

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 3rd December 2021

A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

Hi everyone,

It was lovely to see so many children dressed in the colours to represent our NHS heroes who have helped save many lives and provided comfort to the sick during the current pandemic. They have selflessly given themselves to care for others. In our collective worship today, we thought about how we could be like St Andrew who left his home and family to follow in Jesus' footsteps. Thank you to our NHS heroes who have followed in Jesus' footsteps by putting others before themselves.

All classes have been busy making Christmas decorations. I can't wait to see the tree when all the children have hung up their decorations – it will look amazing. Thank you to Mr Ed who put the tree up and added the lights. YR and Y1 and Y2 have been busy rehearsing their Christmas performance. It has been lovely listening to the singing when I am working in my office. There is definitely a Christmassy feel in school!

Covid cases – the number of cases in school is now falling. Thank you to the parents for their quick responses by keeping children at home and booking PCR tests. However, if in doubt, to protect others, do a lateral flow and book a PCR.

Mask wearing – I hear some parents have queried about the decision to wear masks in the playground. To keep staff and others as safe as we can, masks must be worn (unless exempt) when collecting children from the playground. We have vulnerable staff in school and some staff have vulnerable children/adults they care for at home. I am primary carer for my elderly mother of 88 so I need to take as many precautions as I can. Thank you to the parents/carers/family members who have worn masks – it is much appreciated.

Voluntary Contributions

I would like to thank the families who have already contribute to school through the Voluntary Contributions Scheme. This is very important source of income for the school. They help us to provide those 'extras' which our grant allocation from the DfE do not cover e.g. additional PE equipment/ playtime resources/ IT equipment etc.

Thanks to the families who have contributed. Last week I placed an IT order for school:

- 80 iPads
- 80 tough cases
- 8 mini iPads
- 6 iPad storage stations
- 8 flip cases
- 30 laptops
- 32 laptop charging trolley
- 8 digital cameras

Total was over £40,000. Part of the money was allocated in the school budget; however, we have used £26,000 of the voluntary contributions from parents so we can provide the best IT provision for the children - thank you very much. Next year I would like 30 more laptops. These contributions make a huge difference to the resources we can buy to support the curriculum. Many families contribute to the voluntary contribution scheme by monthly direct debit of £5, £10 or £15 per family. **Any contribution, however big or small, will be gratefully received - please see attached letter on how to sign up.**

Have a wonderful weekend; have fun and enjoy time together.

From all the staff - be safe; be kind and be happy. God Bless

KEY INFORMATION

DATES FOR THE DIARY

December

Please note, for all indoor school activities, adults must wear a mask unless they are medically exempt.

2nd - 9th - Scholastic Book Fair	11th - LSAA Cross Country League
6th - Sponsored Reindeer Run	14th - Y1 and Y2 Nativity at 1.30pm - Year 1 Showing
8th - Reading Breakfast in the Hall at 8.15am.	15th - Y1 and Y2 Nativity at 10.30am - Year 2 Showing
8th - Year Rec Parents Welcome Service at 9am	15th - Reception Nativity at 1.30pm
9th - Christmas Dinner Day and Jumper Day	16th - KS1 and KS2 Christmas Parties
10th - Y4 Assembly via Zoom	17th - Whole School Mass
	END OF TERM

999 HEROES CENOTAPH APPEAL

Thank you to all those who wore the colours of the emergency services and donated £1 today.

We raised over £100 for the appeal!

We are so proud of all our emergency workers in the UK, in particular our parents who are 999 Heroes!



BOOK FAIRS - 8TH AND 9TH DECEMBER

Children will be invited to peruse the books during the school day, which will then be available for parents to purchase with their children after school in the School Hall **on the 8th and 9th of December between 3.15pm - 3.30pm**. Alternatively, you will receive a link so you can look together/order online too.



Reading Breakfast

On **Wednesday 8th 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 and to take the opportunity to visit the school library or the book fair.



FOSJ UPDATE

There is still time to join the raffle - BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
<https://www.bigptaraffle.co.uk/support/st-josephs-catholic-primary-school-otley-ls21>

CAN YOU HELP MISS HULBERT?

