

Our Lady & St Thomas Catholic Primary School, Willington



Newsletter - September 2022 You are unique, talented and loved by God



Prayer to commemorates our Queen

OLST gathered as a school following the sad news of the Queen's death. The children offered prayers of thanks and for comfort and strength for the Queen's family. We also prayed for our new King Charles III and finished with remembering all the fun we had to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. We will see you all on Tuesday 20th following the Bank Holiday. We offer our prayers of thanks for the life and service of our Queen Elizabeth. Thank you, Ma'am and God bless.



Dear God,

Today we remember and give thanks for the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Thank you for her kindness, wisdom and generosity. Thank you for her hard work during her 70 years on the throne. Thank you for her goodness and her heart for you. Help us to live by the values she showed.

We pray for the Royal Family at this time of sadness. We pray that you will be with them as they remember their mother, grandmother and friend. We pray for our leaders and Prime Minister during this hard time of change. Thank you for being with us and showing us your peace. Amen.

Welcome Back!

Thank you to all our families for your support and patience in establishing new routines and new gate. Our brandnew starters have settled exceptionally well as well as our new Nursery friends.

Our new staff are enjoying getting to know the children and the school is a buzz of new learning and enjoyment in being back with friends.

The change into new classes and getting to know new environments can be daunting. I want to reassure you that the staff are very experienced in supporting anyone that needs any extra nurture and care.

Our Year 1 children especially have transitioned so well. I appreciate not walking your child to the class door is different to the routines of our youngest children in Class 1 and have taken on board that the change to the drop off routine needs to be fully explained to parents as they move into the next class. This is an important step into the next stage of their education where they are much more independent. We are delighted how well the children have adapted.

We need all children in school and ready to **start lessons at 8.45am** in class. Hence the gate drop off from 8.35am rather than the yard in the mornings so that we can have a prompt start to the day. We have two members of staff ready to welcome, support and take messages for the class teachers who are busy setting up for the lessons.

Communication

A change for Class 2 parents is that there is no teacher handover at the start of the day. Instead, please pass on a message to the staff on the gate. If you require a conversation with any class teacher we have systems in place to ensure communication is strong between parents and staff, as follows:

Phone – the office staff are only too happy to help and support in any way they can. Either by phone 01388 746336 or by popping into the main office entrance if easier. They can also be contacted via email on office@olst.bhcet.org.uk

Email – all staff have a class email account. This method of communication has been very effective in the past.

You may contact your child's class teacher using the below:

Mrs Brown - class1@olstlearning.net
Mrs Whitfield - class2@olstlearning.net
Mrs Hilton - class3@olstlearning.net
Miss Egginton - class4@olstlearning.net
Mrs Fulton - class5@olstlearning.net
Mrs Veitch - head@olstlearning.net

I can also be contacted via the school office for a face to face appointment, telephone call.

Our website olst.bhcet.org.uk is also a good source of information as well as our Facebook Page.

WELCOME to Class

In the past we have held 'Meet the teacher' nights which have not been well attended. This year, Class teachers will be sending out regular Class Newsletters to keep parents informed. We will also hold our formal Parent's evenings in November. Do not leave it until those formal occasions if you have any concerns.

We have set aside **Monday 26**th **September** for an informal drop-in after school if you wish to speak to the class teacher or have any worries or concerns. Alternatively, you may wish to make an appointment if you need a more private conversation. This is voluntary to be used only if you wish. However, if you feel you know your child's class teacher or do not feel you need to see them then there will be another opportunity as usual after half term.

FRIENDS of OLST

If you would like to be part of the Friends of OLST, please contact the School Office and add your name. We would love to have any new members. Friends meet termly to help to raise funds for treats for the children and the money raised last year will go towards funding transport to the Pantomime. We hope to have a meeting in the coming weeks to create a plan for this academic year.

Parent Governor

Last week I sent an email requesting nominations for a new Parent Governor. As yet, no-one has put themselves forward. I am happy to chat this through with anyone considering becoming a Parent Governor! It can be a very useful addition to strengthen a CV. The closing date for nominations is 26th September.

Wrap Around Care

The Trust is mindful of the spiralling cost of living and we do not want families getting into debt with school. Please book and pay in advance for Wrap Around Care, Breakfast Club and Tea Club using the SCOPAY App. We understand on the rare occasion it is not possible to book in advance, if this happens then the office can override the system.

Struggling at home?

Do not suffer unnecessarily in silence. You are all part of the OLST family and we will help and signpost services and help when we can. If you have issues around struggling for food, clothes, heating etc. please get in touch and we will support confidentially.

PE Days at OLST

Class 1 – Mrs Brown	Tuesday	Old clothes and wellies
	Friday	PE kit
Class 2 -Mrs Whitfield	Tuesday	PE Kit
	Friday	
Class 3 – Mrs Hilton	Thursday	Swimming
	Friday	PE kit
Class 4 – Miss Egginton	Thursday	PE Kit
	Friday	
Class 5 – Mrs Fulton	Tuesday	PE Kit
	Friday	

I have also attached the latest Parish Newsletter for your information

I hope you all have an enjoyable and restful weekend and look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks in school.

Dates for your diary to follow on the next Newsletter.

Mrs Veitch

Head Teacher