



Newsletter – 18th July 2023

RECEPTION

Reception have had a lovely summer term. Our focus has been 'The Seaside' and we looked at the books 'Splash! Anna Hibiscus' and 'The Lighthouse keepers' lunch'. Through these texts we learnt all about Africa and how it is different from the UK, different activities you can do at the beach, healthy eating, and facts about lighthouses. We wrote letters, postcards and fantastic sentences.

We've had a real focus on Phonics this term too and practiced lots of segmenting and blending, we have brilliant readers in Reception!

In Maths we have been focusing on numbers to 20. How to compose these numbers, subitising, comparing them with other numbers and adding and subtracting. We have used lots of manipulatives to help and focused on how to write number sentences correctly.

Sports day was so much fun. Reception showed such good sportsmanship and participated brilliantly. We have some super-fast runners!

We had our school trip to Imagine that! We did lots of role play in the imagination village, made slime, magnets, snow, and bath bombs, and most importantly had lots of fun!





Yr 1

During our last half term Year 1 have enjoyed the topic 'Royal Patrons'. Children have researched and found out lots of key facts and information about Queen Elizabeth II to be able to write a biography about her. We have also been using the computers to research and find out about Kings and Queens from the past and looked at Queen Elizabeth II's family tree. Year 1 particularly enjoyed their D&T sessions this half term and had fun designing and making a delicious fruit salad fit for a Queen. In Science we had fun planting a sunflower seed and enjoyed observing and talking about the changes over time. Year 1 were fantastic during Sports Day and had so much fun participating in their races.

You have all worked incredibly hard this year, well done Year 1! Keep up the fantastic work in Year 2.



Yr 2

Year 2 have had another busy half term and worked very hard! In English and History, we have learnt about 'The Great Fire of London'. We have written some fantastic shape poems and wrote diary entries just like Samuel Pepys. In maths we have learnt all about time, volume and solving word problems using our four types of calculations. In Art we looked at the artwork of Andrew Goldsworthy and created our own clay sculptors using natural materials. We had great fun in PE learning Rugby skills with Widnes Vikings and had lots of fun on sports day. In our science work we found out about different animal habitats and investigated different waterproof materials.

We had a fantastic time at Delamere Forest creating animal habitats, a bug hunt and building shelters. In music we learnt how to play the glockenspiels and learnt lots of new songs. We have enjoyed using scratch to learn how to create a program using our own design.

Year 2 are ready now to move into the juniors for another exciting year ahead!



Yr 3

Rainforests

We have had lots of lovely learning experiences this half term including our forest school activities which have been a real hit with the class. Using our knowledge about Skara Brae (the Stone Age dwelling we studied last half term) Our class sourced natural materials and worked in teams to build a miniature version of the village. We have loved forest schools and taken every opportunity to work and learn outside. Our book this term was the 'Shamen's Apprentice' linked to our Rainforest topic and we have learned so much about how we all have a part to play in protecting these irreplaceable natural resources to keep our planet healthy and ensure that the animals that live there do not lose their habitats or become endangered. There are so many things we can do such as buying and using sustainable products, recycling and reusing things and being mindful of the energy we use in our school and homes. We have also learned about rainforest canopies and produced some lovely artwork based on our studies.

Our class trip to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry was just fantastic and we really wowed the guide with our expert knowledge about forces and friction at the workshop we attended – he did say that he had never had such a knowledgeable class attend and know all the answers to his questions!

And, last but not least, the class were simply brilliant performing their song and dance at the KS2 play – what a wonderful performance they gave and a fantastic way to end such a successful year – well done Year 3!



Yr 4

During this half-term, Year 4 have been working exceptionally hard, learning all about the Arctic and Antarctica. We explored these continents finding some key facts about them and describing their physical features. Linking in with our science topic, we have been looking at animals and their habitats and the impact of climate change and deforestation. We produced a thought-provoking presentation using PowerPoint looking at the effect this has on these animals and where they live. In English, we loved reading our class book, 'The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane'. We produced some fantastic work especially our poem which focused on our feelings and senses and wrote some personal wishes just like a character did in the book.

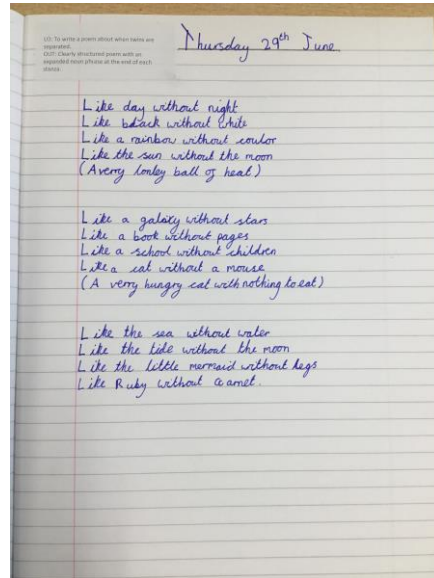
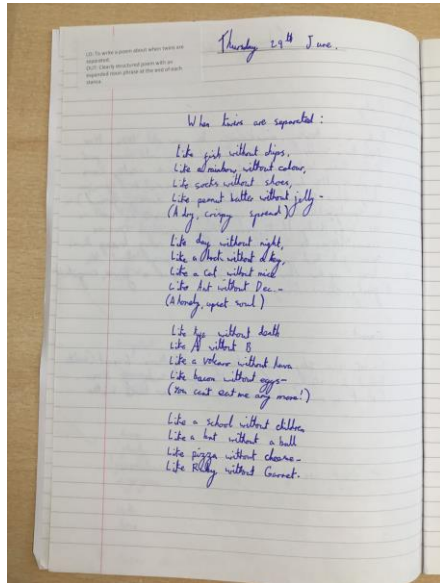
We really enjoyed our class trip to the Science and Industry Museum. We learnt lots of new things about science and the history of Manchester industry.

