

# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 15th December 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM MR GILHOOLY

Dear parents/carers and friends of the school,

What a fantastic time it is to be in school. There is so much going on: Nativity practice, carol singing, visits in our community, Carol service preparation and the list goes on! We have one more week left before we break up to celebrate Christmas.

This Sunday we have our **Carol Service at Our Lady and All Saints' Church at 4pm**. We do hope to see the church fit to bursting, and we know those attending will sing their hearts out. It will be a beautiful community celebration.

I would also like to share the sad news that **Mrs Hart** will be venturing on to a new job after Christmas. Her last day with us will be on Friday 22nd December. She has given so much to our school over the last ten years and will be sorely missed. We all wish her the best in her new job and hope she comes back to see us and the children when she can. Thank you Mrs Hart for your dedication!

I hope you are all feeling the festive spirit as we draw nearer to Christmas - such a special time for us all.

Hope to see you all over the weekend.

God bless,

Mr G



## Y5 & Y6 SINGING AT WHARFEDALE CARE HOME

On Monday and Wednesday, Y5 and Y6 visited Wharfedale Care Home to sing Christmas Carols for the residents.

The audience were moved to tears and even joined in with a few of the songs. One resident said, "Thank you for coming to sing for us. I will be beaming with happiness until next year!"



## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### December 2023

20th – YR, Y1 and Y2 Christmas Productions  
21st – Christmas Party Day  
22nd – Whole School Mass

### DATES FOR THE 2024 DIARY

8th January - School Reopens  
12th January - Non-Uniform Day  
2nd February - FOSJ Rainbow Raffle  
2nd February - FOSJ Disco  
9th February - FOSJ Cocktail Making

## MUSIC ASSEMBLY

On Friday, we had a fantastic Music Assembly showcasing the many talents of pupils at St Joseph's. We listened to brass, violin, woodwind and vocal performances from children throughout school.

In our curriculum music lessons, children have been learning ukelele (Y3), recorders (Y4) and Tamboo Bamboo (Y5) which they performed today. Thank you to all our music teachers for their fantastic support.





FRIENDS OF ST  
JOSEPHS

# CHRISTMAS FAYRE

JOIN US FOR A JOLLY  
FUN MORNING!

SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER

10AM - 12.30PM

## FAYRE HIGHLIGHTS:

Santa's Grotto  
Raffle - Top prize a Yorkshire Finest hamper!!!  
Game Stalls  
External stalls selling their wares  
Cafe  
Christmas Biscuit Decorating

Free entry

HO-HO-HOPE TO SEE  
YOU THERE!



# SCHOOL INFORMATION

## CHRISTMAS DINNER AND JUMPER DAY

A huge thank you to Mrs Robinson and her fantastic catering team for a wonderful Christmas Dinner!

Everybody looked fabulous in their colourful jumpers and hats as we ate our dinner and listened to festive tunes.

Thank you to all the staff for helping serve dinner with a big smile on their faces.



## Y3 GYMNASTICS FESTIVAL

Y3 participated in a Gymnastics Festival on Tuesday led by the Sports Leaders at Prince . The children accessed different gymnastics equipment including: ropes, vaults, beams and wall bars as well as doing mat work where they performed various balances individually, in pairs and in groups. Well done to all the children who behaved impeccably and had a great time.



Thank you to Mrs Russell for leading the class and to all the volunteers who came with Year 3.



## FOSJ UPDATE

### FOSJ Christmas Fayre

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Christmas Fayre on 16<sup>th</sup> December 10am-12:30pm. Come and visit Santa, buy some lovely homemade gifts, take part in some crafts, have your face painted and much, much more!

### Bingo

A big thanks to everyone who joined us for a fun night of bingo and a huge thanks to Helen, Emily and Sharon who organized such a fun and successful night.

**£452 raised!**

### Library Mosaic

The beautiful school mosaic is now up outside the library! The design was inspired by children's drawings and EVERY child in school took part in making it. Thanks to Amanda at Discover and Create for creating this with the children. And of course, a HUGE thanks to all of you for taking part in our many fundraising activities and donating to FOSJ, without you these kind of things can't happen. So pop along to the school library and have a look yourself.

# CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

## A PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

On Sunday, we shall light the 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent candle which is pink as it represents joy. Here is a prayer about joy:

Dear Jesus,

Help me to give joy to others today.

