

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 1st December 2023

A MESSAGE FROM MR GILHOOLY

Dear parents/carers and friends of the school,

Today is the first day of Advent, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Jesus. The word comes from the Latin term adventus, which means "arrival" or "coming." In school we start by focussing on hope, which is so much more than wishful thinking. Hope holds us firm and keeps us trusting and looking forward, no matter how dark the world seems to be. We will all be looking forward to Christmas and we have lots of events planned over the coming weeks to help us prepare.

Yesterday Key Stage 2 were visited by Brian Beresford - an author, poet, musician and former Headteacher. Brian enthused our children's minds with ideas for stories to write about - I am sure they will share ideas with you at home. You can purchase Brian's books directly from him for a signed copy (see details below)! I highly recommend!

The winter weather is certainly settling in. Please do take care when walking to school and around Otley - I have had a few Torvill and Dean moments already!

I hope you all have a fantastic weekend.

Best regards and God bless,

Mr Gilhooly



DATES FOR THE DIARY

December 2023

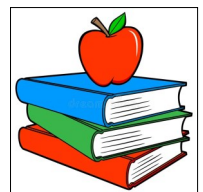
6th – YR/Y6 Vision, Height and Weight
6th - Y2/Y4 Christmas Tree Festival
7th – Y6 Confirmation
7th - YR/Y6 Christmas Tree Festival
8th – FOSJ Family Bingo Night
8th – Y3 Assembly
8th - Y1/Y3/Y5 Christmas Tree Festival
14th – Christmas Dinner
14th – Flu Immunisations
15th – Music Assembly
16th – FOSJ Christmas Fayre
17th - Christmas Carol Concert
20th – YR, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Productions
21st – Christmas Party Day
22nd – Whole School Mass

READING HELPERS - WE NEED YOU!

We are looking for a group of volunteers to listen to children read on a 1:1 basis and in small groups.



Who can help? Parents or relatives of pupils; including mums, dads and grandparents.



What do I do if I want to help in

School? Send an email to Miss Wilkinson in the first instance. Tell us what you can offer the school and the time you are willing to commit.

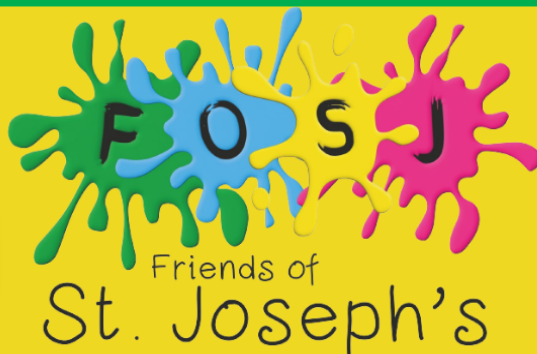
If we can make use of your skills you will be invited to have an enhanced DBS check carried out if appropriate.

Please note that these checks cost the school a considerable amount of money and so we must be sure that you will be able to commit time regularly. Thank you.





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FAMILY BINGO

£3.00 ENTRY

WHICH INCLUDES.....

6 GAMES OF BINGO!

18 PRIZES

TO BE WON!!!!

FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER

DOORS OPEN 6.00PM



10

HOT DOGS AND TUCK SHOP INCLUDING SOFT
DRINKS. B.Y.O ALCOHOL

[HTTPS://ST-JOSEPH-S-
CATHOLIC-PRIMARY-SCHOOL-
OTLEY.SUMUPSTORE.COM/PROD
UCT/FAMILY-BINGO-EVENING-
FRIDAY-8-DECEMBER](https://st-joseph-s-catholic-primary-school-otley.sumupstore.com/product/family-bingo-evening-friday-8-december)

**BUY YOUR
TICKETS HERE!!**



SCHOOL INFORMATION

AUTHOR VISIT - BRIAN BERESFORD

On Thursday, we received a visit from Brian Beresford! He read an extract from his new book, The Midnight Grocer, and taught us a song to remind us of the story. Brian was a fantastic piano player and all the children enjoyed singing along. The book tells the story of Chaaya and her football-mad brother Jaden who are totally unaware that an incredible experience is about to transform their entire summer holiday. The book is available to purchase from school for just £7.99 or other retailers.



AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

From Monday 4th December, children should be collected from school-led after school clubs via the main office as the back path continues to get dark at an earlier time.

Please be patient when collecting as lighting is limited and staff will need to ensure that children are handed over safely. Thank you.



REVERSE ADVENT APPEAL

As a school, we would like to participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal on **Monday 4th December**.

The idea is that each child will donate a **non-perishable item of food for a hamper and a new toy**, so that we can create a magnificent hamper and give a selection of new toys to those in need. Thank you!



FRIENDS OF ST JOSEPHS

FOSJ FAMILY BINGO EVENING



Last few tickets available!!

Friday 8th December! Just £3 per person for entry and tickets for 6 games of Bingo!! All adults and children welcome!

Message from the FOSJ Uniform Exchange

If anyone has any uniform donations please could you pop them in the green bin or hand them into the office by Wednesday 6th December so they can be sorted ready for the Christmas Fayre.

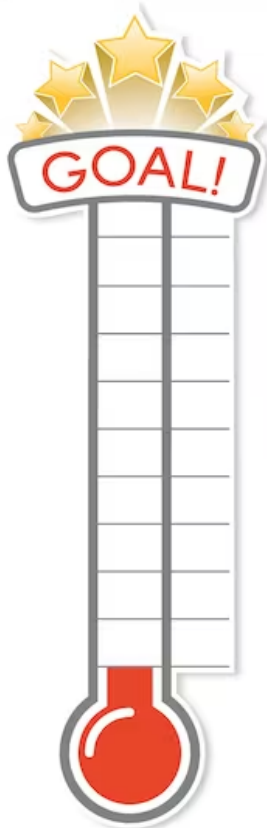


Sponsored by

CHEVIN VIEW LAUNDRY



Many thanks to Bondgate Bakery for the donation of this lovely Christmas Cake! If you fancy getting your hands on it then make sure you head down to the FOSJ Christmas Fayre on 16th December.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

HALF-PRICE SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

This year, we are excited to be hosting a **HALF-PRICE** Scholastic Book Fair in the lead up to Christmas. Children will be invited to peruse the books during the school day and books will be available to purchase in the school hall on the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th of December between 3.15pm - 3.30pm.

On Tuesday 5th December at 9am, we will host a parent-only shopping opportunity. Not only is this a great opportunity to purchase some high quality books for Christmas presents, but you'll also be supporting the school as we get money towards purchasing new books for school for every book purchased from our book fair. Books available from just £1.50!

Reading Breakfast

On Tuesday 5th December, we welcome you to join us early to enjoy a reading breakfast with your child. You will be welcomed in to school from 8:15—8.40am to enjoy a light breakfast and a drink for a small donation.

Competition

We will also be holding a competition. It is free to enter and your child could be in with the chance of winning a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair. We will be giving raffle tickets to children for reading during w/c 27th November. Please complete your child's reading record when they have read each day. Children can have up to 5 chances to win, and there are 5 vouchers available!

For details of the books that will be available for purchase at the book fair, please click the [link](#).



LITTLE JO'S PRE-SCHOOL PLAY SESSIONS

We are delighted to invite you and your child (babies and toddlers welcome) to come along to our **FREE** Pre-School Play sessions.

All welcome! Please spread the word to friends and family.

To book on to a session, please contact our school office on 01943 463840 or email office@stjosephsotley.org

16th November
23rd November
30th November
7th December
14th December
9.15am - 10.30am



SPORT

Cross Country - Well done to all the children who took part in the cross country event in Otley on Saturday morning. It was a very cold and frosty morning but the children all did brilliantly. Thank you to all the grown ups for their support and to Miss Chappel for helping out. The next race is on Saturday 9th December at Leeds Grammar School in the afternoon. A form has been emailed to KS2 children.