This Christmas, Miss Hulbert and her daughter are spending Christmas Eve and Christmas Day cooking and serving Christmas dinners to elderly people in Wetherby and Bramham, who would otherwise be isolated and be spending Christmas Day on their own. Everyone attending will receive a Christmas dinner, drinks and a hamper.

If you are able to donate any of the following to support the event, please bring to the school office or Miss Hulbert. Please bring to school by Friday 17th December.

- Small Christmas Food Gift or Toiletries Gift Set

Thank you very much for any donations and support.





CHRISTMAS DATES FOR THE DIARY



Please note that these events are subject to change and we will keep you updated as the weeks go on.

Thursday 9th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Tuesday 14th December - 1.30pm	Year 1 and Year 2 Performance
Wednesday 15th December - 9.00am	Year 1 and Year 2 Performance
Wednesday 15th December - 1.30pm	Year Reception Performance
Thursday 16th December	Christmas Party Day
Thursday 16th December	School Disco
Friday 17th December	Whole School Mass @ 1:30pm

REINDEER RUN - MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER



On Monday 6th December, we will take part in a sponsored Reindeer Run for Sue Ryder's Wheatfields Hospice in Leeds. Children can run or walk the course, and all children will receive a participation certificate.

Your child should come to school in PE Kit, but with something festive to wear on their head e.g. reindeer antlers, santa's hat, tinsel etc. Please send a pair of trainers that you don't mind getting dirty as the weather is rather unpredictable!



YEAR REC AND KS1 NATIVITY PERFORMANCES

Reception present... "Wriggly Nativity"

On Wednesday 15th December at 1:30pm in the School Hall

Year 1 & Year 2 present... "A Miracle in Town!"

Year 1 Parent Performance on Tuesday 14th December at 1:30pm in the School Hall

Year 2 Parent Performance on Wednesday 15th December at 9.00am in the School Hall



Adults must wear a mask at all times unless they are medically exempt

CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY - THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER

On Thursday 16th December, children will have a whole school party in the hall. This cannot happen without the help of our fabulous parent volunteers! If you are able to help, please contact Miss Wilkinson as soon as possible.



In order to facilitate this, we ask for parents and carers to contribute to the food for this event. If you are unsure, please speak to your child's class teacher.

SCHOOL DISCO - THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2021

DISCO TIMES : REC & KS1 3.30PM – 4.30PM. KS2 4.40PM – 5.40PM

The disco will run in two parts; Reception and KS1 together followed by a KS2 disco.



A £3.00 charge is payable on entry to the disco: KS1 children should have this in a sealed, labelled envelope to prevent it being lost. Their class teacher will collect the money from them on the morning of the disco. The £3.00 charge will include entry, a drink, a bag of crisps, a bag of sweets and a glow stick.

- When parents collect their YRec and KS1 children please ensure that you "check out" with the staff on the desk.
- At the start of the KS2 disco, children should come to the main entrance and "check in" with staff and pay at this time
- When you collect your KS2 child, please ensure that they "check out" with the staff on the desk.

PLEASE NOTE KS2 CHILDREN MAY NOT ATTEND THE KS1 DISCO AND SIMILARLY KS1 CHILDREN MAY NOT STAY FOR THE KS2 DISCO

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

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.

OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH

MASS TIMES

Due to Covid-19 Restrictions, Mass times have
changed for Our Lady and All Saints Otley.

Please see bulletin for changes to Mass times

[Click here](#)

Please book a place for Saturday evening or Sunday
morning Mass - [book here](#)

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our Year 6 children who made their Confirmation on Saturday morning. It was a very special occasion seeing all the children together and they participated in the Mass beautifully. A big "Thank you" to Father Lawrie, Mrs Russell, Miss Choma, Paul the organist and Rita from the parish for supporting the children.



On Sunday morning, we will be having the "Going Forth" Mass for the children which will take place in Church at 9:30am. If possible, Confirmation children are asked to bring donations of non-perishable food for the SVP collection, thank you.

CAFOD ASSEMBLY

On Thursday, the school watched the national CAFOD Advent assembly which reflected on the past year. The theme was "Light of the World" and it started with a quote from John's Gospel, "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome this." John 1:5. The assembly then focused on what is important at Christmas. It said that Christmas was about bringing hope, sharing joy and spreading peace and love.



