Our Lady of Lourdes
RC Primary School

Spring Term News

28th March 2024

Welcome to the spring issue of Life at OLOL. As a school we remain true to our Catholic School values of Respect, Adventure, Excellence, Adventure, Learning and Community. Over the coming pages you will find examples of our pupils living and experiencing our values. From trips to workshops, Book Week, Opal Adventures and Holy Week, this half term has seen school buzzing. It is a pleasure to share an insight of what has been happening over the last half term with you.

Have a lovely Easter.

Mrs Boon

Book Week

Thank-you to our wonderful PTA for funding a variety of activities for our children. Pupils were able to attend a work shop with a cartoonist and joined a storytelling session with Wendy Shearer, who shared folktales and stories from the Caribbean. Key Stage Two pupils took part in a Poetry Workshop with Harry Baker, who became the youngest ever Poetry World Slam champion.

As well as drawing cartoons, writing poetry and dressing up for World Book Day, pupils were involved in a variety of other activities. The week ended with a parent story telling session focusing on traditional tales from around the world and a whole school story telling bonanza.

We were also delighted to hold our first ever Picture Book Award. Every class read 10 books and decided which one they enjoyed the most. The winner was...



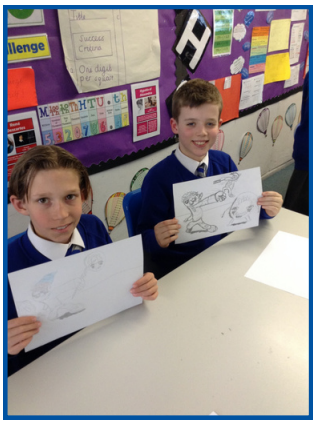
Finally, thank you to Penguin Books for their donation of books for our school library.

Book Week continued:

Pupils Said:
'The stories were from different cultures and fun'
'We became part of the story'
'I liked listening to new stories'
'The Storytellers bought the stories to life.'
' I wrote my own poems'
'The poet encouraged us to express our feelings and thoughts… we performed with him and on our own; I loved it'
'I really enjoyed the cartoonist and added my own style to my drawings'
'We listened and took part in activities including the poet and storyteller; we were part of the excitement'
The cartoonist was superfun; I got to create and learnt how to draw'













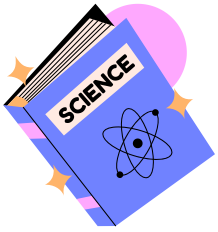
Science Week

The day before our Science Day we were lucky enough to welcome Professor Nathan. We focused on understanding forces and motions, through a range of different experiments. Some of teachers got the opportunity to join in: Mr Fitzgerald investigated how pressure and weight can be distributed by using a sledgehammer to break concrete on top of Professor Nathan (who was sandwiched between over a thousand 8 inch nails) and Mr Johnson lit rocket fuel in our very own jet pack. Some children even got hands on 'piloting' a rocket car that used a fire extinguisher – carbon dioxide - to propel if forwards.

Other exciting experiments included gunpowder (which can burn underwater), liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen (which when combusted burn at 2800 degrees: half the temperature of the surface of the sun) and pulse jets (which created such a loud noise, that it could be heard across the school).

Year 5 and 6 explored aerodynamics in the afternoon. Working in teams of three, they designed and created rockets which were then flown across the school playground at incredibly high speeds. They learnt about air resistance and uplift and tried to put Professor Nathan's teaching into action when creating their own designs. After the first heat, where every rocket was launched, a second heat from the teams that fired closest to the target commenced. After a very narrow finish, Aidan, Carter and Guy from 6D were named the champions.

The following day was our Science Day. Reception embarked on an exhilarating Rocket Challenge, where they constructed paper rockets, fostering their creativity and understanding of basic physics principles. Year One delved into the world of sounds, experimenting with various materials to comprehend the fundamentals of sound waves and vibrations. Meanwhile, Year Two sharpened their detective skills in a CSI fingerprint workshop, learning about forensic science and the significance of fingerprints in criminal investigations.









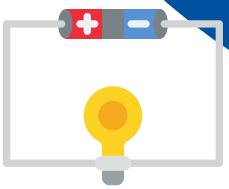








In Year Three, our young scientists explored the wonders of light in a captivating workshop, unravelling its properties and behaviour through engaging experiments. Year Four delved deep into the realm of electricity and circuits, constructing their own circuits and comprehending the flow of electric current. Year Five embarked on an exhilarating journey with Elastic Racers, discovering the principles of elasticity and motion in an interactive setting. Lastly, our Year Six students engaged in a fascinating Circulation and Heart Dissection workshop, gaining insights into the intricacies of the human circulatory system first-hand.



































