



## School Newsletter

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

**Friday 13th February 2026**

### What's in this Newsletter:

- **Key Dates**
- **Message from Head Teacher**
- **World Book Day**
- **Into Film Festival**
- **Parents Evening**
- **Homework Projects**
- **LA Review Feedback**
- **Feast Day**
- **Mental Health Week**
- **Cygnets Courses**
- **Term 3 SHINE Awards**
- **Attendance Reminders**
- **Attendance**

### Key Dates:

**February 13<sup>th</sup>:** Last day of term

**February 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Term 4 begins

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Year 5 Kilve trip

**March 4<sup>th</sup>:** World Book Day

**March 17<sup>th</sup>:** Parents evening

**March 18<sup>th</sup>:** Parents evening

**March 20<sup>th</sup>:** Into Film Festival

**March 27<sup>th</sup>:** Choir trip

**April 1<sup>st</sup>:** Last day of term

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Inset day

**April 20<sup>th</sup>:** Term 5 begins

### Message from Mrs Wilson:

I can't believe we are at the end of Term 3; halfway through the year! As we reach the halfway point, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been another wonderful term here at OLOL. This term has been filled with more memorable moments. To mention a couple: Our Lady Feast Day, where all the children thought about kindness, prayer and healing; our LA review which recognised the improvements being made at the school; Our PTFA ran disco (Pal-entine) was a fantastic success – thank you to all the volunteers who made it such an enjoyable evening for the children- without them, these events wouldn't go ahead: Rachael, Sally, Vicky, Lorraine, Sarah and Alex we are always grateful. And a thank you to the teachers who gave up their time after a busy day to support.

I have valued the conversations I've had with many of you this term. Your feedback is important to us, and working in partnership with families is essential to supporting your children's learning and wellbeing. Please do continue to share your thoughts with us – even though changes can't always happen right away, we are always listening.

Let's all enjoy a well-deserved half-term break (with possible snow in sight!). I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable week with your families. When we return, our journey of improvement continues as we work together to make OLOL the very best it can be for every child.

Stay Safe.

Mrs Wilson

*'If God is for us, who can be against us' (Romans 8:31)*

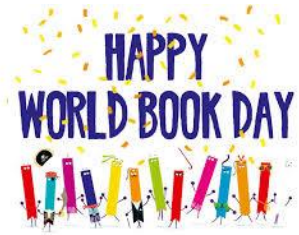
### World Book Day

We're excited to announce that, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, will be our celebration of World Book Day! On this special day, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character.

We encourage creativity and would love to see handmade costumes – it's a great opportunity for children to explore their imaginations and share their love of reading!

We can't wait to see the wonderful costumes and celebrate the magic of books together.

If you have any preloved costumes that you no longer require and wish to donate, an outfit swap rail will be available in the school foyer. If you need a costume, you're welcome to take one.



### Into Film Festival

We're excited to be taking part in the Into Film Festival on 20<sup>th</sup> March, where all children will watch Paddington in Peru in the morning, at the cinema!

Please remember that parental consent is required, this is live on School Spider. If you are able to help on the day, please confirm on School Spider — class teachers will confirm arrangements.

We're looking forward to a wonderful experience!



### Parents Evening

Parent evening will be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March. Appointments will be available to book from 6.30pm this evening on School Spider.

The booking system will close on 13<sup>th</sup> March at 12:00pm.

Please book early if you require a specific day or time.



### Homework Projects

I continue to be impressed by the projects that the children are doing at home, and the joy this is bringing them. Children work so hard at school, that time at home is about quality time together.



## LA Review Feedback

As promised, please see some snippets from our recent LA review.

'Since September 2025, there have been significant improvements in the quality of teaching and learning across the school. This was a positive review, with many of the next steps from the previous review now addressed.'

'As a result of rigorous monitoring and a development plan focusing on clear priorities, it was evident that the headteacher has a strong understanding of the strengths and areas for development in every classroom and is able to speak confidently about every child.'

'Most notably, leaders have created a calmer and more settled learning environment, and pupil engagement has improved considerably. Teachers have much higher expectations and are implementing clear strategies to limit any low-level behaviour. There are clear adaptations and reasonable adjustments in place that are making a positive difference for pupils with vulnerabilities. Some pupils who were previously not engaging with their learning, or even not in class, are now accessing whole class teaching, with appropriate support. Pupils with EHCPs are working with increasing independence, supported by reasonable adjustments, and are well prepared for the next stage of their education.'

'Pupils spoke positively about the new behaviour policy. They understand why it is important for everyone to follow it and behave appropriately. They are proud to remain 'on green' and are keen to avoid receiving warnings or being sent to the headteacher.'

'The phonics and reading leader demonstrated a strong understanding of the quality of teaching and learning in these areas. The impact of her monitoring and coaching was evident'

'There is a clear structure for reading lessons in key stage 1 that focuses on exploring the text, identifying new vocabulary, practicing 'speedy' words and reading to an adult to secure greater fluency.'

