



# St Osmund's Catholic Primary School Newsletter

Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning

## ✠🏰 Embarking on a Magical Writing Adventure! ✠🏰

This week at St Osmund's, our young writers embarked on an enchanting journey through the realms of creativity! Imagine their surprise when a mystical castle materialised upstairs in the old building, offering magical nooks and crannies for our budding wordsmiths to explore.

The castle's secret corners became the catalyst for exciting and imaginative stories, as our students delved into the world of knights, dragons, and magical quests, even Oz! The air buzzed with creativity as the children harnessed the inspiration from the enchanted surroundings to weave tales of courage and wonder.

From towering turrets to hidden gardens and dank dungeons, each element of the castle sparked the flames of creativity, resulting in stories that transported us to fantastical realms. It's been a week filled with imagination and the joy of storytelling.

Thank you so much to our inspirational staff team who clicked their fingers (or tapped their red shoes together) and brought the castle to life!



### Class Masses

Please do join us for the children's class Masses. They take place each Tuesday at 10am in Church.

On Tuesday, Reception Class are taking the lead for their first ever Class Mass! The parishioners and clergy love to see the children and this experience is an important part of their journey in faith. Please see 'Dates for your Diary' for details of the class Masses.

### Parents Evening

Please save the date! Parents Evening is approaching on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Sign up sheets will be put outside school from Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.

### Attention Young Musicians

The Salisbury Area Young Musicians group are running weekly guitar sessions with Craig Frotnam on Saturday's at 10.00-11.00am starting on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The weekly group sessions are for young musicians of **Year groups 3 – 6** who are having lessons in school or privately and are suitable for all experience levels. For more information please click on the link. [Salisbury Area Young Musicians \(saym.org.uk\)](http://salisburyareayoungmusicians.org.uk)

### Car Park

The carpark is for staff only. Please do not use this between the hours of 8.00am and 4.30pm.

The issue with some parents walking across the car park remains. Please ensure that you use pavement around the car park at all times. The minibus is in use mornings and afternoons. Thank you for your support with this.

### Reporting Your Child Absent

If your child unwell and going to be off school please report the absence by **9am everyday** they are going to be absent. Either phone 01722 322632 option 2 or email [schoolcomms@st-osmunds.co.uk](mailto:schoolcomms@st-osmunds.co.uk)

### Star of the Week Awards

**Rec:** Dyan and John  
**Year 1:** Noah and Raenessa  
**Year 2:** Alexandra and Luigi  
**Year 3:** Maria and Ananya  
**Year 4:** Suzane and Bryony  
**Year 5:** Damian and Finley  
**Year 6:** Rocco and Olivia

Our  
weekly  
winners

# Dates for your diary...

[www.twitter.com/@St\\_OsmundsCP](https://www.twitter.com/@St_OsmundsCP)



30.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year R ~ Church ~ 10am  
09.02.24 ~ School breaks up end of Term 3 ~ 3:15pm  
19.02.24 ~ School reopens for start of Term 4 ~ **08:40am**  
20.02.24 ~ Whole school Mass (distribution of ashes) ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 2pm  
04.03.24 ~ Parents Evening  
05.03.24 ~ Parents Evening

Mr R Sander  
Headteacher

Dear Jesus,

We want you to leave your mark on us.

Open our hearts to your words so they leave  
a deep impression.

Please help us to listen so you influence our  
words and actions.

Lord Jesus, help us to spread your message  
of love today.

Amen

## New Start Time

Following on from our letter last term, please remember the new school starting time of 08:40am from Term 4 (Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024). Your feedback was invaluable and we have heard what you have said about getting out on time at the end of the day. Children should be released to you at 3:15pm into the playground.

### Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school safeguarding team:

Mr Sanderson – Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Chapman – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Sambrook – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead  
Mrs Windsor – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

### Online Safety for Parents and Teachers

Risks on most common platforms:

- **Roblox, Discord, Steam:** multi-platform moderation is hard. Evidence of extremist content and users creating community spaces.
- **Whatsapp:** Significant disinformation/fake news sharing. Encrypted platform lends to anonymity
- **TikTok, Twitter, Instagram:** Pornographic content, platforms hard to moderate, Twitter algorithms amplify negative voices.
- **Youtube:** Large platform content moderation nearly impossible. Significant amounts of extremist content. Strong algorithms.



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# MYLOL

AGE RESTRICTION  
13-19

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### FLIMSY AGE GATES

Although MyLOL states it is exclusively aimed at users aged between 13 and 19, there is no credible age verification system to prevent a younger child – or an older adult – from signing up to the platform. Coupled with the fact that it's impossible to establish a user's true identity on MyLOL, this raises a serious concern that the site could be used for grooming.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

MyLOL maintains that it monitors all uploaded images for nudity or sexual content. It also claims to be able to detect suspicious keywords. However, there have been numerous reports of explicit content being found on the platform, with users often posting provocative, semi-nude pictures of themselves and engaging in filthy or sexually explicit conversation.

### POTENTIAL CYBER-BULLYING

MyLOL lets users 'vote' on other people based solely on their appearance, much in the same vein as the now-defunct site Hot or Not. This feature could easily lead to distress and bullying, especially if a young person's profile pics receive an unfavourable response. Various reviews of MyLOL have noted that bullying frequently becomes an issue in the platform's chat groups and private messages.

### IN-APP SPENDING

MyLOL is free to join and use, but it also offers paid-for memberships. Users who have paid money get their profile promoted at the top of the site and in search results. They can also earn additional credits for increased engagement with the platform – such as sharing, replying to messages and voting. At the time of writing, the monthly membership fee was \$9.95 (just under £8).

### DATA COLLECTION

According to its privacy policy, MyLOL collects user data including email addresses, contact details and interests. While the company says it is committed to protecting users' privacy, the small print states that information may be shared externally. MyLOL claims to follow procedures to keep data secure, but does not specify what these procedures are, or whether such information is encrypted.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

MyLOL makes it easy to connect with strangers. In fact, the site's rewards feature encourages users to send private messages to people they don't know. There have been several media stories of adults posing as teens on MyLOL to connect with minors, which could lead to extremely dangerous situations, such as a young person meeting up with someone who has been posing under a false identity.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS ONLINE DATING

It's vital to talk to your child about the possible dangers of platforms like MyLOL – particularly the threat of online predators. Remind them of the risks of sharing intimate images and information with strangers and emphasise that most people don't realise they're being 'catfished' until it's too late – it really isn't wise for a young person to meet up with someone they've only spoken to online.

### EXPLAIN PRIVACY RISKS

Before your child begins using a service such as MyLOL, it's important that they understand the potential pitfalls of giving out their personal data on this type of platform. Explain to them, for example, that they shouldn't divulge any personally identifying information to people who they don't know, as scammers can be quite convincing when attempting to steal someone's identity.

### RESTRICT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child has access to a bank card or other payment method, they may be enticed into signing up for MyLOL's premium features. Having their profile boosted and receiving more attention could be especially tempting if their friends also use the site. You could consider altering their device's settings to disable internet purchases, or at the very least keeping an eye on their online spending.

### SET UP LOCATION ALERTS

If you're worried that your child may be planning to meet up with someone they've met on MyLOL, you could consider utilising GPS or WiFi location tracking technology to follow their whereabouts in real time. You can even set up a virtual boundary or 'fence' and opt to receive an alert to your phone if your child enters or exits a specified area.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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