

Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Head teacher: Mrs H McLaughlin

Chair of Governors: Mr M Janvier

Friday 19th June 2020



Dear parents/carers,

We now have four weeks until the end of the school year. Numbers in school have now risen to approximately 43; next week there will be another increase to take the total to just over 60. It is wonderful to hear more children's voices in school!

Although we don't know what government plans are for schools in September, however we have already started to think about how we can welcome more children back. Outdoor sinks will be installed in the summer holidays to enable children to wash their hands quickly. We are also looking at how we can increase our Forest School provision, especially seating and shelter. Lots of us will have spent more time observing nature during lockdown and found comfort in gardening or walking. Forest School is central to our school ethos; it is therapeutic and provides children with the opportunity to observe weekly changes in nature. Being outdoors brings enormous benefits which are obvious to those who spend time outdoors with children. We also know the COVID 19 is less easily spread outdoors and so increasing opportunities to work outside will be a key strategy in keeping our children and staff healthy in mind and body.

I know that parents have been asking about which staff will be teaching their children next year. Where possible, teachers have moved with their current class to help children catch up quickly with their lost learning. Mrs Hale will teach different classes during the week and Mrs Janvier will be off timetable to support teaching and learning throughout school and develop our curriculum. Mrs Evans will continue to be head of school but will work for one day a week in F1.

Executive head	Mrs McLaughlin
Head of School	Mrs Evans
Deputy head	Mrs Janvier
Foundation 1	Mrs Machen and Mrs Evans
Foundation 2	Mrs Pegg
Year 1	Mrs Johnson
Year 2	Miss Dyson
Year 3	Mr Gouldin
Year 4	Mr Shillaw
Year 5	Miss Barker
Year 6	Miss Allen

We won't be able to have our normal change over day in July when children work in their new class teachers but we are looking at how we can use video to help children and parents learn about the expectations and routines in their new class. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

Children will receive a school report at the end of term, but these will be different this year and will be in the form of a letter to your child from their teacher. Without formal assessments and any internal assessments since lockdown, it isn't appropriate to send out a more formal report. We want children to have positive memories of 2020 and so reports will concentrate on the positives including home school learning.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs McLaughlin

Special Mention

F1

Billy Hampson for his superb maths and RWI work and his amazing Pollock inspired artwork.
Shloka Akula for her resilience with her learning and her beautiful letter formation.

F2

Balen Sayles for working so hard at home and making a great start back into school this week.
Isabella Deaville for the super work completed at home over the last few weeks and settling so well back into school this week.

Y1

Joshua Hampson for fantastic home learning and demonstrating great learning in both his school work and life skills.

Lilly-Lou Simpson for showing such enthusiasm and eagerness to learn weaving at home.

Y2

Finnlay Jkinson for improving his handwriting, reading and maths while at home during lockdown.
Gracie-Rae Lockwood for keeping active at home and returning to school with a fantastic attitude!

Y3

Amy Smallwood for producing a brilliant range of tasks and showing great resilience with her home learning.

Ffion Jones for impressing staff in her bubble at school and working incredibly hard.

Y4

Libby Barber for an exceptional recount as Howard Carter this week.

Tom Joshi for an excellent application to become a museum guard last week.

Y5

Charlie Hanley for always completing the home learning tasks to the best of his ability.

Oliver Smith for sharing his exciting home learning experiences and reading for pleasure.

Y6

Ayaana Musa for a very creative Ancient Egyptians work involving a lot of research and presentation.

Gianni Capponi for a strong letter applying for the job of Museum Night Guard.

A new member of staff

Welcome to Mr Hanson who is our new caretaker and has been at OLASJ since Easter. We hope that he will be very happy at our school.



Green Fingers

Just look at how Miss Allens's beans have grown in one week!



Mr Gouldin's Jokes

Why did the teddy bear not
want dessert?
Because he was already stuffed!

How do you get a baby
astronaut to sleep?
Rocket!

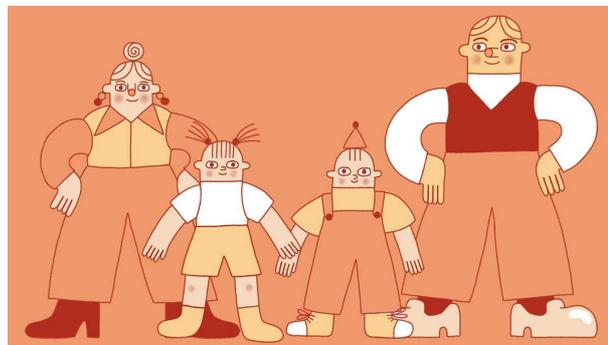
A Prayer of Thanksgiving

For the health workers tending the seriously ill,
For the scientists working on a vaccination,
For the good news stories of recoveries,
For the notes through letterboxes offering help and support,
For the internet and telephones and technology that connects,
For the awakened appreciation of what is truly important.
Thanks be to God.

Families Under Pressure

During this stressful and cooped-up time, don't let the pressure of parenting get you down. Try these simple tips and tricks, formulated by researchers and NHS mental health experts, which are backed by science and proven to work with families. The following link has lots of helpful advice for parents/carers with very quick video clips to watch.

<https://maudsleycharity.org/familiesunderpressure/>



Tip 1 Keeping positive and motivated

Being a parent is a special and important role. But sometimes it can feel like a thankless task. As a person and a parent you are special and important, and you need to look after yourself.

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- Being a parent is perhaps the most important role in society; but sometimes it can feel like a thankless task.
- If things are not going well with your children you can start to worry that you are not a good enough parent.
- It's easy for this to turn into a negative habit of thinking which makes you lack confidence. This makes it harder to take control which often leads to children playing up more.
- It's vital that you break out of this negative cycle and take the pressure off yourself. The best way to do this is to recognise that parenting is a challenge, that some children are more difficult to parent than others, and that everyone messes up sometimes

Small changes can improve matters with your child – which is what our films are about. Once you have switched into a more realistic cycle of thinking you need to look after yourself so you can keep this new sense of perspective. Make sure you time out from the hurly-burly of daily life to relax and do things you enjoy. Reach out to family or friends – not just to talk about parenting – although it can be helpful if you have a person you trust. Don't feel embarrassed to talk about the challenges you face. They will probably find it as useful as you will.