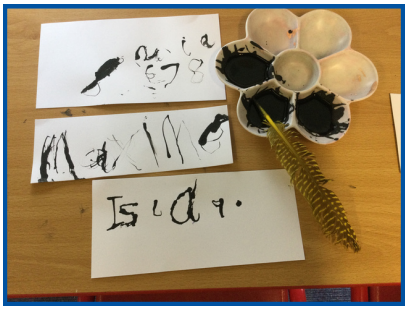


We celebrated Shakespeare Day this half term; everyone had the opportunity to learn about the famous playwright, poet and actor and one of his plays, 'The Tempest'. We learned about the main characters, the themes of the play and in older year groups, compared the play with others we have studied. One child drew a comparison between the manipulation of Macbeth by Lady Macbeth and the manipulation of Sebastian by Antonio. Each year group focused on speaking and listening while also including role play and drama in their study of the play. At the end of the day, Ms Fanning held a whole school assembly where all children shared their learning from the day including diary entries, art work, newspaper reports and Government warnings to stay away from the island!

















Holy Week and Stations of the Cross

We used Holy Week to reflect on lessons we might learn from Jesus' journey to the cross. The Sixth Station, which tells the tale of Veronica wiping the face of Jesus was a focus. This speaks to us about having the courage and the confidence to stand out from the crowd against injustice. In these times where everyone has a voice and everyone's voice deserves respect, leaders and decision makers arguably face greater challenges than they might have done in times past. We need to unite and allow God's voice to reverberate through our actions and teach our children to be role models for others through our interactions, conversations and the manner that we choose to support those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you to Year Four for a wonderful Stations of the Cross performance and particular thanks to Father Martin and our Governors who were able to attend.

















Maths Puzzle Day

Pupils took part in a variety of team challenges that could only be solved by using collaborative learning skills and careful strategic planning. They were reminded to persevere, put their skills to the test and overcome difficulties by approaching their 'problems' from different perspective.



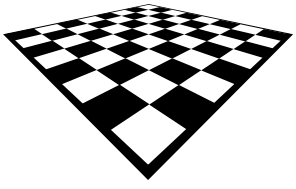




Chess Masters

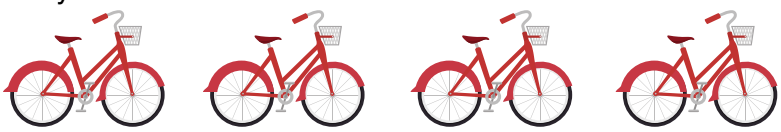
Congratulations to the following children who have excelled in their chess techniques this term.

Year 1 & 2	Year 3 & 4	Year 5 & 6
1st Place - Erik	1st Place - Vaughan	1st Place - Milo
2nd Place - Cormac	2nd Place - Catherine	2nd Place - Bobby
3rd Place - Xavier	3rd Place - Michelle	3rd Place - Olly


Bikeability

Well done to everyone who took part in our Bikeability sessions. These were designed to enable pupils to build on basic skills so that they can make the most of their bikes, gain confidence and teach the children that cycling can be a way of life.



Behind the scenes

School is always busy but many people do not realise that at the end of the school day apart from marking books and planning staff also undertake professional development. This term we have been focussing on the importance of oracy and closing the vocabulary gap. Our internal school data shows clearly that pupils who read at home regularly are outperforming those who do not. Even if you have a child who is a reluctant reader you can encourage them to read and enjoy learning new things.

"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one."
George R.R. Martin

We also met colleagues from local schools to moderate and look at standards of work and share good practice.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all the parents who have attended their child's consultations this half term. These meetings are a crucial way of sharing your child's progress and ensure that we support your child and that they continue to make progress across all areas of the curriculum. Following your consultation, please do take the time to talk to your child, celebrate their achievements and discuss their next learning steps.

Safeguarding - we need your help.

Safeguarding is the responsibility of every person in our community.
We take this responsibility very seriously. We cannot do this alone and need your help. Some ways that you can help us are:

1. Ensure that you close the main gate behind you at all times but particularly when entering for clubs or interventions before school.
2. Ensure that you always contact the school before 9am if your child is going to be absent.
3. Ensure that your child attends school regularly unless they are really unwell and in bed. There are a large number of pupils taking term time holidays and attending parent medical appointments etc. This not only disrupts their education but the education of their peers and this lost time is a permanent loss to their educational and friendship journey.

Governors' Fund

Thank-you to parents who are making regular monthly or termly payments as well as those who have made their payment in full. As a school we rely heavily on Governor Fund donations and are asking that, if you have yet to make your donation for this academic year, you do so in order to support the school and your children. Your support with this is appreciated.

OPAL

This term we have seen some amazing work on the playground by pupils across all key stages for our OPAL playtime. The Bingo drive before half term was hugely successful and all the pupils have a wonderful range of toys to be creative with. You will see from some of our photos the sorts of activities they have been engaging in, from pretend play to building bases and inventing new games. Some children even created beds to have a little rest in our quiet pavilion. When playtime is over, the children see the benefit of teamwork by tidying up and taking responsibility for their new play equipment.








Junior Duke Update

It has been great to see Junior Duke take off around OLOL. The children have been impressing us with their talents and improving independence. A huge shout out goes to the Litter Picking Team with their amazing effort to help our local community!

