

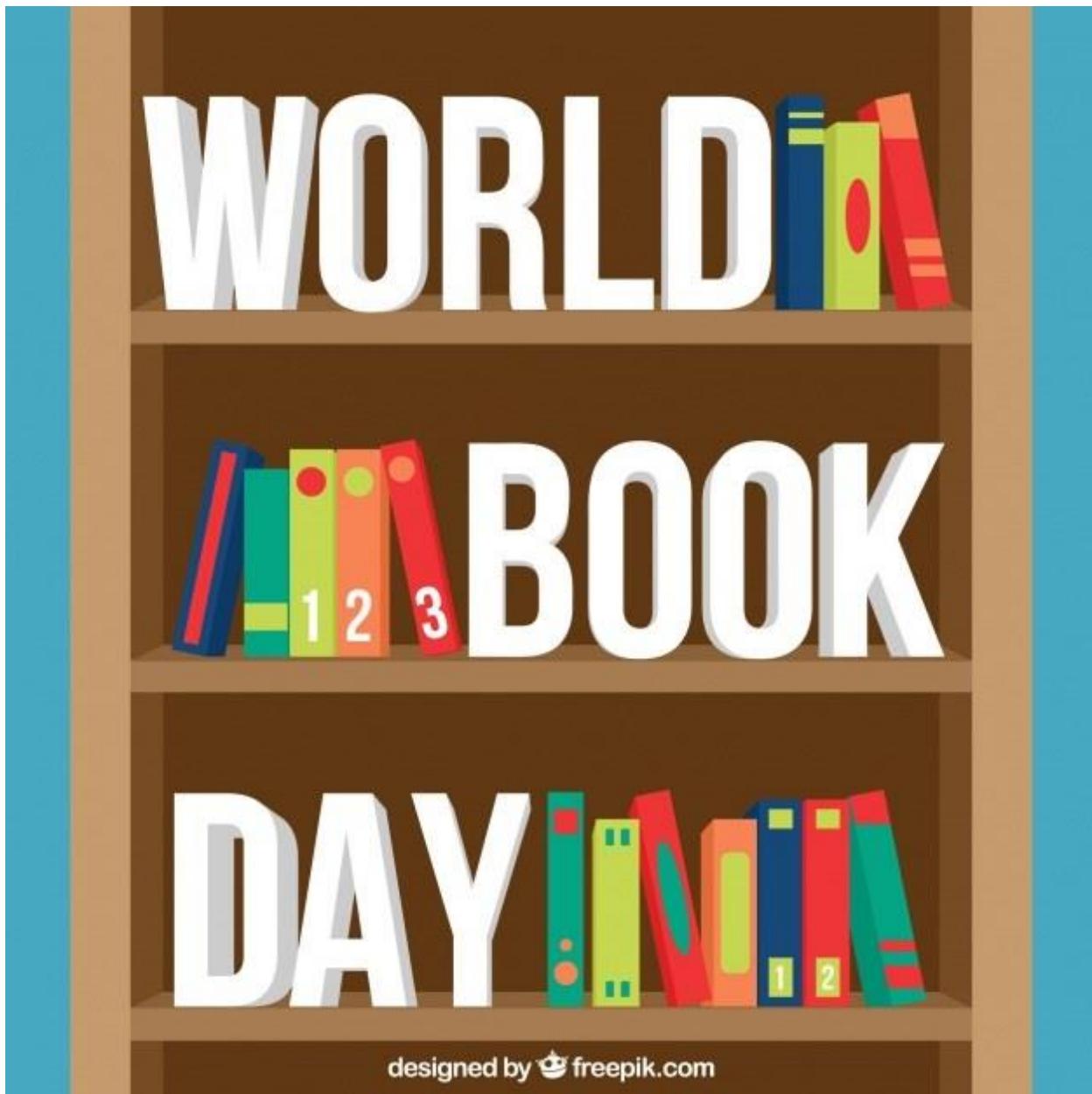


March Newsletter 2019

Welcome all to our March newsletter, the final update before our Easter holidays. As ever, an extremely busy time had by the OLM family. We have been successful in gaining funds to enhance the play and learning spaces around the school thanks to the Thornliebank Together project. Credit to you all for your support in this venture. You will be aware of our important visitors at the end of February. The HMIe inspectors were impressed with the pupils and school as a whole. The final report is pending and I will be able to share the contents in due course. It looks to be a positive outcome overall and I know you will be as proud of the pupils and staff as I am. The third term is always a time where we are wrapping up the activities from the current school improvement plan (2018-19) and preparing for the new plan (2019-20). Your feedback and input helps shape this plan for the coming session. If you haven't already done so at our Parents' Night stall, then please use the online form below to add any comments for my consideration.

