Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School
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School Newsletter

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

Friday 21st November 2025

What's in this Newsletter:

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Key Dates:
November 24th: PTFA Lego Club KS2
November 26th: PTFA Lego Club Y1 & Y2
November 27th: PTFA Wreath Making
November 29th: Church Christmas Fayre
December 1st: PTFA Christmas Secret Room
December 3rd: PTFA Christmas Craft
December 10th: Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumpers
December 12th: KS1 Nativity at 1:45pm
December 16th: KS2 Carols at 5:30pm
December 17th: Year 5 Mini Police Presentation at 2:30pm
December 18th: PTFA Christmas Grotto
December 19th: Last day of term
January 5th: Children return to school

Message from Mrs Wilson:

We are almost halfway through this term, and the sound of Christmas carols has commenced. It's been, yet again, a busy productive couple of weeks. Parents evenings have taken place, Christmas dates have been set, and the buzz of Christmas has begun. Children are preparing for nativities and carol services. Those performances are such special moments in the school calendar. I still have fond memories of my own childhood nativity performances. Please look out for dates and times of the KS1 Nativity performance and KS2 carol service. The final weeks of term are always special, filled with festive activities and a true sense of community.

It was lovely to meet many of you at our recent parents' evenings. The conversations between home and school are so valuable and I hope you found them helpful in understanding your child's school time. If you couldn't attend, please don't hesitate to contact the class teacher. Thank you to those who completed a parent questionnaire. I always find parental feedback so valuable; everybody has a vital part to play in improving the school experience here at OLOL. If you haven't managed to complete one, there will be a batch in the reception foyer of the school. Please do take the time to complete one and leave with the office. The deadline for this will be Friday 7th December.

Staff here have been thinking about our school Mission statement: 'Love, Live and Learn as Jesus taught us.' As we reflect on the words and meaning of this message, I invite you all to think about that message for yourself and your children and how we are all living this out here at OLOL.

Please take care as the temperatures drop and it gets colder! Get your thermals out, and your hand warmers at the ready!

'A friend loves at all times' (Proverbs 17:17)

Mrs Wilson

WhatsApp
It has come to our attention that various class/year group WhatsApp groups exist amongst parents. Whilst these groups can be very helpful and supportive in sharing information, we need to address some concerns about how they are currently being used.

What is not acceptable:
Discussing individual children: under no circumstances should parents be discussing individual children through WhatsApp groups. It is highly inappropriate to, as adults, be rallying around and targeting an individual child's behaviours and attendance of this school. We are a school of belonging, where all are welcome and all stakeholders have a part to play in this.

Using groups as a 'moaning forum': Please do not use these groups to complain or speak about individual staff members in a negative manner. I want to remind you that teachers are also human beings, we don't always get things right, but we always welcome feedback from parents and have proper channels for this.

There have been parents who have felt uncomfortable with what is being shared in the WhatsApp groups. We are a Catholic Community with an ethos of togetherness. Please keep this in mind when using the WhatsApp group.

We want to hear from you if/when you have concerns or feedback. Please use the following methods:

- Parent Questionnaires – during parents' evenings, we like to offer the parents the chance to give their feedback. Please always take the time to complete these as it really helps the school to understand all aspects of the school life.
- Parents Evenings – parents' evenings are held twice a year. Please ensure you try to attend these and share your concerns with your class teacher. During parents' evenings, Mrs Wilson and/or Mr Hamlin are around if you have any wider concerns. A governor of the school will also try and be present to ensure you have many methods of addressing any concerns/questions that you may have.
- Open door policy – During drop offs and collections, class teachers are always present. If you concern will take longer than a quick conversation and therefore interrupt learning time, a separate meeting can be arranged. A member of SLT always tries to be present during drop off time on the gate as an opportunity to speak. If these options are tricky for you, please don't hesitate to make contact with the school and they can either arrange a meeting with your class teacher in the first instance, or a meeting with a member of the senior leadership team, depending on the nature of your concern.

Using these methods means any concerns can be resolved in the best way possible, with the right people involved, and in a way that protects everyone's dignity and privacy.