KS2 Girls Football Matches - Good luck to the girls who will be playing some matches on Monday after school at Priesthorpe Secondary School.

REMINDERS

.IMPORTANT: Children **MUST** bring a water bottle to school each day as school does not have any spare

.No nuts allowed

.All children need to bring a coat to school with them. During winter weather, we advise children bring a spare pair of socks and/or shoes.

.Hair must be tied back

.Jewellery should not be worn, especially on P.E days

.Children **MUST** wear the correct P.E Uniform. In particular, sports leggings are not allowed.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God,
May you fill us with hope and with joy and peace as we trust in you.

May we be overflowed with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are your humble servants, and we pray for hope. We need hope for a better future and for love and kindness. We need your light Lord, in every way. We pray to be filled with your light.

Help us to walk in your light and live a life in faith and glory. In your name we pray,
Amen.

OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH

MASS TIMES

Saturday Morning: 10am

Saturday Evening Vigil: 6:30pm

Sunday Morning: 9:30am & 11:15am

For updates, please check the weekly bulletin for up-to-date Mass times.

<http://www.olasotley.org/bulletin.html>



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

This morning, Year 2 led our whole school assembly telling us all about Advent. They told us all about the symbols that are used and how we can get ready for Christmas. Father Nicholas very kindly blessed our Advent Wreaths which were lovingly made by Miss Walker - thank you!

We finished thinking about our virtue of hope by having a meditation on the theme and our Key Stage Two children led a worship with this theme for other schools in the Trust. Next week, our new virtue will be patience.

On Tuesday, the children thought about the statement: Simple things can make us happy. The children reflected on what we mean by simple things and suggested which simple things make them happy. Some of their ideas were: hugs, playing with friends, seeing different colours and their pets. We listened to a reading from the book of Ecclesiastes which says, "There is always something you can find to be happy about."

TRAVELLING CRIBS

During Advent, the children will be bringing home travelling cribs to share with their families. Please take time to share these with your children and reflect on the Christmas story - thank you!

CONFIRMATION

Please keep our Confirmation candidates in your prayers this week, as they shall be receiving this sacrament on Thursday 7th December at Trinity University. We pray that they enjoy this special occasion and are filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit as they continue on their faith journey

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

On behalf of the children's liturgy group - Our Lady and All Saints, Otley

If your KS1 or KS2 child would like to take part in our Christmas Eve Mass please contact Denise Emmett (07854 969701) before 1st December.

We are looking for confident readers to be narrators and children to sing perform the parts of the nativity story with some speaking parts.

There will be a practice straight after school in Church on 22nd December.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK



Happy St Andrew's Day to all of our Scottish families and friends.

Loving God,
We think of Andrew, called first among your disciples,
Leaving his nets to follow Jesus, leaving his life behind to answer your call,
We thank you for Andrew, an example to all who follow you.
Trusting in your promise, trusting in a better life with you.
Help us to be like Saint Andrew and trust in you.
Amen.

CLASS PAGES

YEAR R NEWS

It has been another very busy week in Reception. Our nativity rehearsals are now in full swing, and the children are doing a super job at learning their lines and songs. Please keep practising at home. They are very excited for their performance in 3 weeks!

In Drawing Club, we have been reading the story of 'The Christmas Pine' by Julia Donaldson. We drew super pictures of the Christmas tree, the forest and even thought a way to transport the tree from Norway. The children are making great progress with their writing and wrote some super words and sentences.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about the numbers 4 and 5. We have looked at more than and less than and the composition of each number. We introduced the concept of the part- whole model. We encouraged the children to say what they could see e.g. 2 is a part, 2 is a part and 4 is the whole number.

In RE, we learnt about the importance of Advent. We enjoyed looking at the Advent wreath and learnt about what each candle represents. We then wrote an Advent promise.

YEAR 1 NEWS

In English, we have started looking at our new book which is called "Coming Home" by Michael Morpurgo. The children have made predictions about what the book will be about by looking at the front cover and the key words from the blurb. The children then used adjectives to describe the appearance of the main character which is a robin.