Final thought is that I hope that you have noticed our inspirational quotes as you visited the school this week for Parents' Night appointments. I would ask that you 'Live in love' over the Easter season as inspired by St Therese Lisieux the 'Little flower'. Have a happy and holy break with the family.

World Book Day



The pupils enjoyed a range of exciting activities to celebrate World Book Day. The Readathon in the hall proved to be very popular!!

Please note for future reference there will be **no** dressing in character for World Book Day. The commercialisation of this event has started to take over the original purpose . The pupils will still engage in a range of activities that promote the love of reading.

World Book Day Character Hunt Winner



Congratulations to Aidyn who was the winner of "Find the Character" hunt at the Thornliebank Library.

Family Learning Kits



We are looking to build up a stock of family learning kits for use at home and school. We currently have around 30 bags for both literacy and numeracy support. The content of the bags is quite varied - each bag is unique to the skill being developed. Generally there would be books, games, activities and resources for writing or numeracy practise. If you have any unused tablets or consoles e.g. Nintendo DS and would be willing to donate them, we feel the digital dimension would be of great benefit for our pupils. Generally these consoles came with basic games such as Brain Training. These types of games are motivating for the children and support overlearning of basic skills. Any donations can be handed in to the school offices.

Thornliebank Together



A massive thank you to everyone who came along to the Thornliebank Together Event to vote for our school. It was very much a community event. The Guardians of the Garden were successful in their bid for £1500 to replace our vandalised greenhouse. They are hoping to be able to arrange workshops and events for the local community so that people can share their expertise and enthuse others.

The PC/PSA were successful in their bid for £2500 which will be used to continue the playground improvements project which will continue to help us deliver quality outdoor experiences for our children. They will be arranging another fun family action day soon and would like to thank you for your continued support.

Nut free School



Can we please remind parents/carers that Our Lady of the Missions is a Nut Free school. This includes products such as Nutella. We have noticed a number of children bringing Nutella in their lunchboxes.

Lent



“Lent is a journey of returning to the essential, during which the Lord asks us to follow three steps: almsgiving, prayer and fasting.”

Pope Francis

Many of our families have embraced the opportunity to attend morning Mass at 8.25am in St Ninian's across the Lenten season. Each morning the Oratory has standing room only, a lovely way to journey through Lent as a cluster community.

Father Stephen led our Lenten Confessions for the children of Primary 4-7 children on Tuesday 26th March.

Our Pupil Council have been coordinating the SCIAF WEE BOX appeal. A representative from SCIAF will speak to the children at all of our assemblies on Friday morning.

STEM



What a successful STEM week for our school community! The children had an abundance of opportunities to engage in activities, listen to and question visitors and try out a variety of experiments across the week. A big thank you to Miss Collins for organising and to all of our visitors who supported our STEM week. The children have been inspired by many different jobs, developed skills in a variety of ways and gained a great deal of knowledge.

Well done to four of our Primary 6 pupils: Max, Rebecca, Ben and Mark who represented our school in the cluster K'Nex challenge last week. We were very proud of the model go-karts they constructed and they only just missed out on representing our cluster at the next round of the tournament.

Some of our children visited South Lanarkshire College last week as part of a 2 week STEM visit. They had the opportunity to visit the low carbon house within the grounds of the college. Another group of children will engage in these visits later in the term.











DIGITAL SCHOOLS AWARDS SCOTLAND

We are very proud to announce that we recently received the Digital Schools Award. Feedback from the validation visit was extremely positive, with the school achieving 100% in all aspects of the assessment criteria. As a result, we have been asked to become a Mentor School and share our experience and expertise across Scotland.

