learning about healthy eating in science as trying some yummy Greek food.



## YEAR 4

During this half term, Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the topics within our 'Lightning Speed' theme. We have looked at many things, a popular one being our science topic, electricity. The children have participated in many investigations. They have made their own simple circuits, identifying complete and incomplete circuits. Their inquiries have also helped them recognise the difference between conductors and insulators. One of their favourite investigations was observing how long a battery powered a bulb for. They had so much fun recording their findings and writing explanations as to why the battery lasted as long as it did.



## YEAR 5



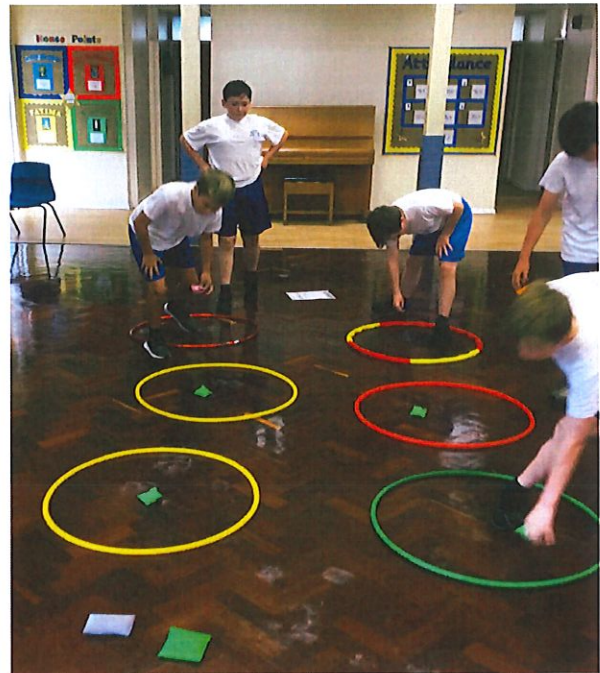
This first half term has been quite eventful for us.

To complement our space topic - Mission Control, we read the entertaining book *Cosmic* by Frank Cottrell Boyce, which is all about a group of children who go to space on a secret mission. Whilst reading this book, we actually got to meet the famous author and hear all about his life as a writer, as well as hearing him read from his latest book 'Noah's Gold'.

We now have our own signed copies of a range of his books!

## YEAR 6

Over the past term, Year 6 have been learning the skills and attitudes required to be Play Leaders. After a few weeks of training they have shown how they can encourage others, develop games to make them easier or more challenging, create healthy competition in games and, most of all, have fun! After half term, our Play Leaders will practice their newfound skills with Key Stage 1 helping the younger children develop their own skills.





## Health & Safety

A huge thank you to PCSO Steve Marnick who visited our school to talk about ways to have fun but stay safe this Halloween and Bonfire Night. He explained about the laws for the selling and using fireworks but also talked to the children about being good citizens and considering their neighbours who are old and who may not enjoy Halloween. Remember to look for the poster in people's doors telling you if they don't want you to knock!

**Remember – have fun but be safe!**



## Healthy Snacks

Please ensure that if your child is not buying snack from school then they bring in a piece of fruit ONLY for their snack at playtime. This is to ensure that all children are having healthy snacks as we are a Healthy School.



## NO BIKES

In order to keep everyone safe, please do not ride bikes across the playground. Instead, dismount and wheel your bikes over to the bikesheds. Thank you



## FUNDRAISING

We all dressed up brightly to raise money for Marie Curie on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October. A total of £356.45 was raised. Thank you



## Harvest celebrations

As part of our Harvest celebration led by Year 5 we collected a range of foods which were donated to the Widnes Foodbank.



One way system.

Could we remind parents/carers that there is an unofficial one-way system in operation around the school during drop off and collection times?

When approaching school by car please do so via Ash Lane and vacate the vicinity out through Oakfield Drive.

Can we ask you to ensure that you park in a safe place and not across our neighbours' driveways or on the white lines.

