

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th December 2023

A MESSAGE FROM MR GILHOOLY

Dear parents/carer and friends of the school,

I would like to start by congratulating our children who made their Confirmation yesterday at Leeds Trinity University. They did us all proud! The service consisted of four parishes: Our Lady and All Saints, Ss Peter and Pauls, Sacred Heart and Ss John Fisher and Thomas More. A huge thanks goes to our very own Mrs Harvey, who organised the service for the parishes - thank you!

Children across school have been busy attending Christmas events this week. We had our first Christmas Tree Liturgy on Monday and was joined by Father Nicholas. Each class has also attended the Christmas Tree service in Otley. We are all feeling the Christmas spirit!

On Thursday next week is our Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day. I will have to send the Christmas suit to the dry cleaners in preparation - we cannot wait!

We do hope you all have a fantastic weekend, full of Christmas movies and quality family time.

Best regards,

Mr G and the team.



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



DATES FOR THE DIARY

December 2023

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

DATES FOR THE 2024 DIARY

12th January - Non-Uniform Day
2nd February - FOSJ Rainbow Raffle
2nd February - FOSJ Disco
9th February - FOSJ Cocktail Making



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.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

WELL DONE ST MARY'S MENSTON

Some of you may have seen that St Mary's Menston has been named among the UK's highest-ranking achieving secondary schools in the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide.

Helen Davies, editor of Parent Power, states, 'The guide showcases academic excellence....this year Parent Power includes details on extracurricular clubs and wellbeing initiatives...'. Schools are ranked academically by performance at A level and GCSE in summer 2023.

St Mary's is listed as 8th out of hundreds of secondary schools in the 'Top State Secondary Schools in the North' of the country category. St Mary's is also listed as 5th in the 'Top Comprehensive Schools' in the North. They are ranked higher than local secondary schools in our geographical area.

We are obviously delighted for our BWCAT staff and students that their hard work has been recognised in this way, along with the high ranking achieved in the DFE School Performance Tables. The hard work and constant strive for excellence which started at primary school and continued into secondary school opens up life chances and allows our BWCAT students to flourish which is wonderful.



MULTI-ACTIVITY & LEGO WORKSHOP

Inspiration Tree are offering Multi-Activity courses and LEGO workshop at our school on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th January 2024.

The courses are £18 per day from 9am-3pm. There is an option for an extended day, if required. Please look at the attached flyer for further information.

To make a booking, please go to www.inspiration-tree.com.



POPPY APPEAL



We raised an amazing **£314.32** for the Poppy Appeal. Your poppy supports the armed forces community past and present.

Thank you to everybody who purchased a poppy, slap band, reflector or zip pull. Thank you to Y6 for leading the appeal. To find out more about how your donation helps, visit www.rbl.org.uk

SPORT

Cross Country - Unfortunately, due to poor weather, the Cross Country that was due to take place on Saturday 9th December has been cancelled. The next races will take place in Spring 2024.

Football – Unfortunately, due to poor weather, the football matches that were due to take place on Monday were cancelled. We are hoping to rearrange the matches in the New Year.

Y3 Gymnastics Festival - Good luck to all of Y3 who are taking part in the inter-school Gymnastics Festival on Tuesday 11th December at Prince Henry's Grammar School. Children will need to wear their PE kit, and bring a water bottle and their coat. If you are able to help walk, please email office@stjosephsotley.org. We will be leaving at 10.30am. Thank you.



ST JOSEPH'S MOSAIC

This week, we were joined by Amanda from Discover and Create. She has collated everyone's mosaic designs and brought them to life in our whole school mosaic. Each child in the school has participated in the making of the mosaic and have thoroughly enjoyed it. One Y5 pupil saying, 'Mr G, this is epic!' The mosaic will be ready to display outside of our library on Monday afternoon - so please do come and see it!



SCHOOL INFORMATION

OTLEY CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Throughout the week, all of our children attended the wonderful Otley Christmas Tree Festival at Otley Parish Church. The annual festival hosts 40 different trees decorated by local community groups and charities to raise important funds.

The children performed a number of Christmas carols and songs to a welcoming audience. The children looked at the different trees and thought about which charity was important to them or their family. Each child was given a coin to make a donation to a charity.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped walk to the festival, and to those families who came to watch the singing.

For more information, <https://www.facebook.com/otleychristmastreefestival/>



HUG ON A TRAY - VISIT SANTA

You can visit Santa at local charity, 'Hug on a Tray' on Saturday 9th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December from 11am.



TRAVELLING CRIBS

Thank you to all those families who have shared their photos with us of them enjoying the Travelling Cribs. If you have not taken the crib home yet, this will be coming home in the next couple of weeks. Please remember to return it the next day!