Finally, what a fantastic performance we did in our end of year play! Year 4, you have been superheroes and super stars!!



Yr 5

This half term has been incredibly busy. We have produced some of our very best writing, which has been inspired by our class text: 'Double Act' by Jacqueline Wilson. This book is about identical twins, with very different personalities. Here are some poems written by Luna and Sophie.



In computing we received expert tuition from Miss G, from Daresbury Laboratory, who introduced us to 'Crumble'. We managed to code a set of coloured lights to follow patterns and 'twinkle' them following different sequences. We learnt about 'nesting' which occurs when one programming construct is included within another. Miss G told us she'd never progressed as far with a KS2 class before – we were feeling very smart!



To complement our North American topic work, we studied the work of the artist Jackson Pollock, and created these masterpieces: Do you think they'll sell for 140 million US Dollars, like 'No. 5, 1948' by Pollock?!



Yr 6

Plas Menai Residential

What a fabulous time everybody had in Plas Menai. The children were amazing and the staff at the centre all commented on their fabulous manners, behaviour, and attitude. The weather was glorious, the scenery spectacular and the activities were so much fun! Well done Year 6 – what wonderful memories you have all made!



Visit from a magistrate

Thank you to Judy Blundell, a local magistrate, for her inspiring work she did with our Year 6 children. They found out so much about what a magistrate does and were very surprised to hear that they do not get paid! We are very grateful that she took the time to visit our school as the experience was invaluable for our children.



First Aid Training

Year 6 loved their First Aid training last week. They listened really well and worked so well together to learn new skills about basic first aid. They know how important it is to keep calm and get help. Thanks to the British Red Cross for visiting our school we really appreciated it. Well done Year 6, again you were a credit to our school.



Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies – our end of year production

What a show! Year 6 were phenomenal in our end of year play 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies'. They worked so hard to learn all their lines, practise all the songs and organise their costumes. Thank you to all the parents for helping us to source costumes and props too. We hope you enjoyed the show!



Attendance Awards

Congratulations to the following pupils who have achieved great attendance:-

Special Award

Year 1	William Johnson-Wright
Year 2	Ella Connor
Year 4	Dixie Bowen Harrison Connor

100% Attendance

Reception	Darcey Ogilvie
Year 2	Oliver Lafferty Joseph McGuffie Alex Russell
Year 3	Jackson Kinsella
Year 4	Zack Russell
Year 5	Chloe Armitage Sophie Fitzharris Riley Richardson
Year 6	Lucas Campbell Kian Graham

2 Years 100% Attendance

Year 2	Isaac Sinclair Scarlett Sinclair
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3 Years 100% Attendance

Year 5	Joel Walsh
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Swimming Lessons

Yr 6 will start their swimming lessons on Monday, 11th September 2023.

Please remember their swimming kit and £1 towards cost of coach. Thank you.

Healthy Schools Award

We were delighted to be awarded our Healthy School Certificate at the Halton Healthy Schools Celebration on 22nd June 2023 at the DBCL Stadium.

This award celebrates our commitment to healthy eating, healthy lifestyles, exercise, improving our mental health and wellbeing and the work we do throughout the year in our PSHE lessons with the support of the Halton Health Improvement Team.



Year 6 representatives receiving our award from the Mayor and Mayoress.

Dinner Increases

Unfortunately, we have been informed by Halton Borough council that there will be an increase to school dinners from September 2023. New charge for as school dinner will be £2.70.

This will come into effect from:-
5th September 2023

Upcoming Events/School Calander

Please keep a check on the school website's calendar for upcoming events at school during the year.

This will be updated on a regular basis.



Goodbye and Good Luck

We would like to say 'Goodbye' to Mrs Donnelly who will be retiring on Tuesday, 18th July. A BIG "THANK YOU" for all your hard work and commitment to the children over the many years. You will be missed.



We would also like to say 'Goodbye' to Miss Constantinou who is also leaving us on Tuesday, 18th July. Miss Constantinou has been our TA in Yr5/Yr6 this past year. Thank you for all your hard work over the last 12 months.

Wishing you both all the best for the future.