Also, advance notice for all parents who drive to school there are planned roadworks scheduled to begin in Lakeside Close on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The information given to school explains that these roadworks will come round and go past the school by the end of November and into December. These dates may change but we wanted to give you advance warning as parking will clearly be more an issue at this time.



#### Polite reminder- Snack/Dinner Account

Please could we ask that you keep a check on your child(ren's) snack account and top up accordingly.

As soon as you have no credit the children will need to bring their own snack and a packed lunch.



#### Uniform

Our children look so smart in their uniforms. Can we politely request that we adhere to the uniform policy.

School shoes not trainers

Jewellery cannot be worn at all in PE lessons so if your child has earrings, which can only be small studs, these must be removed.

No nail varnish.

Shoulder length hair must be tied up.

Full policy can be found on the school website, or a hard copy can be provided from the school office, on request. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

# Important Dates



31<sup>st</sup> October: Children return to school after the half term break

7<sup>th</sup> November: Parents' Evening

8<sup>th</sup> November: Parents' Evening

11<sup>th</sup> November: Own clothes day (bring a bottle/tin to go towards our Christmas Bingo)

14<sup>th</sup> November: School Photographer

14<sup>th</sup> November: Anti-Bullying Week

17<sup>th</sup> November: Flu Vaccinations – all year groups.

18<sup>th</sup> November: Own clothes day (bring a 'gift' to go towards our Christmas Bingo)

25<sup>th</sup> November: Own clothes day (bring chocolates/sweets to go towards our Christmas Bingo)

6<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Bingo 6.00pm

13<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Nativity at 1.30pm (for families with children)  
6.00pm for families without children.

14<sup>th</sup> December: KS1 Nativity at 6.00pm for families without children.

15<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Jumper Day

15<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Dinner

19<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Parties

20<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Service. Carol Concert

# Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mrs Heston who has now been appointed as Assistant Headteacher in our school. I am sure you will join me in wishing her success in her new role.

## House Teams

Well done to Walsingham – our winning house this half term. As this team had the most house points the children from Walsingham will get to choose a reward for all their hard work and efforts.



## Attendance

Being in school matters. Please ensure that your child is in school every day unless they are ill.

Classes that achieve 100% attendance will receive a treat as a reward.

### No class has achieved 100% this half term:

Reception – 95.69%	Year 1 – 94.91%
Year 2 – 95.16%	Year 3 – 96.04%
Year 4 - 94.86%	Year 5 – 96.77%
Year 6 – 95.11%	





Dyslexia is a learning difficulty which primarily affects reading and writing skills. However, it does not only affect these skills. Dyslexia is actually about information processing. Dyslexic people may have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear, which can affect learning and the acquisition of literacy skills. Dyslexia can also impact on other areas such as organisational skills.

It is important to remember that there are positives to thinking differently. Many dyslexic people show strengths in areas such as reasoning and in visual and creative fields.

During Dyslexia Awareness Week 2022 Year 6 read a poem written by a child who has dyslexia. We discussed what it would be like for children and adults who are diagnosed with this lifelong learning difficulty and found out about famous people who have been diagnosed with dyslexia including Abi Elphinstone, the author of Sky Song, the book Year 6 are currently reading.

And finally.....



Thanks to the Manning family for their kind donation towards our school garden project. Their kindness will make a huge difference to the work we can complete for all our children. The huge sum of £1,150.00 will be spent making such a difference to the children of Our Lady's. We are very grateful.



# Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Catholic Primary School



Clinton View, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8JN Tel: 0151 424 6130 / 420 6214

E-mail Head - [head.olpsprimary@halton.gov.uk](mailto:head.olpsprimary@halton.gov.uk) Website - [www.olpsprimary.co.uk](http://www.olpsprimary.co.uk)

Head Teacher – Mrs P McGuffie



28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents / Carers

We are pleased to announce that Our Lady's School has organised a clothes & shoe collection with Bag2School in order to raise much needed funds for our school.