We regularly teach the children appropriate use of online platforms to keep themselves safe. As adults, we are role models for this behaviour. Please use WhatsApp groups with the same expectations that you would have of your children – with kindness, respect and consideration for others.

When used positively, WhatsApp groups help parents feel connected and informed. Let's all work together to maintain a respectful and supportive school community.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week took place from 10th to 14th November, and this year's theme was "Power for Good." The week began with a whole-school assembly led by Ms Wilson, who reminded everyone that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference. Throughout the week, each class took part in activities that helped children understand how their words and actions can be used positively to support others.

One of the key sessions focused on "Let's stand up and speak out," encouraging pupils to be confident, brave, and supportive when they see someone being treated unkindly. Classes also created beautiful garlands of odd socks, which symbolised celebrating differences and embracing what makes each person unique. To finish the week, everyone wore odd socks on Friday, a fun and colourful way to express individuality and remind ourselves that our differences are what make our school community special.

Morning Drop-Off

Can I please remind parents that, unless your child is booked into breakfast club, you are responsible for your child until the start of school, at 8:45am, and teachers take your children into class. Please do not drop your children and leave them unattended on the playground. Between 8.30am and 8.45am all children must be accompanied by an adult. If your child makes their own way to school, you are still responsible for them until 8.45am and so we advise they aim to arrive around 8.45am so they can make their way straight into class.

Reading Challenge

We really want to encourage bring a love for reading amongst there children here. As an incentive for this, we will be celebrating the children reading at home.

The aim is for children to read at least 5 times a week! We ask that you, or they record each read in their Yellow Reading Record. This will be tracked by the teacher and children will be rewards at 40, 80 and 160 reads. Although many children who love to read may read more than once a day, one read a day will be counted towards the challenge total.

Behaviour
As a school, we have reviewed the behaviour policy and made some changes. While in school, the children work towards building their dojos up to achieve rewards. When they reach certain milestones, this will be rewarded in our Friday's SHINE collective worship. The children can achieve dojos for a range of things- from showing gospel values, to having a positive learning attitude and mindset in class. Please encourage your children on their journey to reaching Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. See attached a copy of the Draft Behaviour Policy. It has been introduced this term and on a trial period for term 2. At the end of term 2, I will be taking some feedback from teachers, children and asking for feedback from parents through a suggestions box.

Wooden Pallets
We have some free wooden pallets available, please speak to the school office.

Attendance
Whole School attendance this week is: 94.14% - We have some work to do!
The class with the best attendance this week is: Year 6 with 97.1%!

Year group Messages

Year 6

Year 6 will be having a Christmas decoration stall on Friday 5th December to raise money for their end of year production.

Kingswood Park

Our park at the heart of our community

Celebrating Tree Week in Kingswood Park

27th Nov 2.30 - 4pm

Join us to celebrate National Tree Week and all the wonderful trees we have in Kingswood Park.
Enjoy tree-themed craft activities, explore the park's Tree Trail and order a free tree for your garden.
All welcome!

Thursday November 27th

2.30pm – 4pm

Details: Meet us by the polytunnel in the Community Garden.

Bookings and queries
kingswoodpark@southglos.gov.uk

Heritage Fund

South Gloucestershire Council
Delivering with you

Carols in the Park

KINGSWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

Kingswood Park
Sunday 7 December
4.30pm

PLEASE BRING A TORCH

FREE, FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

HOT DRINKS AND REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

ENJOY AND JOIN IN
with songs and carols from three community choirs:
Beacon Rise Primary School Choir,
St George's Choir and the Bristol Windrush Reggae Choir led by Kim Samuels.

If the weather is very wet or windy the event will be moved to Holy Trinity Church.

WE ARE BS15

Heritage Fund

South Gloucestershire Council
Delivering with you

WEST OF ENGLAND MUSIC AND ARTS

A musical treat for the festive season!

Holiday Singing Days

Two fun and engaging singing days during the Christmas Holidays. One for children in years 3-6, and one for those in years 7 upwards. With WEMA musician, composer and conductor Joe Galuszka.

Monday 22 December: KS2 Singing Day
Tuesday 23 December: Secondary Singing Day

More Information:
wema.org.uk/music-activities-and-workshops