Y5 SINGING AT ADLINGTON HOUSE

On Friday, Y5 visited Adlington House Care Home and sang a variety of Christmas Carols. The children sang beautifully, and wowed the audience with wonderful singing. Well done to the children for their impeccable behaviour and positive attitude! Thank you to Mrs Shakespeare for leading the choir and our parent helpers for their support.



VICTORIAN FAYRE

Well done and thank you to all the children who took part in the Victorian Fayre last Sunday. The children sang beautifully. We love to share our musical gifts and talents with the Otley community.

Thank you to Mrs Georghiou and Mr Rickson for all of their hard work preparing the children and playing the ukelele.

We received lots of wonderful feedback about how wonderfully the children performed.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

God Bless the season of Advent and change our hearts.

God Bless each new day and change our hearts.

God Bless our family and friends and change our hearts.

God Bless our homes and Christmas decorations and change our hearts.

As Christmas approaches, help us to change and become like Jesus.

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

Thank you to Year 3 for leading the Collective Worship this morning. They told us all about Saint Nicholas, whose Feast Day it was on Wednesday. Saint Nicholas helped a poor family by sneaking into their home at night and putting money in their stockings that were hanging up by the fireplace, which reminded Year 3 of Father Christmas. The children treated us to two songs, which they sang beautifully.

This week, we thought about our new virtue of patience. We talked about what patience means and how we have to show patience at this time of year by waiting for all the exciting things that will happen at Christmas. Over the next few weeks, we will be encouraging the children to:

Accept things that they can not change with a smile	Do things now to help them in the future
Be patient with themselves when things don't go to plan	Be patient with other people when they make mistakes

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the 24 children who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday evening. The Bishop commented on how well prepared all of the children were and they certainly made us feel very proud. A massive thank you to all of their family and friends for helping them prepare for this occasion. Thank you also to Father Nicholas, Mrs Russell and Rita from the parish for helping the children on their faith journey.



Of course, this is not the end of their faith journey but another step along the way. In the Bishop's homily, he told the children how they might not feel any different after receiving the Sacrament and may even think what was all the fuss about. However, as they go forward in their lives we pray that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will help and guide them. The children will be presented with their certificates at the end term Mass on Friday 22nd December.

CAROL SERVICE

Thank you to all of the people who have said that they will attend the Carol Service next week with the children. We shall be practising it with the children next week. We look forward to seeing you in Church on Sunday 17th December at 4pm.

TREE DRESSING SERVICE

On Monday afternoon, we gathered as a school to put the decorations that the children have made on our School Christmas Tree. We started the service by learning about Saint Boniface who used the triangular shape of the fir tree to describe the Trinity of God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We then listened to readings from the Prophet Isaiah, and the Gospel of Luke. During the service, we also learnt about how Christmas trees were introduced in this country in 1834 by Prince Albert.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is Your
greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of Your love.
Help us walk in that love
during the weeks of Advent,
as we wait and prepare
for His coming.
We pray in the name of
Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen.



CLASS PAGES

YEAR R NEWS

A fantastic week in Reception. We have been putting our phonics into action this week with lots of lovely activities around the classroom to complete. We have also written a very important letter to Father Christmas letting him know what we would like for Christmas. They will be posted to the North Pole today and we hope to get a letter back from him soon. There is an extra copy of the children's letters in their bags so you can see the fantastic progress the children have made with their writing and so you can see what they have asked Father Christmas for.

We have loved playing in our post office role play area; writing, posting and delivering letters. Our Nativity is coming on brilliantly and we can't wait to show you all our hard work. Keep practicing your lines at home .

In RE, we have been learning about the story of the very first Christmas. We know all the people (and animals) who were at the birth of Jesus and have been using our class nativity set to act out the story.

We also enjoyed going to church and singing with our buddies at the Christmas Tree Festival. The children sang beautifully and we were extremely proud of them and heard lots of wonderful comments.

YEAR 1 NEWS

In English, we finished reading "Coming Home". The children used adjectives to describe the different aspects of the journey made by the Robin and they thought about how the Robin was feeling at different times.

We have continued to look at subtraction in Maths and have been calculating the answer to first, then, now stories. For example, first there were 5 birds in a tree, then 2 flew away and now there are 3 left. We have used counters and clothes pegs to help us with our calculations.

In our History topic, we looked at pictures of houses from different historical periods. Needless to say, the children were fascinated to know how people went to the toilet in the past when there were no flushing toilets!!!

As we approach Christmas, the children are learning about some of the pictures used by Christians to celebrate the Christmas story. They labelled the different characters in a crib scene and sorted Christmas pictures into those that feature in the Nativity story and those which don't.

The children have been given information about costumes for the play. Please could these be in school by Friday 15th December? Thank you.

YEAR 2 NEWS

In Maths, we have continued to develop our knowledge of subtraction and are gaining confidence in using base ten and recording our working pictorially to support our understanding further.

In English, we looked at a variety of winter poems and compared them. We discussed our likes and dislikes and what connections we could see about the poems. We then thought about winter and used our senses to help us describe what we might see, hear, feel, smell and taste in winter. We used our ideas to create our very own winter themed poems.

