

Handbook for *new parents*



A warm welcome from the **OLA Parents' Association**



www.ola.org.uk



A warm welcome

We hope that this information guide supports you and your family settle in to school life at OLA. Welcome to the school community, we very much look forward to meeting you.

We appreciate that starting a new school can be daunting and you'll have lots of questions as you prepare for your first day with us.

The aim of this short guide is to help you navigate your first few weeks preparing and getting ready for your first term at Our Lady's Abingdon school.

If you have any questions at any time, please contact parentsassoc@ola.org.uk



PARENTS'
ASSOCIATION
OUR LADY'S
ABINGDON

We have a vibrant parent, guardian & pupil community, supported by the volunteer efforts of the **OLA Parents' Association**. A charitable trust, who over many years have actively generated funds to support the Teaching & Learning experience for every pupil at OLA, as well as hosting a number of social events to bring the school community together.

As you settle into your new routines and life at school, the OLA PA Group will be on hand to welcome you to all the community events on offer as you start your journey with us – meeting new friends along the way!

We welcome all parents, and everyone is invited to offer their time, expertise and support bringing new ideas which enrich the experience of each pupil during their time at school.

The OLA PA group is not only about fundraising & social events, we exist to provide closer links between home & school. It is a great opportunity to get actively involved in the school community, making new friends and getting to know members of staff.

You can find more information by visiting the [Parents's Association section](#) on the school website.

Keeping in touch with *other* parents



It's often useful to connect with other parents when you start life at a new school. Whether it is to help with school pick ups, arranging social gatherings, inviting friends to birthday celebrations, outings & overnight stays.

Connect with other parents in your child's year group.

Classlist is a safe, easy to use digital platform, allowing parents to connect with other parents within their year group. The system has been created for parents to register & login in securely, sharing only what they feel comfortable with.



Classlist

Each family, upon registration, are given restricted access to their children's year group. Only those parents in the same form group/class have access to those conversations. This means that you will only receive information related to your respective year group, making it easier to communicate at a personal level.

The OLA PA Group actively use Classlist to connect with parents during the academic year, sharing news about the social events calendar and other fundraising activities.

To set up your registration, please use the details provided by the **OLA Admissions team**.

You can also download the Classlist App from the App Store or Google Play



School shop *for pupils*



Second Hand Uniform

Before you buy any new uniform/sports kit, we recommend you check the stock of the second hand uniform in the shop.

Parents can hand in good quality, clean uniform for others to buy. Parents donating uniform are able to receive a % of sales in return for their donation of anything sold, or donate the sale to the OLA Parents' Association.

The second hand uniform shop is run by the OLA PA Uniform team.

We recommend before your first-day of term you send an e-mail to uniformshop@ola.org.uk to book an appointment.

The second hand uniform shop is only open during term time.

Items for sale in the uniform shop include:

- School blazers
- School shirts – long/short sleeve
- Kilts/trousers
- Jumpers/cardigans
- Pinafores (Lower School: Year 3 & 4)
- Sport Tracksuit
- Sport Base/Mid Layers
- Sports bags
- Sports Skorts/Shorts.

Your child will be given an OLA Swim Hat. The swim hats are very difficult to name, please ensure that your child keeps in their swim bag.

All items of clothing **MUST** be clearly named.

For any items that cannot be sourced using the second hand uniform shop, you can visit [Stevenson's](#) the main provider of school uniform for OLA. Stevenson's also have a shop based in Summertown, Oxford.

Useful tips and links *from existing parents*



Contact

- If your child is sick, email school first thing attendance@ola.org.uk or call on 01235 524658.
- If you want to contact a teacher by email, use their first initial and surname eg. ateacher@ola.org.uk
- If you have a specific issue regarding your child, the first port of call is the form teacher (cc Year Tutor).
- Permission slips should be emailed to you from the school office and may be returned in the same way, but sometimes are sent home in school bags.

Lost Property

- Please ask/ring school reception to see if the missing item has been handed in.
- Lost uniform/kit will eventually find its way to the second-hand uniform shop where they will message you via Classlist and let you know where it is to be collected, that can only happen if uniform is named.
- Items with no names on end up in Lost Property, or unnamed items not collected by the end of the term will be sold in the second-hand uniform shop or donated to charity.

Food

- Pupils are on a rota at lunchtime and receive a hot meal or a sandwich bag of their choice.
- A snack bar and vending machine operate at first break in the dining hall.
- We recommend they bring a water bottle with them for refilling during the day.

Miscellaneous

- Sports team selection. If your child is representing the school in a Sports match, they may miss the afternoon school bus, so will need to be collected. It is important that parents check the scheduled timings.
- If your child won't be taking the evening bus, please email the school office on buses@ola.org.uk or call school.
- If you wish to take a child out for an appointment, they must be collected and signed out by you at the main school reception.
- Extra-curricular lessons, eg LAMDA and instrumental lessons, are timetabled. As the teacher in question may only be in school on one or two days a week your child may have to miss academic lessons on a rota.
- School Parking: parents are not permitted to use parking on site. Parents should use Barton Field to collect their children. For those parents collecting children from Lower School, it is not permitted to use the Lower School on-site parking. We ask parents to be considerate to our neighbours if parking roadside. Access to surrounding houses must not be blocked during drop-off and pick-up.

Useful links

[Parent FAQs](#)

[Teaching/Staff Contact Details](#)

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