



School Newsletter

(for parents, pupils, governors, staff and parishioners)

Friday 3rd October 2025

What's in this Newsletter:

- Key Dates
- Message from Head Teacher
- Parking
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- Class Dojo
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- Year Group Messages

Key Dates:

October 8th: Individual Photos
October 9th: Year 6 Trip
October 20th: Year 6 Victorian Day
October 21st: NCMP Screening for Year 6
October 22nd: **Inset day-** School Closed to pupils.
October 24th: Last day of term.
November 3rd: Children return to school

Message from Mrs Wilson:

Hi All,

I hope you have all been enjoying the September sun accept for today! Let's hope the rain goes away for the weekend.

We have had a busy couple of weeks here at Our Lady's. It's been lovely to see the things that routinely go on at this school. I was most impressed with Democracy Day. We also had BBC points West filming at the school- who managed to catch us on the news on Monday evening's Points West? I think Mr Hall should get an Oscar.

As I have mentioned before, we really want to try and increase our parental engagement so please do ensure you are set up on the platforms of communication to ensure you can be kept up to date with important key events, as well as get an insight into the exciting things that your children do here at the school.

- Spider
- Dojos

God Bless.
Meg Wilson

'Live in Love. Foster Unity' (Psalm 133:1)

Parking

The safety of our children and families is of high importance to us. We must emphasise the importance of not parking on the zigzag markings outside of the school gates. Parking on these zigzag lines puts the children and families at risk. We recognise that parking around the school area isn't easy, however we ask that you be respectful of the safety measures that are being put in place to ensure everyone is protected.

We also ask that you are respectful of the residents who live on Woodland Terrace. Many of them have drives with drop down curbs. It is important that these are left open to ensure they can leave their drives if they need to.

The local PCSO's and council will be monitoring the parking situation around school.



Democracy Day

It's the time of year where school councillors get voted in. Children prepare speeches in the hope of persuading their classes that they will be a good champion and voice for their class and help the school on its journey to improve. All the children who prepared their speeches were absolutely fantastic!

The school was then set up with voting stations where children can confidentially vote who they would like to be their class councillor – just like our voting stations as adults.



Class Dojo

Class dojo was introduced last year. It is an online system where children earn dojo points. That can work towards rewards. It is also a system that can be used to showcase great things the children are doing in school.

Many of you are signed up, but please do sign up to it, as it can keep you in the loop of what is going on in school. Teachers will be sending out log in codes to help those that are not yet signed up.



After School Club

We want to thank you for your patience with the wrap around care provision. As some of you will know, it is something that we needed to act on quickly, and needed to make decisions to ensure wrap around care is still provided and the transition was as smooth as possible. I know this has meant some teething problems for some families, but please know we have been working really hard to solve these for those that regularly used the previous provision.



Breakfast club

Our first official OLOL Breakfast club started this week. Miss Frankowska did a fabulous job of welcoming the children in, sorting their breakfast and setting up activities for them. If you want to book on, please book through Spider. Please do book in advance.



Attendance

Whole School attendance this week is: **94.0%**

The class with the best attendance this week is: **Year 5 with 100%**



Year group Messages

Year 2

Year 2 PE days have changed. PE with the PE coach is now on a Tuesday. Monday PE is the same with Miss Boulton. Please can the children wear their PE kits to school.

Year 5

On Wednesday 8th October, Year 5 are going to be doing litter picking in Kingswood park. This will be at 1:15pm.

They would appreciate it if we have any parent volunteers to support this activity. We need at least one additional adult for it to go ahead.

Please contact the office if you are able to support.

Year 5 and Year 6

Mrs Searle has organised for Year 5 and 6 to take a trip to the cinema on Tuesday 12th November to watch 'If', a family friendly film that explores imagination, friendship and the power of story-telling. Please look out for permission slips, and make sure they are returned in time to ensure your child's place.

SNAP STREAK

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WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

With over 800 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🌟 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2020, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lenses, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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