

Loving Learning and Looking Forward in Christ

NEWSLETTER

11.9.2023

Dear Parents,

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 and have settled back into life here at OLSB beautifully. It has been wonderful to see so many smiles around school this week and children working in their new classes with their teachers and teaching assistants. On Thursday we attended church for our first Mass of this academic year. Thank you to year 6 for their wonderful reading and leading of the Mass.

New School Website [Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy - Home](https://www.ourladyandstbenedict.co.uk)

I would like to take this opportunity to share our brand new school website with you all. I am sure many of you will enjoy viewing the new site which is mobile phone and tablet friendly and I am sure you may spot many wonderful photos of the children. The website contains lots of useful and up to date information. All school letters and newsletters are emailed to you so please do make sure that we have your current email address. Please bring it into the school office if you are not receiving our communications. Letters/ newsletters and the calendar can also be viewed by clicking the circular buttons on the left hand side of the home screen on the website. www.ourladyandstbenedict.co.uk



Uniform

A reminder to all parents that jewellery and earrings are not permitted in school at any time. Make up, Nail Polish and false nails are also not allowed to be worn to school.

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

[Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy - School Uniform](https://www.ourladyandstbenedict.co.uk)

Attendance

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who support and encourage attendance. There is strong evidence to support that any missed time from school is detrimental to a child's education. Attached to this newsletter is a letter about attendance procedures from our Catholic Senior Executive Leader –Mr Ian Beardmore, please do take the time to read this letter so that you are clear that Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly if they are registered

at one. As Principal of the school, I must follow the law around attendance and have no option but to follow it. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

A reminder of our start and end times:

Class	Times
Nursery	8.40-3.10
Reception	8.40-3.10
Key Stage One (Year 1 and Year 2)	8.45-3.15
Key Stage Two (Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6)	8.45-3.20

Stars of the week – Well done you are all stars!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>
Nursery	Thomas Mills
Reception	All Class
Year 1	Maham Shirzad
Year 2	Leland Harvey
Year 3	Samia Mamoun
Year 4	Janaya Deaville
Year 5	Andrew Nunn
Year 6	Riley Gratton



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

Here at Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy, we offer OWLS NEST 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 are lots of fun activities led by the staff. 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.

[Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy - OWLS NEST Before and After School Club](#)

PE

All children will require a Navy polo shirt (With logo or plain Navy), Black shorts/joggers **and** Plain black pumps/trainers - suitable for running & outdoor activities for their PE lessons. All children will now require to keep their PE kits within school and they will be returned home each term for washing, if they are dirty etc these will be sent home.

The PE timetable is:

Nursery	Wednesday
Reception	Wednesday
Year 1	Monday & Friday
Year 2	Monday & Thursday
Year 3	Tuesday & Friday
Year 4	Monday & Tuesday
Year 5	Tuesday & Wednesday
Year 6	Thursday & Friday Swimming (starting 29 th September)

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 book and pay via Scopy.

School Lunches

Lunch money for KS2 pupils (Year 3-Year 6) is £3.10. Nursery meals are £2.40. 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 that £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 with water in class when required so that they can stay hydrated.

Admission to High School September 2024 –(CURRENT YEAR 6 CLASS) The application process for a place at High School has opened and will close on 31 October 2023. The easiest way to apply is online at

[Secondary or high school admissions | Stoke-on-Trent](#)

https://www.stoke.gov.uk/info/20033/school_admissions/134/secondary_or_high_school_admissions

We strongly advise that you consider St Margret Ward Catholic Academy part of our family of schools within The Newman Catholic collegiate. Over the next few weeks Year 6 pupils will be visiting St Margaret Ward and teachers will also be coming into OLSB to work with the children. We now have a mini bus in operation which takes children to and from St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy each day.

[Our Lady and St Benedict Catholic Academy - Transition Page](#)

Thursday 21 st September	St Margaret Ward Open Evening 6-8pm
Tuesday 26 th September	St Margaret Ward Information Afternoon with tea and Cakes here at OLSB 2.30pm
Saturday 30 th September	St Margaret Ward Open Morning 10am -12

Dates to remember

Tuesday 12 th September	Year 5 Potteries Museum Trip
Friday 15 th September	Year 1 Packington Farm Trip
Friday 15 th September	Year 5 Penkhull Music Festival
Monday 18 th September	Year 6 Stanley Head (all week)
Thursday 21 st September	Mass 9.15am All Welcome
Friday 22 nd September	5 a side football Y5
Friday 29 th September	One Life Music in school
Friday 29 th September	5 a side football Y3/Y4
Friday 6 th October	Girls 5 a side Football
Friday 27 th October	Bikeability Y4
Friday 27 th October	School Closes for Half term
Monday 6 th November	School Closed to all children INSET DAY
Tuesday 7 th November	School Opens for all children

The gospel on Sunday tells us of Jesus also promising that he will help those who pray to him with their needs. In our modern world of many conflicts, we pray together that these may be resolved in a peaceful manner.

Watch over the people who have been forced to flee their homes and face violence and fear. Lord, send us the gift of peace Lead them to a place of safety, comfort those who grieve and bring healing to those in pain. Lord, send us the gift of peace. Turn hatred to understanding, and anger to compassion. Lord send us the gift of peace

With thanks,

Mrs Sarah Clowes - Principal