'High expectations for pupil engagement and behaviour were evident in all phonics lessons observed.'

'Across all key stage 2 classes, pupils take part in a daily *Fluent in Five* session, which provides 15 minutes of additional arithmetic practice alongside the main mathematics lesson.'

'It was particularly positive to see a pupil with SEND, included as part of the case-sampling activity, recording his questions and answers clearly with strong support from the teaching assistant to maintain focus. Another pupil with SEND, who had been significantly dysregulated during previous reviews, is now fully engaged in classroom learning with appropriate adult support.'

'During the afternoon, visits were made to history and science lessons. In the most effective history lessons, teachers placed strong emphasis on key vocabulary and were thorough in ensuring that pupils understood it, making clear links to prior learning'

Some next steps for us as we continue our improvements here at OLOL:

- In reading, plan fewer questions but provide more time for discussing and modelling answers so that all children routinely experience success.
- Have robust expectations for all pupils around quality of handwriting and presentation.
- Continue to explore how to combine grammar learning with purposeful writing. Regular short-burst writing is likely to benefit all pupils.
- Provide more opportunities for oral rehearsal of sentences and give pupils time to review and check their writing every time they write.
- Monitor and review the new spelling and handwriting schemes and consider what sort of practice pupils need.
- Pupils are encouraged to mark their work neatly and accurately.
- Effective use of hinge questions is embedded across all classes to inform real-time adjustments in teaching.

## Feast Day

Some year 6's has reflected on the Feast Day of Our Lady.

*Feast day here at Our Lady of Lourdes was a calming, yet fun experience. In the morning, we created a calm atmosphere, by painting and colouring. Before lunch we make prayer beads, which we took to mass at 11 O'clock. Our Feast Day is significant to us, as we are reminded of St Bernadette's inspiring story.*

*Mary wore a white cloak, blue sash and roses on her feet. To represent this, we wore the colours white and blue. On our prayer beads, we had a blue bead and a white bead. There was a flower, a heart and a cross. We did this to carry parts of Mary with us in prayer, but also God.*

*In the afternoon, it was still calm. We made bracelets using white, dark blue, blue and light blue beads. After this, we wrote prayers for our Year 6 class prayer book. At the end of the day the whole school gathered together and offered our creations to Mary.*

*To live out healing, hope and love in everyday life, we could donate to charity, use manners and be polite. Doing these to everyone will make others happy, which makes you a good person.*

(Harper-Rose: Year 6)



*I felt calm because Mary is always helping us when we need it.*

*We made St Bernadette prayer beads. Each part had a special meaning. The beads for Mary's cloak remind me of a calm, peaceful place. The beads for her blue sash make me think about flowing water. The bead for the flowers at her feet symbolise growth in people. The heart bead shows Mary's love because she loves and cares for everyone in the world. The wooden cross reminds us that Mary's son Jesus died for us.*

*On our Lady of Lourdes feast day, we made Marian bracelets. While I was making mine, I thought about Mary's cloak and blue sash when she appeared to St Bernadette 18 times but only once a day. The bracelet represents Mary's clothes when she appeared to St Bernadette. I can wear it to remind me to be patient.*

*The theme of the day was healing, hope and love. Healing means making things correct and helping. Hope means believing in yourself, others or something. Love means to be kind and caring to others.*

(Elliott: Year 6)





### **Mental Health Week**

To recognise Mental Health week and to ensure all the children here at OLOL know that they are simply amazing, the PTFA has gift each child a 'turtley awesome' turtle with an encouraging message.



### **Cygnets Courses for Parents of Children with Autism**

I'm getting in touch about some newly available Cygnet courses for parents of children with autism.

Parents of autistic children face the usual positive and difficult challenges of parenting and quite a few more. Attending Cygnet gives parents and carers an opportunity to develop their understanding of autism and look at practical solutions to support their child.

It also provides the opportunity to meet other people in a similar position and hear about their experiences in an informal, but supportive, atmosphere.

Our Spring and Summer Cygnet course programme is now available to book on EEQU. Specifically, for parents and carers of autistic children and young people, it will run each week for 7 weeks and there is no charge. We have 4 courses which you and your clients can find out more about <https://eequ.org/cygnetautismsupportforparents> This also links through to the booking pages.

- Thornbury - Wednesday mornings starting on 25 February 2026 at 10am in Turnberries Community Centre.
- Yate - Monday mornings starting on 11 May 2026 at 10am at the Ridgewood Community Centre.
- Online on Thursday evenings starting on 14 May 2026 at 7pm using Zoom.
- Stoke Gifford – on Tuesday evenings starting 2 June 2026 at 6.30pm at the new Brooklands Park Community Centre.

Please note there are some criteria to attend;

Your child must be aged 5-18.

- You must have a formal diagnosis of Autism from a professional.
- You must live in South Gloucestershire and not attended a Cygnet course previously.