Thank you to our staff and pupil Digital Leaders who have worked very hard to develop our Digital Learning and Teaching strategy this year. Thanks also to parents who have supported us on our journey by sharing their expertise and giving up their time to work with pupils and staff. We hope that by continuing to work together we will maintain our status as a pioneer among schools where digitally enhanced teaching and learning helps our children to prepare for living and working in the 21st Century.

Make it Happen Competition



What talented pupils we have in Our Lady of the Missions! It was very difficult to choose a winner for the JP Morgan 'Make it Happen' competition. The standard of entry was very high and many pupils received special recognition from the judges for their ideas and creativity. Well done to everyone who entered - especially Daniyah in P2 whose Counting Coins app was the overall winner. She had a great time learning how to build her app along with the runners-up, Sally and Ruari. The app will be available to download onto Android and Apple devices very soon. We can't wait to use it on our new iPads in school!

Internet Safety Presentation



Many thanks to the authority's Digital School Officer, Karen-Ann McSwiggan, for a very informative internet safety presentation this week. The session contained a wide range of information and signposts to a variety of useful websites. The presentation can be accessed at the link below:

<https://sway.office.com/nyFOfRUg53mxiEuY?ref=Link>

Our school website is also regularly updated with relevant advice related to the use of digital technology and internet safety.

Book Amnesty



We have finally managed to get the new library cataloguing system up and running properly. This enables us to issue books, recommend titles based on pupil borrowing patterns and tap into the wealth of materials out there for promoting reading with our young pupils. We aim to have a reading culture in our school and show the children the joys reading can bring. Our wonderful library is a vibrant learning space thanks to your donations of books and support in creating the space. I would ask that any books that have been borrowed and not returned, prior to getting the librarian software working effectively, be left at the school offices in either the main building or junior building. We welcome any further donations also - these can be used to supplement the school library or class stock. We have donation labels available in the office to be included on the inside cover should you wish. In addition, if you have 5-10 mins on any day during the week, we would appreciate your support in giving the library a quick tidy to keep it looking its best. Our library committee have their own rota but let's just say a little additional adult support goes a long way to keep on top of returns and house keeping.

House System



Well done to our winning house for term 2: St Margaret's House! Emma and Kate the House Captain and Vice Captain were delighted to receive the trophy on behalf of their house. St Margaret's House enjoyed a celebration day on Tuesday 26th March with bouncy castles in the main hall.



Parent Staff Association



The PSA are looking forward to the 60th Anniversary summer fete which will be held at Holmwood House, the site of the original Our Lady of the Missions school. The fete will take place on **Saturday 1st June** (please note the change of date from previous newsletter). We are sure this will be a great day for staff and pupils (past and present) and their families. We will be looking for volunteers to help us organise and run the fete, so please look out for more information after the Easter break. To begin with, we are looking to borrow a few large marquees – please let us know if you would be able to help with this.

Other events to look forward to include summer discos which will be held on 11-13th June for P1-P6. P7 have their leavers ceilidh on 25th June, and once again we will be providing the buffet for this.

Our final event of the summer term – back by popular demand – is the Supper Dance. This was a huge success last year, and we are expecting another fantastic evening this year. Save the date – Friday 21st June in Christ the King Church Hall. Information on how to buy tickets will be released shortly.

You can contact us at any time by email on olm-psa@hotmail.com. Please also follow our Facebook page - 'OLM PSA' to keep up to date with the latest news and events.

Caroline & Cristina

Joint chair

OLM PSA

Football Update



OLM School Team Update

Once again, our children playing for the OLM School Teams are proudly representing the school at 4, 5, 7 and 11-a-side football in the ERSDA and Paisley & District Leagues this year. This is our 26th year and the School Team continues to grow in numbers and reputation. With the addition of the 2013's (P1's) we now have teams in every year group and have in excess of 300 registered players and more than 60 qualified coaches with additional parent helpers. Due to the continued growth in numbers and reputation, we needed to find more space for training and matches.