Dear Parents/Carers

Well, another year has flown by! Yet again, here at Our Lady's, we have had a year full of successes. The children have as always given their best in everything that they have had the opportunity to do from RockKidz to Forest Schools – they are truly amazing. A huge thank you to all our parents/carers who support us to enable your children to make excellent progress, have enriching experiences and develop in confidence and resilience. We know that working together side by side makes the difference! So, thank you!

Our Lady's is fortunate to have such dedicated staff that work tirelessly throughout the year for the best outcomes for your children. All the staff give their time, energy and enthusiasm often working unseen, going above and beyond what is asked of them and for this we say thank you to everyone – our governors, teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, midday assistants, caretaker and cleaners.

And so, it comes to saying our Goodbyes. Firstly, to our fantastic Year 6 pupils. I am so pleased to have had the opportunity to watch each and every one of you grow and mature over your time at Our Lady's. Without a doubt I can honestly, say you are all superb, well rounded, positive, well-mannered and well-behaved young people – now ready to take that next step on your life journey. Good luck and God Bless.

Miss Constantinou also leaves us this summer to pursue a career in teaching. We wish her very well and hope she keeps in touch!

Sadly, we also say goodbye to Mrs Donnelly who, as most of you know, is taking her well-earned retirement. We will miss her so much and know that she will miss all of the children too. She has been an outstanding deputy head who has worked so hard for the families of our school community for the last 26 years. She has made a positive impact on so many children and their families lives and we know, that you too, share our gratitude to her and wish her well for a long and happy retirement. We hope she pops back to visit us all from time to time! (She has promised!)

Therefore, I would like to introduce our new Deputy Head – Mrs Heston. Many of you know Mrs Heston as she is also our school SENDCo. Mrs Heston has been connected to Our Lady's her whole life – she lives in the parish and she came here as a child, then her children came here and she was a governor here for many years before joining us a member of staff 7 years ago. We wish her well in her new role and I am sure she will continue all of the wonderful work Mrs Donnelly has done. Mr Easby is joining our Senior Leadership team as Assistant Headteacher, and we also wish him well in his new role.

And so, my final thanks goes to our wonderful children – you are a pleasure to be with and I am truly privileged to work here at Our Lady's with you all! Have a wonderful, well-earned summer rest and I look forward to September and a new school year filled with excitement and possibility.

Mrs McGuffie
Headteacher

Staffing for September 2023

Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Heston		
Assistant Headteacher	Mr Easby		
SENDCo	Mrs Heston		
Reception teacher	Miss Beckett	Teaching Assistant	Miss Downey
Year 1 teacher	Miss Beger	Teaching Assistant	Miss Morris
Year 2 teacher	Mrs Kevan	Teaching Assistant	Miss Poulson
		Classroom Assistants	Ms Dunn Miss Randell
Year 3 teacher	Miss Morgan	Teaching Assistant	Mrs Jones
		Classroom Assistants	Mrs Green Miss Valdez
Year 4 teacher	Mrs Sinclair	Teaching Assistant	Mrs Jones
		Classroom Assistant	Miss Baggott
Year 5 teacher	Mrs Hignett	Teaching Assistant	Mrs Tansey
Year 6 teachers	Mr Easby Mrs Heston		
PPA Teacher	Mrs Wilson		

To all our wonderful Year 6. We wish you lots of luck and our very best wishes as you start in your new high schools. Reach for the stars!

All the staff at Our Lady's.



SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR THE SUMMER
ON
TUESDAY, 18TH JULY at 1.30pm

SCHOOL RE-OPENS
ON
TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER from 8.30am. Registration at 8.45AM



Change of details

Please could you inform the office if you have any new contact numbers, moved house or if any medical conditions have changed? If your child has been diagnosed with a medical condition, please provide a copy of medical evidence from your GP for our records.



Dogs

Please could we remind parents/carers that dogs are **not** allowed anywhere on the school premises, even on a lead.



CHILDREN LATE

This is a polite reminder that as part of safeguarding if your child is late for school in the morning, parent/carers **must** come into school with their child and sign them in on the Entry/Sign system at the office. Thank you.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

Please could we remind parents/carers that if your child(ren) are absent from school it is expected that parents/carers will provide an explanation of the child's(ren's) absence on the 1st day the absence occurs, at the start of the school day (before 8.30am)

If your child(ren) is absent for 3 days or more, parents/carers should contact the school again and provide an update on the child's(ren's) condition.

Please ensure that your child is in school every day and on time

PARKING AROUND SCHOOL

We have had numerous complaints from residents about the parking and someone leaving their rubbish on the road.

Please could we remind parents/carers to be mindful on where they park when dropping/picking children up from school.

Please do **not** park across driveways and block residence in or out and please, do not leave your litter, take it home.

Thank you for your continued support in this matter.

POLITE REMINDER – SNACK AND DINNER ACCOUNT

Please could we ask that you keep a check on your child(ren's) snack/dinner account ensuring they always have credit on their accounts.

Unfortunately, if there is no credit on your account you will need to supply a packed lunch and a healthy snack from home.



SNACK

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.