**Bag2School is the UK's leading textile recycler and fundraiser working with schools and since its inception in 2001 it has now paid out over £36 million.**

As well as raising vitally needed funds for Our Lady's it also helps the environment by helping to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill. A recent DEFRA report has shown that textile collection schemes are helping to reduce the volume of textiles discarded as municipal solid waste. However it is a fact that as a nation we still send 350,000 tonnes of textiles to landfill every year.

By getting involved in our **Bag2School** collection, you have an opportunity to sort through your cupboards and wardrobes and donate unwanted textiles, this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <http://uk.bag2school.com/> for full details). In addition to raising much needed funds it will also raise awareness amongst the children of the benefits of recycling and reuse.

If you fill the donation bag and still have more then you can use any other bag to donate your items and don't forget to ask grandparents, friends and neighbours to have a sort out as well!

**Bag2School** will be collecting from Our Lady's on Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to Our Lady's Office and help us have a really good collection.

Many thanks indeed for helping us with this unique fundraising opportunity.

Yours faithfully

*P. McGuffie*

Mrs P McGuffie  
Headteacher

*'We learn to love everyone as Jesus loves us'*



# Bag2School



@bag2schooluk

[www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)



follow us on Facebook

Our next **Bag2School** collection  
has been arranged for

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 22**

at **9**..... am / **█**

Any questions - please ask your  
school collection organiser

**Lynn Stanley**

[www.bag2school.com](http://www.bag2school.com)



# BAG2SCHOOL

## WHAT WE COLLECT

We accept the following **'good quality'** items for RE-USE\*:

- Men's, Ladies' and Children's clothing
- Paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around)
- Handbags
- Hats
- Bags
- Scarves and ties
- Jewellery
- Lingerie
- Socks
- Belts
- Soft toys
- Household linen
- Household curtains
- Household towels
- Household bedding (bed sheets, pillow cases and duvet covers)

*\* We reserve the right to refuse any unsuitable items*

### **We DO NOT accept:**

- *Duvets and blankets*
- *Pillows and cushions*
- *Carpets, rugs and mats (including bath, shower and toilet mats)*
- *Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing*
- *School uniforms with and without logo*
- *Corporate clothing and workwear*
- *Textile off cuts, yarns or threaded material*



# Half term Sports Sessions

Multi-sports sessions for ages 7-11

**1.30-3.30pm at Frank Myler Pavilion,  
Widnes. Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>  
and Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October.**

**£2**

Various sports; football, cricket, athletics, archery

**To register contact Colin:  
Colin.Powell@halton.gov.uk  
07554 113264**

[www.activehalton.co.uk](http://www.activehalton.co.uk)



D. Baxter  
130 Kingsway  
Widnes  
WA8 7QR

FREE ADMISSION  
AND CHILDREN CAN GO IN FANCY DRESS.

20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

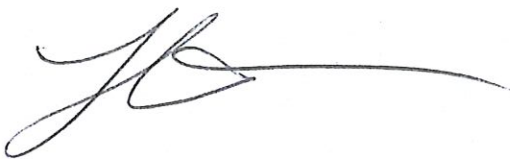
To whom it may concern

On behalf of Halton Haven Hospice, I am writing to confirm that Denise Baxter of Kingsway, Widnes is authorised to raise funds for Halton Haven Hospice by holding a Halloween fundraising collection outside of her home in and in Widnes town centre from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> until Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

The funds raised will be used by Halton Haven Hospice to provide specialist palliative care to people across Halton who are living with end of life conditions.

If you would like any further information on Denise and her fundraising efforts or how you can support Halton Haven Hospice yourself, please contact me on 01928 712 728 or [Tina.Gill@haltonhaven.co.uk](mailto:Tina.Gill@haltonhaven.co.uk).

Kind regards,



Tina Gill  
Community and Events Fundraiser

HALTON HAVEN  
HALLOWEEN

GARDEN

OPEN

6<sup>pm</sup> TILL 9<sup>pm</sup>

SAT 15<sup>th</sup> Oct

TO  
MON 31<sup>st</sup> Oct

130 KINGSWAY  
WIDNES