



School Newsletter

Friday 13th September 2024

For parents, carers, staff, pupils, governors and parishioners



Welcome back for the new school year! It has been really lovely to welcome back so many happy and smiling faces – the children have settled and re-connected with school life seamlessly! A big welcome to new members of our community from our latest Reception cohort, who have done so well in their early sessions ready to begin full days altogether next week! We are also happy to welcome families and children who have joined us across different year groups since last week.

We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and feels optimistic about the year ahead!



After some important building works completed last summer, we were once again busy this summer with the renovation of our new toilet blocks – and I’m sure you agree that they look fantastic! Adopting an ‘open-plan’ washroom area is now a popular option for schools, as it allows for greater monitoring of the space to ensure cleanliness and appropriate ‘etiquette’! The response from both children and staff has been overwhelmingly positive. We pass our thanks to Clifton Diocese for their support in funding such a significant project, and to our caretaker Mr Ellacott, along with Mrs Russell, our School Business Manager, who have been on call throughout the summer to liaise and help facilitate contractors, ensuring we were ready in time for last week’s return!

In the classrooms...















At OLOL, we are passionate about ensuring that the opening weeks of the children’s year helps form the springboard for excellent learning moving forward. We have been doing that in the following ways.



METACOGNITION

Each class has spent time exploring a different aspect of our Metacognition

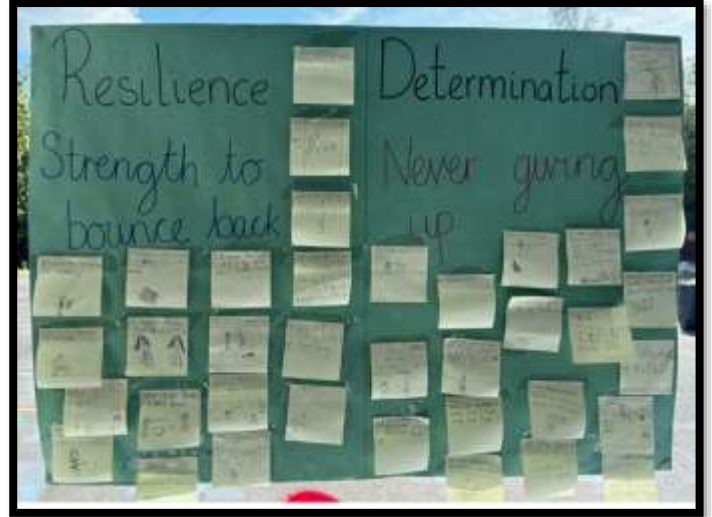
‘L.E.A.R.N.E.R’. Metacognition is our ability to monitor and purposely direct our own learning, which ultimately supports our progress, independence and motivation to continue our growth as life-long learners. On Wednesday, children presented their reflections with the rest of the school in assembly with such enthusiasm, which was wonderful to see!

L	 Learning	& and	 myself
E	 Explanation	& and	 oracy
A	 Ambition	& and	 hope
R	 Resilience	& and	 determination
N	 Novelty	& and	 enjoyment
E	 Evaluation	& and	 reflection
R	 Relationship	& and	 community

MISSION



Every September, our classes work together to devise their own, bespoke 'Mission Statement'. This follows some exploration of our own school mission statement, prayers and reflections of Saints and key figures, individual and group ambitions as well as developing a growing understanding of rights and responsibilities. Much like 'Class Rules' but with deeper sense of purpose and investment, this becomes in effect a promise that the class intend to keep for the year ahead. I have enjoyed visiting classes and seeing these missions being created together on working walls, and of course, look forward to them being lived out daily by the staff and children.



POETRY

We have enjoyed a whole-school poetry focus for the first couple of weeks back, which has included appreciation of traditional and contemporary poetry, composing own versions inspired by originals, and performing pieces with expression, intonation and personality! This culminated in a showcase of poetry in this morning's celebration, where children from each class performed and presented their efforts to the whole school. The enthusiasm and energy in the performances was an incredible way to complete a busy and productive first full week!



Some back to school reminders...

ATTENDANCE



The importance of children attending school every day is a national priority. Regular attendance is essential for a child's wellbeing, attainment and wider life chances. In line with the Government's new documentation, '[Working Together to Improve School Attendance](#)', Our Lady of Lourdes are committed to doing all we can to ensure children attend school daily, and, naturally, we need your support!

Punctuality

- Children should arrive on the school premises and be in class, and ready to learn, by 8:55am every morning. Arriving even 10-15 minutes late daily could equate to over an hour's worth of lost learning over a week!
- If your child is going to arrive late for school you will need to contact the school office and let us know the reason why.
- Children should be collected promptly at 3.15pm at the end of the day. Again, telephone the school office and let us know if you are going to be late.

