

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 16th December 2022

A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

Hi everyone,

It's now 9 days until Christmas Day. What a wonderful week in school – I cannot think of a better way to end the term with: parties; Christmas quizzes, craft activities, swimming, lots of fun activities and finally our beautiful Carol Service to end the term is reflective and peaceful way. There was a great atmosphere at all the parties. Thank you to all the children for making the Christmas parties enjoyable – we sang and danced to many of our favourite songs. Thank you for the kind food donations and all your support during our first term at school.



FOSJ - A very big shout out goes to FOSJ for an amazing term of events; they have worked incredibly hard – giving up many hours of their free time. The events have been well attended – something for everyone.

It's easy to forget the true meaning of Christmas as we can get wrapped up in buying presents, what food we will eat or organising events. Take some time out to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of Christ Jesus. The most precious gift we can give people is our time – show them we care, to tell them we love them and exchange some precious memories. All of these acts cost nothing but mean the most.

Here is a beautiful poem to remind us of the true gifts in our lives - the gift of the people we meet.

People are gifts.

People are gifts that God sends to us... wrapped!

Some are wrapped very beautifully.

Some come in very ordinary wrapping paper.

Others get mishandled in the post.

Once in a while there's a special delivery.

Some people are gifts which come very loosely wrapped, others very tightly.

I must never mistake the wrapping for the gift - It's what's inside the wrapping that counts.

Sometimes the gift is very easy to open, sometimes it is not.

Is it because they are afraid? Does it hurt?

Maybe they have been opened before, then forgotten or even thrown away.

Is this how I treat the gifts that are sent to me?

I am a person. Therefore, I, too, am a gift.

Perhaps I have never accepted the gift that I am:

A gift full of promise and beauty...

A gift that can only be opened when I am handled with love.

Am I a gift to other people?

Someone who cares? Someone who loves?

Someone who shares Just as Jesus did?

Then every meeting of people becomes an exchange of gifts.

Gifts from God to be given to others.

The staff and Governors wish you a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

SCHOOL NEWS

FRIENDS OF ST JOSEPH'S

WINTER WONDERLAND

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Winter Wonderland last week! We had a fabulous time spreading Christmas joy whilst raising funds for our school.

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in any of the FOSJ events during Autumn term. We have eaten donuts; bought lots of pumpkins in the rain; enjoyed watching the World Cup; done lots of raffles and walked in a winter wonderland. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped along the way.



The total profit for the term (Sep-Dec) is £3,556.95!

UPCOMING EVENTS NEXT TERM

Next term, we will be having a 'Dare to be Different' Day and 'Golden Ticket' Chocolate Event! Keep your eyes peeled in the newsletter for more information!



CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

On Thursday, we had a fabulously festive **PARTY DAY!** In the afternoon, we gathered in the hall for food, singing and dancing. Everyone looked brilliant in their festive hats and beautiful party clothes.

Thank you to all the families who donated food items for the party!

We would also like to say a special thank you to our wonderful team of parents for helping set up/clear up the hall. We couldn't do it without you! **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**



SCHOOL NEWS

MULTI-ACTIVITY & LEGO WORKSHOP

Inspiration Tree are offering Multi-Activity courses and LEGO workshop this Christmas Holidays at St Joseph's & Burley Oaks. The courses are £17 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.



SPORT

Cross Country

A massive well done to the children who took part in the cross country last Saturday morning on a cold, frosty day. All of the children did really well in difficult conditions. A massive thank you to all the grown ups for giving up their Saturday mornings so that the children could participate, we appreciate it is a very busy time of year. Thank you to Miss Dowd for coming to help too.

Y4 Swimming

Year 4 have had a great week going swimming every day for an hour which they have loved especially today when some of them got to jump off the springboard and use bodyboards. We have been really impressed with the progress they have made, well done everyone. Thank you to the parents who were able to come and help us.

Y5/Y6 Netball

Well done to children in Year 5 and 6 who took part in the netball festival. They played a couple of games where the children demonstrated some great teamwork and scored some great goals. The children also did some activities to practise their shooting, footwork, passing and marking skills. Thank you Miss Dowd for attending the festival.



OTLEY ACTION FOR OLDER PEOPLE

On Monday, in our final singing performance of the festive period, Miss Wilkinson's Choir visited Otley Action for Older People and sang a variety of Christmas Carols. The children sang beautifully, and wowed the audience with wonderful singing. We love to share our musical gifts and talents with the Otley community. Well done to the children for their impeccable behaviour and positive attitude!



DATES FOR THE DIARIES

PLEASE NOTE: We return to school on Tuesday 3rd January

JANUARY

6th - Epiphany Mass
11th - Online Safety Evening for Parents
13th - KS2 Bun Sale
17th - Whole Class Photographs
18th - Y5/Y6 Girls Football
27th - KS1 Bun Sale

FEBRUARY

3rd - Number Day
w/c 6th - Bikeability
9th - Y3 Gymnastics
w/c 13th - HALF TERM
22nd - Ash Wednesday Mass
24th - Brian Beresford (Author Visit)
w/c 27th Reading Week

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYERS FOR FATHER LAWRIE

Thank you to Father Lawrie for all of his help and support this term and for leading us in our Masses.

Please keep Father Lawrie in your prayers as he goes into hospital next week. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Lord Jesus,

When you were on earth, they brought the sick to you and you healed them all.

Today I ask you to bless all those in sickness, in weakness and in pain.

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>



ADVENT APPEAL

Thank you to all those who donated a toy to our Advent Appeal. Here are our Mini Vinnies with the collected toys which will be taken to Catholic Care to distribute to those in need in Otley and Leeds. Thank you, as always for your kindness and generosity.

CAROL SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who came to our Carol Service today, we hope you enjoyed it. Well done to the Year 6 children for leading the service and to all the children for their beautiful singing.



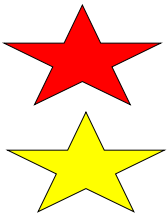
CHRISTMAS POEM

If you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of me
Amid the celebrations
You'll have to look beyond the stores
And all the decorations
But if you take a moment
From your list of things to do,
And listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
You're the reason that I came,
And you'll find me in the stillness,
As I'm whispering your name.



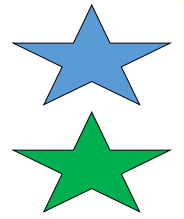
Love, Jesus

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



WELL DONE TO

ALL TEAMS



ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Well done to all the children who received an award during Monday's assembly.

Some children have earned their bronze or silver award, some have even got their **GOLD CERTIFICATES!**

These certificates are awarded to children for earning a certain amount of merit points.

We are so proud of all our children and their achievements. We look forward to seeing what next year will bring!



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

COUNSELLING SERVICE - Catholic Care are offering a free and confidential counselling service to members of our Catholic community. If you feel that you, a family member or friend might benefit from counselling support please contact us on 0113 3885400, 07739975008 or email counselling@catholic-care.org.uk

Are you interested in becoming a School
Crossing Patrol Warden in Leeds?

VACANCY

School Crossing Patrol Warden

Otley St Josephs Primary

5 hours a week

£9.90 hourly rate

39 Week Contract (Term Time Only)

Duties will include crossing pedestrians across the road safely

Full Uniform and PPE provided.

Full training given.

Option to join Local Government Pension Scheme

Subject to satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure Barring Services Request

INTERESTED?

Call 01133782337 (using option 4)