A reminder for participants that you have until the end of the summer term to complete 7 out of 10 activities in order to receive your Junior Duke Award.




Number Day 2024

We were delighted to have supported the NSPCC by taking part in Number Day on Friday 2 February 2024.

The NSPCC need our support more than ever. By raising money, we can help to fund their vital services such as Childline – the helpline that's always there for children and young people whatever their problem or concern.

Thank you for the tremendous effort all pupils and staff made to make Number Day a great success. Children and adults came to school wearing a hint of number to their own clothes. The unique and creative ideas were great to see across the school. Lessons were planned that day to be interactive and hands on, pupils learnt about different areas of number and explored famous mathematicians who have influenced and made a difference to our world today.

Your generous contributions to the NSPCC have raised a wonderful £471.00.

Thank you once again for all of your continued support.



Message from the PTA

Update from the PTA Committee - St Patrick's Day Disco

We are sorry again if you missed out on getting tickets for the St Patrick's Day disco this year; we hope you have better luck next year. We are pleased this event was a great success raising £2,369 for the school. This would not be possible without our volunteers and kind donations. Special thanks to Jonathan Blakesley, our resident DJ for the great tunes, Slush Goes Green for the tasty slushies, The Plough & Harrow Pub Leytonstone for the yummy Irish goodies, Laura Braithwaite for organising the donation of mouthwatering chocolate lollies from Chocpops, and Pauline for the highlight of the evening, the Irish dancing.

Thanking you for your continued support.

Summer Uniform

Weather dependent, pupils may return to school after the Easter break in their summer uniform.

Thank you

As we come to the end of the Spring term I want to formally thank our wonderful staff team for everything they do. Our school is made up of people, pupils and staff; it is not the building or name that is special. It is the people in our school that make the buzz in our school every day as they create the sense of adventure for every child.

Finally

I know that for many families there has been considerable change in recent months. Many parents are having to return to the office and we have families that are really suffering due to the cost of living crisis. Often we lose sight of others and focus on ourselves. We may hurry off an email late at night when on reflection and in the light of day we would have said things differently. We are all human and what brings us together is working for the common good and focusing on our children and school. Lent is a special time. For me, Lent has meant trying to make sure that I am continuing to give the best of myself to our school. I pray that carving out just a few minutes each day to reflect a little more on my role in my family and in our school will help everyone just a little more and help our school move further forward. Please make some time to pray and reflect with your child. What difference have you made to someone else yesterday, today and tomorrow?

Make it happen...

Pupils were invited to design an App by JP Morgan. They had to consider what it would be used for and how it would look.

The Best Design winners were:
Year Three – Yessina
Year Four- Maya
Year Five- Ella F
Year Six- Kitty
The Best idea winners were:
Year Three – Rohan
Year Four- Sol
Year Five- Leo
Year Six- Brooklyn
The Runners up were:
Year Three – Emilia with It's time to Bake!
Year Four- Eva with Food Run
Year Six- Isabella with Spelling Super Stars
The overall winner was…….
Darwin with Zoom Out.

You can enjoy Darwin's app on:
https://thunkable.site/w/X3kQ0C4mPgwBNR7Igu8uX

Congratulations to all our winners and participants as well as Darwin

Times Table Challenge

Congratulations to everyone who joined this week.

Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award	Platinum Award
Vivienne 4R	Noah 4R	Lorena 4J	Shay 4R
Caoimhe 4R	Caoimhe 4R	Noah4R	Noah4R
Edward 4R	Lara 4J	Edward 4R	Lorena 4J
Ciaran 4R	Darwin 5Fitz	Luca L 4R	Gabriel 4J
Joziah 4R	Edward 4R	Eva S 4R	Luca L 4R
Janaya 4J	Theo T 4R	Gabriel 4J	Edward 4R
Ruben 4J	Ruben 4J	Olivia S 4J	Abigail P 4R
Jessica 4R	Eliot 4R	Gabriella A 4J	Alice H 4R
Darwin 5Fitz	Amelie T 4R	Albert 4J	Eva S 4R
Amelie T 4R	Frida 4R	Alice H 4R	
Finbar 4R	Gabriel 4J	Edward 4R	
Jeremiah 4J	Janaya 4J	Abigail P 4R	
Gabriel 4J	Joziah 4R		
Rhys 4J	Abigail P 4R		
Alice H 4J	Albert 4J		
Sudiksha 4R			
Frida 4R			
Max 4R			
Esme 4R			
Luca L 4R			
Helenka 4R			
Olivia 4R			

Your personalised end of term attendance stickers will be in your child's reading diary next term as we want you to see the full term percentage.

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance target at OLOL is 100%.

Overall attendance at OLOL this week has fallen to 92.8%.

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
6J	90.9	6D	90.2
5F	94.6	5FITZ	92.5
4J	98.8	4R	93.5
3D	94.2	3G	97.8
2H	92.5	2HB	92.9
1R	94.6	1A	90.3
RP	93.3	RS	87.1
N	89.2		







OLLOW JESUS