Absences

- Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school every day during term time, with the exception of illness and medical appointments. Any other absences need to be notified to school in advance and consideration for this absence will be made as to whether it will be recorded as an authorised or unauthorised absence, in line with local authority guidelines.
- All absences due to illness should be notified to school before 9.30am on the first day of absence.
- Proof of appointment may be requested for any medical, dental, dance/music exams etc.
- Unauthorised absences (holiday) or persistent absences will be monitored and may attract a fixed penalty notice from South Gloucestershire Council. There have been new changes to the penalty system from 19 Aug 2024 - [Holidays during school term time | South Gloucestershire \(southglos.gov.uk\)](#)



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Key Stages 1 and 2 children will continue to enter the school via the entrances they use at present. The doors/gates will open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am. For our new Reception children next week, the staff team will come out to welcome you in at the arrival time to show you the way in.

Please do all you can to have your child in school punctually, and attending regularly so that we can help them to settle in and flourish – socially, emotionally as well as academically.

End of day pick up is 3.15pm. Parents are invited into the school grounds for collection, and this can be a chance to have a quick chat with the class teacher, or to agree arrangements for an alternative time to meet.



LUNCH AND SNACKS

Please ensure you have booked your child's lunch using School Food United (SFU) ahead of each school day as this helps us to work with the catering team to ensure we have the correct number of lunches prepared, reducing waste. You are able to book meals for a whole term in advance! Failure to book in advance will result in a child having a jacket potato as opposed to a meal of their choice.

Children are permitted to eat fruit or vegetable snacks only at breaktimes. Crisps or biscuits and sweets are not to be eaten during breaktimes. If your child is eating a packed lunch from home, please just pack the amount of food that you know your child(ren) will eat to avoid unnecessary waste. Please also respect that we have children and adults in the school with severe nut allergies and so please do not send your child in with anything containing nuts.

Children should have a water bottle, which can be filled up at various points in the school day. Fizzy drinks, fruit juice, Prime or other variations of such drinks are not permitted. We want to encourage our children to drink plenty of water. This not only keeps them well hydrated but we know supports attention and brain function too!



UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

Children should return to school in full school uniform and PE uniform. No makeup, nail varnish, jewellery (other than stud earrings and watches) are permitted. Smart watches linked to phones, the internet or have cameras are also not permitted.

To prevent injury, no jewellery at all should be worn on PE days. Earrings should be removed and preferably left at home. If not, the child can take them out at school or cover them with micropore tape. Staff cannot assist children in taking out or covering earrings.

Unsuitable or extreme haircuts, hair dye or shaved patterns are not permitted.

Children are expected to wear black school shoes rather than trainers to school. In coming weeks, Reception and Year 1 children will need a pair of wellies to remain in school for outdoor learning. Your class teachers will inform you when they are needed.

As cloakroom space is limited, it would help a great deal if children did not need bring in large school bags or pencil cases. They really are not necessary, as stationery is provided in school.

Our school uniform defines us as a school community both in school and the local community. We encourage our children to wear it tidily and with much pride. We try to limit the pieces that have the school logo so that most items can be purchased less expensively in supermarkets etc. Please do all you can to ensure that your child's uniform is in good condition – clean and without holes, tears etc. We have rather a large lost property pile and the PTFA will be arranging another second-hand uniform clothes rail in coming weeks.

In all cases, please make sure all uniform and belongings are labelled clearly!



ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Please take the time to ensure we have the most accurate and up to date contact numbers (home / work / mobile / emergency), current full address, email addresses and your child's up to date medical information on our files for the year ahead.

For children in Years 5 and 6, we also need you to complete a consent form if you are happy for your child to walk home from school without an adult.



MEDICINE

Please ensure that your child's inhalers etc. are up to date and filled. All medicines should be handed in to the office or the class teacher rather than sent in with your child. If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please complete a Medicine Administration form at the office.



PARKING

Outside of school, I am sure you are aware that we either have a zebra crossing and white zig-zags or yellow zig-zags.

Here are a few rules; these lines are NOT to be parked on unless stated otherwise. Some areas have specific times, others have a 24-hour rule in place.

In an ideal world, we would love everyone to walk to school however we accept that this isn't possible all the time. Therefore, we request that you park in a place that doesn't endanger young children or other members of the community, and doesn't block or infringe on our neighbours' driveways.

Our local PCSOs would rather not give tickets to individuals but if people continue to stop/park in the controlled area outside the school premises, they will have no choice but to give a ticket.

For parking in these controlled areas, drivers will be issued a fine and possibly 3 points on their licence.

Please park your vehicle further afield and walk the remaining distance or simply walk to school. If everyone complies with this, tickets will be avoided and people will be safer.



PLEASE... THANK YOU.... PARDON?... HOW ARE YOU?...CAN I HELP YOU?...SMILE!

Starting our new year with new staff, pupils and parents; we renew our careful attention to good manners. We will remind ourselves of our very positive habit, whereby all staff and pupils acknowledge each other with the best possible manners, positive attitudes and respect at all times. Good manners, like chicken pox, are contagious and can make such an amazing difference! We would ask families to support us with this initiative at home to keep our school (and home) a happy place!