In RE, we have been reflecting on how the shepherds must have felt on the hillside when the angels appeared with their message. We all thought carefully about their feelings as they journeyed to Bethlehem and when they arrived and met the Newborn king.

Year 2 enjoyed designing their own finger puppets in DT this week. We thought carefully about our designs and the colours we could use. Next week we will be using a template to help us cut out our designs in felt. We are really looking forward to making our finger puppets.

YEAR 3 NEWS

We have had an extremely busy week with the Scholastic Book Fair, making a mosaic to go outside the library and taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at the Parish Church!

In English, we made decision wheels and used modal verbs to show the different decisions the Mayor of Hamelin could make about paying the Pied Piper. We also enjoyed reading lots of different books for Book-vent.

In Maths, the children used their number bonds to 10 to quickly find complements to 100 in addition calculations. We used the White Rose digital Rekenrek to show the complements clearly. We then focused on checking our answers to addition and subtraction calculations. We learnt how to estimate answers and use the inverse operation.

In Science, we created bar charts to show the results of our soil permeability experiment, as well as creating compost bins with tiger worms, food scraps and paper. We learned about the different layers in soil and how it can change.

In RE, we continued learning about Advent. We looked at different Christmas cards and found all the images which reminded us of the real meaning of Christmas. We then designed a door for our class advent calendar, including images and words which remind us of the story of Jesus' birth.

YEAR 4 NEWS

It's been another busy week in Year 4! In Geography, we identified the capital cities of different European countries and looked at some of their features. The children then used their knowledge to create their own multiple-choice quizzes for their friends to answer.

In English, we started planning our own narratives, inspired by The Iron Man. The children created their own unique characters, decided on their different features and then planned the build up to their stories.

In Computing, the children started learning how to edit their audio recordings. Once happy with their recordings, the children then trimmed any parts of the files they didn't need and experimented with adding background music.

In Maths, the children have been working on their times tables. Focusing on the 11 and 12 times table, the children used their knowledge of other multiplication facts to support their understanding.

YEAR 5 NEWS

In English, we have been focusing on narrative poetry. At the beginning of the week, the children created journey maps which mapped out Shaun and the Lost Things journey to the odds and ends department. From this, we looked at how we can tell this story of the journey through a poem and began to look at how we can use rhyming couplets with our poems. The children came up with some fantastic ideas which we used to create a whole class model before they then went on to write their own.

In Maths, we have continued our fractions topic by concentrating on converting mixed numbers and improper fractions. The children were able to recognise why we need to convert improper fractions as we can't have more parts than the whole itself. They were able to use bar representations to spot the wholes and then work out the remaining fractions.

In Science, the children had a fantastic time learning about air resistance and created paper airplanes to test the effect of air resistance and look at aerodynamics. The children were able to identify where the different forces were acting on different parts of the plane and we discussed how the structures of the planes can enable them to go further than others.

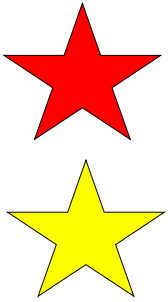
YEAR 6 NEWS

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions of different denominators and mixed numbers. We looked at it step by step and were able to confidently say each step in the method. Mr Gilhooly was impressed at our understanding and said that we should be the teacher!

In English, we continued to read Anne Frank's diary and have finally read up to the part when she moves into the Annex. We completed the axis of emotions which depicts Anne's emotions throughout her move into the Annex. With this, we wrote a diary from the perspective of Anne describing the events of moving into the Annex. In our writing, we tried to use colons and semi-colons (that we had learned this week).

During our RE session, we discussed individuals that fought for justice, and particularly looked at the work of Martin Luther King Jr. We watched his 'I have a dream' speech and thought about all the prejudice that black people faced in the USA. After talking about all the segregation and injustices black people faced, we wrote our own speech in the style of MLK and linked it to the British Values and Pope Francis quotes. Our writing was so passionate about fighting for justice in our world today.

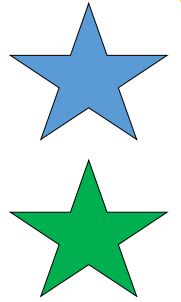
HOUSE OF THE WEEK



WELL DONE TO

EVERYONE

FOR EARNING HOUSE POINTS THIS WEEK



SUNSHINE AWARD

ELIZA-MAE (YR), ARTHUR (Y1), LUNA (Y2), DECLAN (Y3),
CHARLOTTE (Y4), JAKEY (Y5), BELLA (Y6)

ENGLISH AWARD

LOUIE (YR), LOGAN (Y1), GRACE (Y2), BENJAMIN (Y3),
ALBERT (Y4), CHARLIE (Y5), JOSEPH B (Y6)

HEADTEACHER AWARD

JUDE (Y4)



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