There has been a robin theme in Year 1 this week as we have also made our Christmas decorations for the school Christmas tree which are robins.

In Maths, the children have applied their addition skills to different word problems. We have also started to look at subtraction - linking it to part whole models.

Following on from our walk around Otley last Tuesday, in our topic work, we looked at pictures of different types of house in Otley and talked about the features of a house that we can see from the outside.

In RE, we have started to think about Advent. The children were excited to talk about their Advent Calendars and we learnt that we can get ready for Christmas by making Advent promises to help other people. The grown ups at home will be pleased to know that lots of the children have promised to keep their bedrooms tidy and to help do jobs around the home! On Thursday, the children learned about the symbols of the Advent wreath and made their own replica.

YEAR 2 NEWS

As part of our RE work, we have been learning about the meaning of the Advent wreath. we learnt about the meaning of each candle and why we use evergreen leaves in a circular shape. We then thought very carefully about the Advent promises we would like to make.

In Maths, we have continued to develop our addition skills. We have been working hard and have learnt how to make an exchange when we are adding two 2-digit numbers. We are getting good at using the base ten to support us with this and drawing our workings on a place value frame.

In English, we have been retelling the story 'Winter's Child'. We created a story map to help us remember the key points, then used our amazing vocabulary to help us make our retelling interesting for the reader. Everybody worked extremely hard, and Mrs Holmes is very impressed with everybody's work!

In Geography, we have been learning about physical and human features. We looked at some photos of Otley to find these features locally. We then learnt about the physical features that we would find in the Arctic Circle. We found out about glaciers, icebergs, mountains and rivers.

YEAR 3 NEWS

In English, Year 3 analysed features of an information text. We then developed simple facts about rats into multi-clause sentences with conjunctions and fronted adverbials, and used these to write their own reports about rats.

In RE, we began to learn about the symbols of Advent. We wrote Advent promises before creating our own paper Advent wreaths and learning about the different meanings.

In Maths, the children continued to practise the formal column method for addition and subtraction. They used different concrete resources to show how ones and tens are exchanged and solved word problems using the formal method.

In Geography, we used maps of Otley to find physical and human features. We discussed how areas can be more urban or rural, and compared the Yorkshire Dales National Park to the centre of Otley.

In DT, we designed and created a story book with moving parts! We used different methods of creating mechanisms with paper to make our story books more exciting.

YEAR 4 NEWS

We've had wonderfully festive week in Year 4! On Monday, we spent the day Christmas crafting by making some beautiful Christmas stocking decorations. The children started the day practising a variety of different stitches and decorating techniques before cutting out the template for their decorations and adding their designs. By the end of the day, everyone had completed some fantastic decorations!

In Maths, the children continued their work on multiplication, exploring links between the 3, 6 and 9 times-tables to deepen their understanding and embed fluency with these times-tables. Later in the week, the children used their knowledge of multiples and count in 7s to make the link between repeated addition and multiplication.

In English, we continued reading our class novel 'The Iron Man'. Looking more closely at the novel, the children discussed the author's use of language and made predictions as to what might happen next in the book.

In RE, we have been reflecting on the special job God asked of Mary. We wrote fact files about Mary and linked her story to that of her cousin Elizabeth.

YEAR 5 NEWS

In Maths, we have started our new topic of fractions. We recapped what a unit fraction and a non-unit fraction were, as well as what the numerator and denominator mean within a fraction. We then looked at how you can find an equivalent fraction to unit and non-unit fractions. We used our times-tables knowledge and recognised that you find an equivalent fraction by multiplying your numerator and denominator by the same number.

In DT, the children were constructing different beams that had different cross sections. We discussed the importance of beams when constructing a bridge and how differently shaped beams can be stronger than others. The children are excited to be testing their beams next week and seeing which ones are the strongest.

