



Loving Learning and Looking Forward in Christ

NEWSLETTER

9.9.2022

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank all of the staff, children, parents, carers and families for the very warm welcome I have received this week. It has been wonderful getting to know so many of you and I intend to get to know each and every one of the OLSB family in the forthcoming weeks ahead. I look forward to getting to know you all, and working together to ensure that your child is happy and successful in our school.

A huge thank you to parents for your support with our school uniform policy. The children have returned to school looking very smart in their uniforms. As you know we have a full school uniform and a kit for PE. We believe that a smart distinctive uniform, worn neatly and tidily, helps to instil pride and a sense of loyalty in the school. One of the many advantages is that it makes clear we all belong to one community. It is this belonging and oneness, which helps to make the attitude and co-operation in school very special.

Uniform

A reminder that the jumpers/ cardigans worn, should be the ones with the school logo on. If you would like to purchase a second hand jumper, please see the link on our school website.

A reminder to all parents that jewellery and earrings are not permitted in school at any time.

Further information can be found on the school website under the parents and uniform tab.

www.ourladyandstbenedict.co.uk

Communications

We have decided to move towards sending most of our communication letters via email, this will save on our printing costs and should ensure that you receive communication from us. Please make sure that the school office have your current email address. Parents who send their email address into school will be entered into a prize draw, to win one of three prizes. If you need to update it, please email office@olsbprimary.org.uk

Attendance

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who support and encourage attendance. A reminder of our start and end times:

Class	Times
Nursery	8.50-3.00
Reception	8.50-3.00
Key Stage One	8.40-3.10
Key Stage Two	8.45-3.20

School in the OLSB Forest

This half term Year 2 and Year 3 will take part in school in the OLSB Forest on a Wednesday in partnership with Peak District Survival School. Please ensure that your children have their forest school kit in school each week. Forest school kit should consist of old clothes and sensible shoes that are weather appropriate.

Wraparound Care Before and After School club

A letter was sent out last week about our Before and After School Club. From September 2022, here at Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy, in conjunction with Port Vale, we will be able to offer full wraparound care for your child. This is available for all children in Reception-Year 6. Our aim is to provide a wraparound childcare service that is flexible enough to suit the needs of all parents and pupils who use it. There will be lots of fun activities led by the Port Vale sports leaders. In the club, we offer opportunities for sports, play and recreation activities that are both fun and challenging. Before School Club will run from 7:45am until the start of school. There is no admission after 8.20am. After School Club will run from the end of the school day and will close at 5.30pm – with a snack included. For costing, further information, and to read a copy of the letter please follow the link below.

<https://www.ourladyandstbenedict.co.uk/before-and-after-school-club/>

PE

All children will require a White polo shirt, Black shorts/joggers **and** Plain black pumps/trainers - suitable for running & outdoor activities for their PE lessons. The PE timetable is:

Nursery	Friday am
Reception	Friday pm
Year 1	Thursday pm
Year 2	Friday pm
Year 3	Tuesday pm
Year 4	Wednesday pm
Year 5	Monday pm
Year 6	Swimming Friday am

Mass

The children will be attending Mass at Our Lady and Saint Benedict Catholic Church on the following dates. You are most welcome to join us. Mass will begin at 9:15am.

Thursday 15 th September	Mass
Thursday 13 th October	Mass – Harvest

Medicine

School staff are only able to administer prescribed medicines to pupils. If your child needs to receive prescribed medicine during the school day a signed medical form (available from the school office) must be completed, medicine will not be administered if a signed form is not completed. Where possible, unless advised it would be detrimental to health, medicines should be prescribed in frequencies that allow the pupil to take them outside of school hours - this includes those prescribed three times a day – before school, after school and bedtime. Non-prescribed medications will not be administered at school and pupils should not bring them to school for self-administration.

Breaktime Snacks / Fruit in School

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 benefit from the National Fruit Scheme, which provides a piece of fruit each day for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The fruit is usually given out before the end of the school day. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer fruit to children in Key Stage 2. In line with many other schools locally

and nationwide, and to promote healthy eating, we encourage all children in Key Stage 2 should bring either fruit, vegetables or a small quantity of raisins to eat at morning break. Children should not bring nuts, crisps, chocolate bars, etc, for morning break. Toast & milk is also available to buy for children in Year 1- Year 6. It is 25p per day for toast, 25p per day for milk. Please send money into class for this in an envelope with your child's name on.

School Lunches

Lunch money for KS2 pupils (Year 3-Year 6) is £2.40 per day/ £12 per week. Payment can be made via the online payment system 'SCOPay'. Current menus are available on the school website.

If you think that you qualify for Free School Meals please contact the school office. Parents are able to claim free school meals for their children if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and the household income is not more than £16,190.

Please note anyone receiving Working Tax Credit, regardless of Income, will not qualify

- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are automatically entitled to Universal infant Free School Meals but registering for Income Assessed Free School meals could give the school extra money called pupil premium.

Water Bottles

We encourage all children to bring a water bottle into school each day. Children can refill their bottles in class when required.

Dates to remember

Friday 16th September	Penkhull Music Festival
Monday 19th September- Friday 23rd September	Y6 Stanley Head
Tuesday 27th September	Stoke City Assembly
Tuesday 18th October	Flu vaccinations (Reception- Year 6)
Friday 21st October	Finish for half term

I am delighted to begin my role and am looking forward to getting to know all of your children here at Our Lady & St Benedict's. If you would like to contact me, please do so via the school office.

At the news of the death of Her Majesty the Queen, we gain strength through prayer and in the knowledge that she will rest in peace in the arms of the Lord. We ask you to join us in our prayer.

'Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Clowes
Principal