Fill me with joy so that I can spread it to those around me.

Help those people who are struggling to find happiness.

Please be with us and guide us towards you.

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>



## CAROL SERVICE

Please can all children taking part in the Carol Service on Sunday afternoon arrive at Church at 3:45 at the latest. Those children who are playing characters in the Nativity story will be provided with costumes and will get changed in Church. Other children do not need to wear uniform. The children taking part will sit at the front during the service.

The service starts at 4pm and there will be refreshments afterwards. We hope that lots of people will be able to join us for this Christmas celebration.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

In our Collective Worships this week, we have been learning about John the Baptist and how he was sent before Jesus to prepare the way. He told people to repent and to change their ways. He baptised people with water but he said that someone greater than him would baptise them with the Holy Spirit.

As we lit the 2<sup>nd</sup> candles on our Advent Wreaths, which represents peace, we also prayed for people who are having to live in areas of conflict.

Prince of Peace,

We pray for all the people who are suffering in our world because there is no peace in their homes.

We remember especially the people in the middle east and in Ukraine.

May world leaders try to find ways to spread peace around the world.

Amen.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

*Save the date: There will be a meeting for parents of children hoping to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in Spring 2024 on 24<sup>th</sup> January, time to be confirmed.*

This is available to children in Y3 and above. Preparation classes will take place on Wednesdays from 2<sup>nd</sup> February.

## END OF YEAR MASS

On Friday afternoon, we shall have our end of year Mass.

This will be in the Church at 1:30pm.

During the Mass, the Year 6 children who were confirmed last week shall receive their certificates. Family and friends are very welcome to join us.



## PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Oh my God,  
Because You are so good,  
I am very sorry that I have  
sinned against you,  
And by the help of Your Grace,  
I will not sin again.



# CLASS PAGES

## YEAR R NEWS

Not long now to our Nativity and the children are performing superbly - fingers crossed that they use those big voices next week as they are super excited to show it off, just like we are! Get those tissues ready as you will be need them.

The children have worked so hard this week in all our provision.

In Maths, they have been working on part whole models up to 5 e.g. what 2 numbers will make 4?  $1+3$ ,  $2+2$ . We have also been playing with our blocks and working out how tall our nutcrackers are, as well as working out how old our elves are by looking at their numicon bodies.

In English, we have been reading the Gingerbread Man and creating a villain for the story. We had lots with stinky breaths and sticky cheese arms - ask your child about their creations. We have also made and painted gingerbread houses and played with the playdough to physically make them.

Note- children are to keep their sound books at home to practice the tricky words. We will upload them to Tapestry. Please encourage your child to read and write them at home.

## YEAR 1 NEWS

On Thursday afternoon, Year 1 had a special visitor - PC Rob - who came to speak to Year 1 about keeping safe when they are outside of school. He spoke about strangers and what to do if you got lost from your grownups in supermarkets or out and about in Otley. We learnt about safe places to go in and PC Rob said it would be really useful for the children to learn their home address in case they ever get lost.

In English, the children have been looking at sentences and have been writing their own sentences. To help us remember to use capital letters and punctuation, we used green pens to start our sentences and we used red pens to end our sentences with full stops.

In Maths, we have continued to look at subtraction and have been using number lines to help us as well as ten frames. We have also been deciding whether we need to add or subtract for word questions that use the words 'more' or 'less'.

In our History work, we learnt that Victorian times was when Queen Victoria was on the throne. We then looked at objects that were used in their homes during that time and found out that one of the main differences was that they did not have electricity in their homes.

## YEAR 2 NEWS

In Maths, we have continued to develop our knowledge of subtraction and are gaining confidence in using base ten and recording pictorially our working to support our understanding further. We have been practising subtracting two 2-digit numbers across ten.

In English, we have really enjoyed using a video clip called 'The Big Night'. We developed our skills at using conjunctions to join sentences and time conjunctions to start our sentences. We used this prior learning to create a diary extract about how the girl in the video feels performing in the show.

In RE, we have enjoyed learning about the 5 K's in our work about Sikhism. We looked carefully at artefacts and naming them; Kesh, Kanga, Kara, Kaccha and Kirpan. We were fascinated by the Kirpan which is a small dagger. It is used to remind Sikhs to defend their beliefs and others who may need help. They must never use the dagger to attack others though.