ST ANDREW'S FEAST DAY

In our Collective Worship this morning, we thought about Saint Andrew's Feast Day which is celebrated on 30th November. Saint Andrew became the Patron Saint of Scotland in 1370AD. During the Collective Worship, we found out about Saint Andrew's life and we thought of ways that we can follow Jesus like he did. We hope all of our Scottish friends and families enjoyed their special Feast Day.



VIRTUE

Our new virtue this week was patience. Between now and Christmas we will be encouraging our children to:

- wait.

- to use strategies to keep themselves calm.

-to do something now that will help themselves in the future.

-to accept things they cannot change with humour and grace.

-to be patient with themselves when they make mistakes.

-to be patient with others when they make mistakes.

St Francis de Sales said, "Be patient with everyone, but above all be patient with yourself. I mean, do not be disheartened by your faults, but instantly set about remedying them – every day begin the task anew."

ADVENT APPEAL

A MASSIVE "THANK YOU" for all of your generous toy donations today, we were once again overwhelmed with your generosity. There were over 200 new toys donated which will make lots of underprivileged children very happy. Steve from the Parish SVP group came to collect some of the toys this afternoon so that they can be distributed to children living in poverty in Leeds tomorrow. The rest will be donated to Catholic Care so that they can be given to families who otherwise would not be able to afford toys. Thank you also for all of the food donations. The Mini Vinnies, next week, will create food hampers using all of the donations.



CLASS NEWS



YEAR R NEWS

In Literacy, we have been busy learning the story of the First Christmas. We labelled each picture using our phonic knowledge. We have also completed our letters to Santa. We hope to get a reply soon!

In Maths, we have continued our focus on developing a deep understanding of the numbers 4 and 5. We have also been learning about time. We sequenced every day events and thought about the times of day that we do each activity.

In RE, we have continued to focus on Advent and the importance of the Advent Wreath.

We have had great fun doing lots of Christmas crafts this week. We made a card, calendar and a Christmas tree decoration.

On Friday, we enjoyed wearing red, blue, green and orange as we celebrated the work of our emergency services for 999 Heroes Cenotaph Appeal. We learnt about the work of the Air Ambulance.

A polite reminder that nativity costumes should be in school by Monday 6th December. The children have been working really hard and can't wait to share their nativity with an audience.



YEAR 1 NEWS

It has been such a busy week in Y1 and we have definitely started preparing for Christmas with performance rehearsals, Christmas craft making, Christmas letter writing and Christmas dancing and exercising in our PE lesson.

In English, we listened to the story of *Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present*. On Christmas Eve, Father Christmas has had a long night of delivering presents and his one, last present to deliver becomes a major challenge. We used actions and story mapping to help us orally rehearse a sentence and write it.

In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction as finding the difference. We have been comparing two numbers and using lots of practical resources to help us.

In Topic, we have been learning about the animals that live in polar and desert regions. We know that the polar regions are at the North and South Pole and that the warmer areas and rain forests are located nearer to the equator.

We have had so much fun this week in Art and DT- painting, applying, gluing and crafting. Lots of sequins, metallic paint, pop-poms and pipe cleaners. We're looking forward to sharing our creations with you.



YEAR 2 NEWS

In English, we have been extremely busy writing a recount of 'Winter's Child'. We all worked hard to remember to use the correct punctuation. To help us with this, we used a green pencil for capital letters and a red pencil for full stops. This really made us think about our punctuation very carefully. Everybody worked hard to include lots of adjectives too.

In Maths, we have been practising subtracting two 2-digit numbers (crossing 10). We have continued to use our base ten to support us with this and to help develop our understanding of exchanging 1 ten for 10 ones.

In RE, (insert)

As part of our Design and Technology work, we designed our chairs for baby bear. We thought about all the different features we could include and how to make our chairs strong and stable. We then went on to make our chairs. We learnt how to attach our cylindrical legs to our seats and make a backrest for the chair. We all worked hard and helped each other to create our chairs. We are now thinking about extra features such as arm rests and leg supports.



YEAR 3 NEWS

This week in English, the class had lots of fun using drama to re-enact a picture from the story 'The First Drawing' using freeze-frames to show the expressions and body language of the characters. They were a very good 'copy' of the picture! We then talked about different synonyms to show emotions in our writing.