As part of our Christmas crafting, the children have been incredibly busy creating their Christmas baubles. We have used many different skills when cross-stitching our Christmas puddings such as intricacy, patience and perseverance. The children have amazed me with how fantastic their sewing skills are and we can't wait for everyone to see them when they are on the tree.

YEAR 6 NEWS

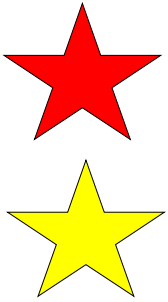
In English, we started reading Anne Frank's diary. We learned that her favourite present was her diary which she named Kitty. As we were reading the diary, we discussed how Anne was feeling and added it to the axis of emotions grid.

In Maths, we used paper strips to compare fractions of the same numerators. Using these, we were able to see that when the numerators are the same, the smaller the number the greater the fraction. This really helped us when we answered reasoning question.

In RE, we thought of questions we would ask God about the refugee crisis in England. With our questions, we took part in a hot-seating exercise and considered what God's response would be.

During our DT lessons, we discussed what textiles were, where cotton is from and where it is grown. We designed our Christmas decoration, using templates to cut out the felt and sewed the design on to our felt. Some of us have started to join our two parts of felt with blanket stitch. We can't wait to put them on the tree next week!

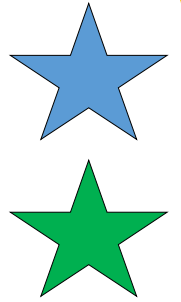
HOUSE OF THE WEEK



WELL DONE TO

EVERYONE

FOR EARNING HOUSE POINTS THIS WEEK



SUNSHINE AWARD

SEB (YR), DAISY (Y1), MAISY (Y2), BEATRICE (Y3),
KRISTIAN (Y4), ALICE (Y5), ARCHIE (Y6)



RE AWARD

LEO (YR), PENELOPE (Y1), DAISY (Y2), AVA (Y3),
ISAAC (Y4), BONNIE (Y5), IYLA (Y6)



VIRTUE AWARD

ESME (YR), ESME (Y1), ORLA (Y2), EVIE (Y3),
JOEY (Y4), LOUIS (Y5), HARRY (Y6)



HEADTEACHER AWARD

JAMES (Y1)



An Intercession to St Joseph

Dear St Joseph

Help us to love and care

To be gentle and fair

Help us to work and play together

Help us to live and grow together

To be always glad to help each other

Happy in your loving care

Amen

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- ★ THURSDAY 14 SEPTEMBER - PARENT MEET AND GREET & AGM
- ★ WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER - CAKE SALE
- ★ FRIDAY 8 DECEMBER- FAMILY BINGO NIGHT
- ★ SATURDAY 16 DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS FAYRE
- ★ FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY - SILENT DISCO
- ★ FRIDAY 2 FEBRUARY - RAINBOW RAFFLE
- ★ FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY- COCKTAIL MAKING EVENING
- ★ FRIDAY 8 MARCH - MOTHER'S DAY
- ★ FRIDAY 26 APRIL - QUIZ NIGHT
- ★ FRIDAY 17 MAY- GOLDEN TICKET EVENT
- ★ FRIDAY 14 JUNE- FATHER'S DAY
- ★ FRIDAY 28 JUNE - CAMPING TRIP

OTLEY PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

**JOIN US FOR FRIENDLY AND INFORMAL
SUPPORT, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

EVERY TUESDAY (TERM-TIME)

9.30-11.00 am

The Core, Orchard Street,
Otley, [LS21 3NX](https://www.princehenrys.co.uk)

Tea and coffee available
Parents and carers of school aged children very welcome

**For more information contact Lisa on:
07510079959/mnl@princehenrys.co.uk**



8 Week
Course

SWIM LESSONS

SWIM, SPLASH, LEARN

Prince Henry's Grammar School, LS21

EVERY FRIDAY

Lessons start January 2024

Facebook Page - Swim Splash Learn Swim School

SIGN UP TODAY

Swimsplashlearn@gmail.com 07734 424531