As part of our DT work, we enjoyed experimenting with different ways to attach two pieces of felt together. We tried glue, staples and paperclips. We found that glue worked the best as it held the fabric well together and is not sharp like staples.

## YEAR 3 NEWS

This week in English, Y3 began writing their own version of 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin'. We created super setting descriptions before innovating the invasion - we had locusts, mice and even elephants!

On Tuesday, we had a brilliant time at the gymnastics festival. We loved using all the different apparatus and we especially loved making a human pyramid!

In Maths, we ended our topic of addition and subtraction with using the inverse operation then applying these operations to problems. We then began our new topic revisiting multiples of 2 and even and odd numbers.

In RE, we acted out poems which told the Christmas story before retelling the story ourselves.

In Art, we were introduced to the artist Seurat and his art style of pointillism. We cannot believe how he continued this technique for two whole years to create one of his paintings...our hands were very tired after one session!

## YEAR 4 NEWS

In Maths, we have been learning about area by counting squares. We've compared areas, made shapes with a certain area and even found out the area of our names when written on squared paper.

In English, we have been working extremely hard with our narrative writing. We developed our own creatures, wrote exciting descriptions and a narrative about capturing the creature in a trap. We've added similes, perfectly punctuated direct speech and fronted adverbials (with a comma!)

In RE, we learned that God fulfilled his promise to Mary when Jesus was born. We retold the story of the events before the birth of Jesus including Angel Gabriel visiting Mary, an angel visiting Joseph in a dream and the difficult, tiresome journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem.

We are looking forward to swimming next week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday) and are all very excited for the Christmas festivities.

## YEAR 5 NEWS

In RE, the children had the opportunity to use their new individual Bibles to identify the messages from the prophets of Hosea, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. The children were able to navigate their way through the Bible to search for relevant passages and quotes that show the prophets messages from God. They then went on to focus on Mother Mary and her significance between the old covenant and the new covenant.

In English, we have begun focusing on our new piece of text that is linked to our Ancient Greece history topic. The children made predictions based on a word cloud they were given as to what they thought the new text focus would be about. Their predictions were quite accurate, and we have begun looking at the ancient myth of Pandora's Box. Later on in the week, they even had the chance to be Pandora with their version of Pandora's Box, experiencing the thoughts and emotions Pandora herself would have had.

In Art, we have been focusing on two different painting mediums; water colour paint and acrylic paint. We spent time looking at how we can create a gradient in colour using water colour and adding more water to lighten colours as well as identifying what colours can be used to mix with acrylic paints to make them lighter and darker.

## YEAR 6 NEWS

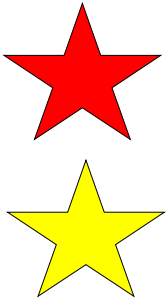
In Maths, we began the week by adding mixed numbers and then we moved on to subtracting them. We needed to have a strong understanding of our times tables.

In English, we looked at speech which conveys character and advance action in Anne Frank's diary. After we analysed it through the diary, we then had a go at creating our own following the SEAT acronym (Speech, Emotion, Action and Thoughts of the Audience). After we finished writing our own dialogue, we edited our work with our success criteria where we had to find examples in our work.

In Science, we explored how we could change the brightness of a bulb. We investigated using electrical components by changing the number of batteries in our circuit. We found out that the more batteries we had, the brighter the bulb would be because of the increase in the number of electrons in the circuit.

In RE, we researched different charities that work for justice. We found out what they do, how they support people in the fight for justice and how they incorporate Jesus' teachings into their work.

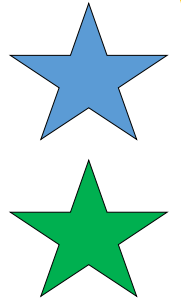
# HOUSE OF THE WEEK



WELL DONE TO

# EVERYONE

FOR EARNING HOUSE POINTS THIS WEEK



# NO AWARDS

# THIS WEEK



### 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**

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**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](mailto:mnl@princehenrys.co.uk)**



8 Week  
Course

# SWIM LESSONS

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Prince Henry's Grammar School, LS21

EVERY FRIDAY

Lessons start January 2024

Facebook Page - Swim Splash Learn Swim School

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