In Maths, we explored different ways to sort numbers into equal groups to help with our multiplication. We are learning new multiplication vocabulary and have investigated factors, products and prime numbers.

In Science, we have been learning more about soil and what it is made up of. Did you know that 47% of soil is minerals from broken down rock? We put on our plastic gloves and explored soil samples dug up from the school grounds. We found a mixture of living and dead things in the soil including worms, living plant roots and a lot of dead and decaying matter. We also found bits of man-made materials such as plastic and processed wood.

YEAR 4 NEWS

In English, we have planned and written our own essays to conclude our History topics on Roman Britain. The children researched Roman achievements and the Celts' reactions to the Romans, and used this to create a balanced essay. We have also finished 'The Firework-Maker's Daughter' in our Guided Reading, so will be writing a review of it next week.

In Maths, we have finished Length and Perimeter. The children calculated the perimeter of different rectangles and rectilinear shapes, as well as drawing shapes with a given perimeter. Our new topic is Multiplication and Division.

In RE, we reflected on the meaning of Advent and how we prepare for Christmas. The children created Advent angels and Advent calendars to highlight some of the ways they are preparing for Jesus' birthday.



As part of Christmas Craft week, the children also created landscapes using watercolours and wax crayon, and sewed miniature Christmas trees to decorate our Christmas tree in the hall.

YEAR 5 NEWS

On Monday in Year 5, we conducted an experiment to test which materials were good thermal conductors and which materials were good thermal insulators. Each child was given some warm water and then chose which material to wrap around their cup. We then placed the cups outside and measured the water's temperatures at different intervals which the children thoroughly enjoyed doing. Whilst outside, the children were curious what the temperature of the snow would be, so we measured its temperature, and it was 0 degrees.

In English this week, we have had a go at writing our own newspaper reports about the snow at the weekend. We made up headlines and interviewed our friends to get quotes for our articles. This week in English, we have also been learning about singular and plural apostrophes which are really tricky!!!

Factors, Square numbers and prime numbers have been our focus in Maths this week. The children have used counters and hundred squares to help them identify different types of numbers.

Of course, we have also been busy with our Christmas crafts. We have used beads, pipe cleaners and bells to make decorations; water colour paints to make our cards and ink to make our calendars.



YEAR 6 NEWS

In Maths, we have begun our new topic of fractions. We looked at equivalent fractions and how we can simplify them to the simplest form. We also converted fractions from improper fractions to mixed numbers.

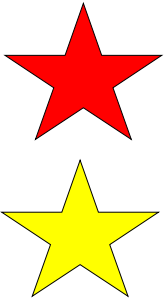
In English, we have analysed balanced arguments for their features. We read one about whether video games were good for children, and the children had lots of strong viewpoints on this which will help for next week's debate before we write our own.

In Art, we created pieces of poppy art by removing strips of an existing piece of artwork and using pencils and watercolours to fill in the spaces. They were very effective and Miss Choma was very impressed with the quality of work.

On Friday, we had a day full of crafts to create our Christmas bauble. We reviewed previously made ones and designed our own earlier in the week. We showed tremendous resilience and perseverance sewing on buttons and completing different types of stitches during the process of making our own bauble.

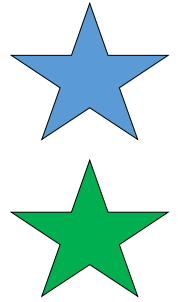


HOUSE OF THE WEEK



WELL DONE TO

WHITBY



FOR EARNING THE MOST HOUSE POINTS THIS WEEK

SUNSHINE AWARD

MAISY (YR), HARRIET (Y1), JOSEPH H (Y2),
MILLIE S (Y3), JACOB (Y4), LOGAN (Y5), MATTHIEU (Y6)

ENGLISH AWARD

OTTILIE (YR), JACK (Y1), JOSEPH C (Y2),
IAN (Y3), MOLLY (Y4), MIKEY (Y5), VUYO (Y6)

SPORT

Upcoming Events:

Saturday 11th December - LSAA Cross Country

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Week Commencing
22.11.21 - 26.11.21

No of Lates	
Rec	0
Y1	2
Y2	0
Y3	2
Y4	1
Y5	2
Y6	2

% Attendance	
Rec	
Y1	
Y2	
Y3	
Y4	
Y5	
Y6	



Attendance Matters