For more information on the course please visit our web page: <https://www.turtlecyp.co.uk/welcome-to-turtle-cyp/cygnets/>

Mrs Gee

### Term 3 SHINE Awards

#### Positive Attitude to learning:

R: Jan  
1: Maria, Edith  
2: Eli, Macey  
3: Eli, Hrithika  
4: Sofia, Harry  
5: Sophia, Omony  
6: Hugo, Daisie

#### Outstanding Progress:

R: Louie  
1: Samad, Gabby  
2: Estelle, Obi  
3: Pemisire, Kobey  
4: Zian, Dolly  
5: Denzil, Janessa  
6: Johan, Elsie

#### Glowing Work of the Term:

R: Peter  
1: Somma  
2: Deborah  
3: Ralph  
4: Freya  
5: Ariana  
6: Dexter



#### Lunchtime Stars:

KS1: Mikaella, Jovannah  
KS2: Gift, Lily-Rose



### Attendance

Whole School attendance this week is: 95.45%

The class with the best attendance this week is: Year 1 with 98.9% - WOW! Well done Year 1!



The class with the best attendance for the term is Year 1 with 97.9%. They are invited to wear non-uniform on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## Year group Messages

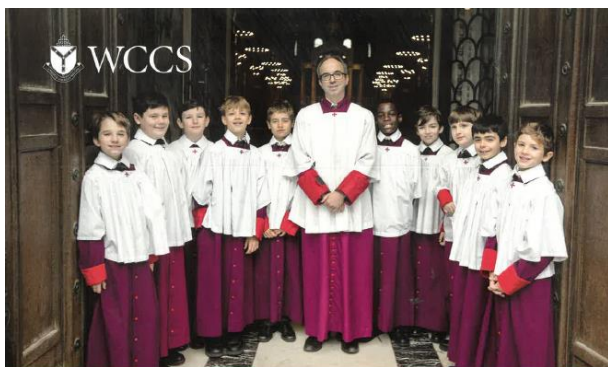
### Year 1, 2 & Reception

As part of our science curriculum, we are delighted to welcome Bugfest into school. This exciting experience will give children the opportunity to safely handle and observe a wide range of minibeasts, including giant snails, giant millipedes, various giant stick insects, hissing cockroaches, and many more. During the session, children will also learn about animal habitats, life cycles, and the importance of animal welfare, helping to bring their science learning to life in an engaging and memorable way. More information to follow...

## Year 5 Kilve

Year 5 will attend a one-day trip to Kilve Court on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

To make the most of the day, children will need to arrive at school by 8:00am so we can travel by minibus to Kilve Court and arrive for 9:30am. The children will take part in a full day of activities as well as enjoy lunch with pupils from other Catholic schools. We expect to leave Kilve at approximately 4:30pm and return to school by 6:00pm.



## Chorister Opportunities at Westminster Cathedral Choir School

WCCS is open to boys who love singing and want to be part of

- A world-famous choir
- One of London's top schools
- A great, fun-loving and committed team

Boys join WCCS in Year 4 (or occasionally in Year 5). Up to 100% bursaries available.

It's simple to find out more about chorister life at WCCS

Book onto one of our zoom sessions for prospective families, which take place throughout the year.



'Being a WCCS chorister has been a blessing for my son. He loves the music and the school is so friendly and kind. WCCS has opened up a world of opportunity for him.'

WCCS Parent

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



## After School Sports Clubs

### Our Lady Of Lourdes

Tuesday	Thursday
Muti-Sports (All years)	Gymnastics (All years)
£35.70 (6 weeks)	£35.70 (6 weeks)
Mr Covill	Mr Covill

All clubs run 3:15-4:15pm

Clubs start the week commencing 23/02/2026

Our after-school clubs are a fantastic opportunity for your children to enhance their learning and physical development in a safe and enjoyable environment.



**Book Here**



Registered charity number: 1194549

**TURTLE CYP**



**Free Chinese New Year Themed Family Sessions**

**Kingswood Park in the polytunnel,  
High Street, Kingswood  
BS15 4AD**  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> and  
Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February  
2026  
11am-2pm

Games

Free refreshments

Arts and crafts

Booking not required



## Our Lady of Lourdes Pre-School

2 Court Road, Kingswood,  
Bristol, BS15 9QB  
Email: [ololpreschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ololpreschool@hotmail.co.uk)  
Established in 1983  
For all children aged 2 - 5 years

### OUR VISION

- To provide an appropriate curriculum for each child, based on their individual needs and interests.
- To provide a stimulating, challenging and safe environment.
- To provide a place where children and adults can explore, have fun, play, talk and learn.
- To form close relationships with parents in order to achieve the best outcomes for children and their families.

### SPACES AVAILABLE

You are welcome to join us, to look around preschool and meet our experienced staff team. Please see our website for more information or contact us on

**01179872027**  
[www.ololpreschool.co.uk](http://www.ololpreschool.co.uk)