

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

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School Newsletter

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

Friday 6th March 2026

What's in this Newsletter:

- **Key Dates**
- **Message from Head Teacher**
- **World Book Day**
- **Year 5 Adventure Day at Kilve Court**
- **Catholic Life of the School**
- **SHINE Assembly**
- **Attendance**

Key Dates:

- March 9th:** PTFA Mother's Day secret room
- March 11th:** PTFA craft session
- March 17th:** Parents evening
- March 18th:** Parents evening
- March 20th:** Into Film Festival
- March 27th:** Choir trip
- April 1st:** Last day of term
- April 2nd:** Inset day
- April 20th:** Term 5 begins

Message from Mrs Wilson:

I have to confess – this is my absolute favourite time of year! There's something special about watching the sun break through, the days getting longer, and feeling that warmth return to our playground. The children seem to sense it too, and it's brought such joy to see them coming together during break times, playing, laughing, and building precious memories together.

We've had such a wonderful few weeks at OLOL. Our rock band has begun, Year 5 went on their fantastic trip to Kilve, and we celebrated World Book Day – which even the staff commented had been the best one for a long time!

World Book Day was truly wonderful. The creativity and enthusiasm from our children (and staff!) were absolutely brilliant. Seeing the school filled with characters from their favourite books reminded us exactly why we foster such a love for reading here at OLOL. One of our Year 6 pupils reflected on the day – you can read his account below. It brought a tear to my eye!

As our Year 6 team (both children and staff) dedicate themselves to preparing for SATs, I want to take a moment to say how incredibly resilient and wonderful they all are. SATs are scheduled for 11 to 14 May 2026, and whether we agree with the testing system or not, it's something our Year 6 children have to do. I always tell them that it's a chance to show off what they can do – to demonstrate all the learning and progress they've made.

But here's what's really important to remember: SATs only test a very narrow slice of what our children know and can do academically. They absolutely do not define who they are as people, or how incredible they truly are. If only there were tests for kindness, creativity, humility, empathy, resilience, teamwork, and all the other wonderful qualities our pupils demonstrate every single day – they would absolutely smash it! These are the qualities that will serve them throughout their lives, long after the SATs results have been filed away.

I like to keep you up to date on what we're working on to make OLOL even better. Alongside our subject leaders developing their individual curriculum areas, we're focusing on expanding the wider opportunities we offer our pupils. This includes:

- Enhancing our range of after-school activities (like our new rock band!)
- Developing more trips and visits to ensure every child has access to enriching experiences that complement their learning and help them discover new interests and talents
- Finding more ways to welcome parents into school to be part of your children's journey and memories here at OLOL

Thank you for your continued support.



"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." - Ephesians 2:10

World Book Day

When The School Barks at the Moon

As world book day slowly approaches, I begin to realise that it will be my last in primary school. No more receptions cheering, no more cheesy costumes, no more teachers ruining their reputation, nothing. That's why we should make the most of it. Anyhow, let's get to the real point of this story. My very first world book day... I was in reception, and I was dressed as (Yes, I know it wasn't a book, I just used it as an excuse to dress up as...) It's-a me-a Mario! I was elated walking around at break pretending to eat imaginary mushrooms! At first, I just used it as an excuse to use my creativity, but nowadays, it has a deeper meaning. It's an amazing time to be grateful for hard-working authors and the joy their books give us. It's not a costume contest - It's genuine appreciation.

When I was younger, I always thought books were just stupid letter pictures, but now? I see the true meaning of world book day. Simply expressing yourself. You know, puffing your chest out, feeling free and most importantly having fun.

Nowadays, the books I read show that books are a journey through comedy, tragedy and all that goes with it, and world book day shows that in the perfect way, giving authors the respect they deserve.

(Noah, Year 6)



Year 5 Adventure Day at Kilve Court

On Tuesday, Year 5 travelled into the heart of Somerset for an exciting adventure day at Kilve Court Outdoor Learning Centre. The children arrived bright and early, ready to begin their first activity.

They started the day with archery, and it quickly became clear that we have some budding archers among us—several pupils even hit the bullseye! The session ended with a lively team challenge in which the children scored points to “build” a pizza on the target board. This was a definite favourite.

Next came the high ropes. Working in teams, the children stacked crates while safely harnessed to a rope system overhead. One group impressively managed to build a tower nine crates high before it wobbled and collapsed—the look on their faces was priceless!

After lunch, it was time to tackle the climbing wall. Helmets and harnesses were strapped on once again as the children encouraged one another to climb as high as they could. It was wonderful to see every child having a go, with many reaching the very top. The support and positivity from those on the ground made the experience even more special.

The final activity of the day was grass sledging. The children loved racing down the hill—though they all agreed that pulling the sledges back up again was much less fun!

Year 5 had a fantastic day filled with challenge, teamwork, and laughter. They represented our school so well, showing courage, encouragement, and determination throughout.

Well done, Year 5!

Mr Hamlen



Catholic Life of the School

This term, we continue to focus on our weekly missions, which are introduced during our Gospel Celebration at the start of each week. These missions encourage the children to live out the Gospel in practical ways in school and at home.

This week, our mission has been to **“Listen to Jesus.”** The children have been reflecting on how they can listen carefully in prayer, in Scripture and through the people around them.

As we begin the season of Lent, we are reminded that it is a special time in the Church’s year. Lent is a forty-day period of preparation and reflection before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and leading us towards the joy of the Resurrection.

During Lent, we focus on the three pillars of:

- **Prayer** – growing closer to God
- **Fasting** – making small sacrifices
- **Almsgiving** – helping those in need

Through these practices, we are called to repentance, spiritual growth and inner change, following the example of Christ’s love and sacrifice.

As part of our Lenten journey this year, we are taking part in the **CAFOD Big Lent Walk**. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together in solidarity with those most in need around the world. We warmly encourage families to take part and support this very worthy charity. By walking and raising money, we are living out the Lenten call to almsgiving and helping to make a real difference to the lives of others. Please use the QR code to find out more and to donate or sign up.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us live out our faith in action.

We look forward to journeying together through this holy season as a school family.



SHINE Assembly: Our children always SHINE Bright. These are our children SHINING from the last two weeks.



Attendance

Whole School attendance this week is: 96.7%. We have reached our target! This is incredible...WELL DONE EVERYONE!

The class with the best attendance this week is: Year 6 with 97.9%. Well done Year 6!



School Nursing Service parent drop-in

If you are a parent or carer and would like to speak to a member of the School Nursing Team to get information and advice for your child, then please come along to one of our parent drop-ins.

This will also be an opportunity for you to meet with other parents and ask the School Nursing Team any questions you may have.

When: Every Friday during school term time, starting 20th March 2026 10:30am to 12.

Where: Martins House, opposite Kings Oak Academy.

You can contact: School Nursing team 0300 125 5151.

Use the QR code to view our web page and find out more about our service.



Service provided by

Sirona
care & health

Could you tell if your child was being exploited?



Join one of our free online sessions led by Child Exploitation Prevention Officer **Andri Nicolaou**

18 March 7:00 - 8:30pm

30 March 10:30am - 12:00pm

Learn about the different forms of child exploitation and how offenders groom/exploit children both online and offline. We'll highlight warning signs a child may be at risk and practical steps you can take to keep them safe and respond to any concerns.

Visit the **Avon and Somerset Police Eventbrite page** or scan the QR codes below

18 March



30 March