GHA Partnership

We have recently entered into a partnership with GHA Rugby Club for use of their facility as an OLM hub for training and for matches. This is an ideal partnership for both parties. OLM has access to the brand new state-of-the-art 4G pitch, the clubhouse, bars and social club, etc. We are currently agreeing terms for Associate Social Memberships for all parents of children playing for OLM!

The partnership is in its early stages, and there is huge opportunity for OLM and GHA as we build relationships. For example, we're already planning to use the facility for the Matthew Carney tournament this year, and other fundraising events.

DAFT

We are currently planning our second School Team trip to Donegal in May – The Donegal Annual Football Tournament (DAFT). The OLM 2009's (P5) squad is travelling over during the holiday weekend at the start of May. The squad, numbering about 25 children and 25 coaches and parents, will be leaving

from the school on the Friday morning. The boys will be competing in the Donegal 'blitz' Tournament on Saturday, where they will face opposition from teams throughout the county. They are hoping to retain the trophy they brought home with them last year!

As well as competing in the tournament, the children are looking forward to a packed itinerary of exciting activities across the weekend: they will take part in a training session at Dungloe Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) where they will get a chance to try out Gaelic Football and Hurling; spend time at the Dunlewey Activity Centre; visit Strand Rovers football ground; take part in kayaking, paddle-boarding, cliff-jumping in Maghery; as well as discos and quiz nights!

If last year is anything to go by, they will thoroughly enjoy an excellent trip, and may even be lucky enough to meet Elvis again in McDaid's!

FUNDRAISERS

The OLM School Teams have various fundraising events across the year to help with the running costs across the teams (pitches, training venues, strips, kit, trips, events, etc.). We appreciate the generosity of parents who help out and contribute to these fundraisers. We also help support pupils and ex-pupils in worthy causes. Please look out for these events –they are great fun!

SPOTLIGHT TEAMS

This month, our spotlight team is OLM 2013 (P1's) who are now up-and-running thanks to the efforts of David Reilly, Paul MacConnell, and the other coaches and volunteers. If your child is interested in joining (or indeed, you are interested in volunteering to help out), please get in touch with the school and we'd be happy to welcome you on board!

[**Dates for Diary**](#)



March

27th and 28th - Parents' Evenings

29th - School Closes - **2:30pm**

April

1st-12th - Holiday

15th - School re-opens

18th - School Closes at normal time

19th - Good Friday - holiday

22nd - Easter Monday - Holiday

23rd - School re-opens

26th - P2a Class Assembly

27th - First Holy Communion - St Joseph's - P4a/b at 10am & P4c/d at 12noon

27th - First Holy Communion - St Vincent's at 10am

28th - Mass of Thanksgiving - 10am at St Joseph's

May

3rd - P3c Class Assembly

3rd - P7 First Friday Mass

6th - May Day Holiday

7th - In-Service Day - pupils **do not** attend school

8th - School Re-opens

9th - St Mirin's Confirmation

10th - P5a and P6a Class Assembly

17th - P1d Class Assembly

12th - First Holy Communion - 12noon at Holy Name

14th - SNHS Information Evening for P7 Parents

21st - St Vincent's Confirmation

22nd - P7 Induction Day SNHS (please note change of date)

22nd - P1 Induction Afternoon (families will be informed which afternoon to attend)

23rd - P1 Induction Afternoon (families will be informed which afternoon to attend)

23rd - School Closes at normal time.

24th and 27th - May Holiday

28th - school re-opens

29th - Holy Name Confirmation (St Mary's)

31st - P7c Class Assembly

June

1st - Summer Fete (**please note change of date**)

7th - P2c Class Assembly

7th - P4 First Friday Mass

10th - P7 Leavers' Mass (**please note change of date**)

14th - P3d Class Assembly

21st - Supper Dance

25th - P7 Leavers' Ceilidh (**please note change of date**)

27th - School Closes – **1pm**

Feedback and HT Drop In



FEEDBACK



Head Teacher drop in is on the first Thursday of every month at 3.15pm. Please feel free to use this time for informal discussions.

Please note that this invitation applies to all year groups...

Remember if you have any questions or feedback, please send in on the Form below and we will do our best to reflect on or answer queries.

[Feedback form](#)