Parents as Partners



BAG 2 SCHOOL

Bag 2 School is a company that specialises in the re-use and recycling of good quality second-hand clothing and we have arranged to make a collection from our school. All the bags will be weighed and we will be paid for the total weight collected. Remember, the more we collect the greater the benefit to our children!

We are collecting good quality items for re-use: men's, ladies' & children's clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts & accessories (no uniforms workwear, pillows, duvets or pieces of fabric please)

Please return your Bag 2 School by Friday 20th September at 9am if you are keen to help out.

Many thanks to our wonderful PTFA for organising.

On that note, our PTFA are always on the lookout for new recruits to support with their amazing fundraising activities throughout the year. They would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining the group - just contact lolptfa@gmail.com

Our Governing Body are also keen to recruit a parent governor to support the strategic direction and leadership of the school. If you would like to hear more about this, please contact myself through the school office or the Chair of Governors, Joan Curran – joan.curran@olol.org.uk

Dates for your diary...



SEPTEMBER

Monday 16th September	Reception start full-days! Year 5 Swimming (+ identified Year 6 pupils)
Tuesday 17th September	Year 5 Swimming (+ identified Year 6 pupils)
Wednesday 18th September	Year 5 Swimming (+ identified Year 6 pupils)
Thursday 19th September	Year 5 Swimming (+ identified Year 6 pupils)
Friday 20th September	Bag 2 School Collection Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate) Year 5 Swimming (+ identified Year 6 pupils)
Monday 23rd September	Year 6 Bikeability
Tuesday 24th September	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 26th September	School Mass: New School Year, 9.30am
Friday 27th September	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)

OCTOBER

Friday 4th October	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)
Tuesday 8th October	Fraser Portraits: Individual Photos
Wednesday 9th October	Year 6 Lifeskills Trip
Friday 11th October	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)
Friday 18th October	Celebration Worship, 9am (parents will be invited on Wednesday if their child has earned a Headteacher certificate)
Tuesday 22nd October	Parents' Evening, 3.30-6pm
Wednesday 23rd October	Parents' Evening 3.30-6pm
Thursday 24th October	Term 1 ends, 3.15pm
Friday 25th October	INSET 3

TERM DATES 2024-2025

Term 1	Wednesday 4 th September 2024 – Thursday 24 th October 2024
Term 2	Monday 4 th November 2024 – Friday 20 th December 2024
Term 3	Monday 6 th January 2025 – Friday 14 th February 2025
Term 4	Monday 24 th February 2025 – Friday 4 th April 2025
Term 5	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 – Friday 23 rd May 2025
Term 6	Tuesday 3 rd June 2025 – Tuesday 22 nd July 2025

INSET DATES 2024-2025

INSET 1	Monday 2 nd September 2024
INSET 2	Tuesday 3 rd September 2024
INSET 3	Friday 25 th October 2024
INSET 4	Monday 2 nd June 2025
INSET 5	TBC

OPEN DAYS

1. Monday 7th October, 10am

2. Tuesday 15th October, 2pm

3. Thursday 24th October, 5.30pm

Further dates for November will be released in due course



An opportunity for any families who are looking for a place in Reception for September 2024 to have a look around the school and come and hear what we are about. Please spread the word!



A reminder for Year 6 parents that applications for secondary school application process opened on Monday 9th September. Please see the separate letter you have been sent recently for more information.

Finally, please see details on the next page regarding free-school meals and finding out whether your child is entitled to this and how to apply.

THE MISSION OF MY LIFE

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission.

He has not created me for nothing.

I shall do good; I shall do His work.

We were, each of us, loved into existence for a specific purpose.

Saint John Henry Newman

O. Bell

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Who: All families

When: June and July, September.

If you're on a qualifying benefit, applying for free school meals makes sense for your child, your finances and your school! You could be one of thousands of families across South Gloucestershire missing out on saving over £400 each year, per child.

[This flyer](#) explains more about applying for benefits-related free school meals and the extra help it offers your child and family. Or visit www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 get universal infant free school meals so you do not need to apply for them.

But please do apply to receive benefits-related free school meals and the extra help they offer your child and family. This includes funded holiday club places in the main school holidays. It will also ensure your child will get a hot, healthy, freshly prepared meal at lunchtime from Year 3 onwards too.

Contact information

If you require any further information or help using this toolkit please contact

Catherine.Harrington@southglos.gov.uk

For guidance on HAF please contact Nicky.Wake@southglos.gov.uk or please direct parents to

HAF@southglos.gov.uk

For queries about FSM vouchers in the holidays please contact Rebecca.Chatterton@southglos.gov.uk or please

direct parents to CAH.FSMschoolse vouchersmailbox@southglos.gov.uk

Further information and support for families with:

Free School Meals: www.southglos.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals or schools can contact CIS@southglos.gov.uk

HAF: www.southglos.gov.uk/HAF

Cost of Living: <https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/community-and-living/cost-of-living-help/>

Help to get food: <https://oneyou.southglos.gov.uk/for-your-body/eat-well/food-poverty-support/>