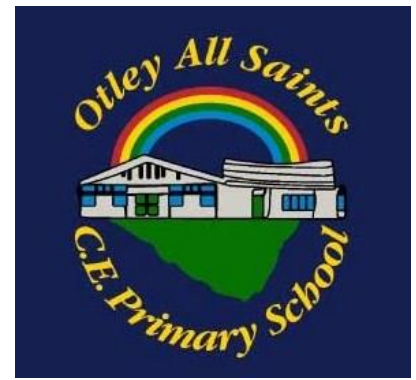


Otley All Saints CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Ian Thomson-Smith



This half term our core Christian value is:



Diary Dates

- Tuesday 31st January** – Year 6 at 'Billy Elliott', Prince Henry's
- Wednesday 1st February** – NEU Strike: Year 1, Year 3 (am only), Year 4 and Year 5 closed
- Thursday 2nd February** – Four pupils at regional cross-country finals, Temple Newsam
- Monday 6th February** – Start of Children's Mental Health Week
- Wednesday 8th February** – Full governors' meeting, 7pm
- Friday 10th February** – PTA 'Break the Rules' Day
School closes for half term
- Monday 20th February** – Back to school after half term
- Tuesday 28th February** – NEU Strike: Year 1 and Year 3 closed
PTA meeting, 7pm
- Thursday 2nd March** – World Book Day
- Monday 6th March** – School marks Fairtrade Fortnight
- Wednesday 15th March / Thursday 16th March** – NEU Strike: closure details to follow
- Friday 17th March** – Red Nose Day



A week on Monday will see the start of Children's Mental Health Week, an event that we have marked since before the pandemic, but one that has particular importance now. As a society we are beginning to recognise that mental health is

just as crucial to wellbeing as keeping our bodies healthy, and it is slowly becoming easier to have open conversations about mental health challenges, and to share ways to develop good habits and positive strategies which can improve our state of mind. The event is promoted by the charity Place2Be and this year's theme is 'Let's Connect', looking at how we make meaningful connections with those around us. We are aiming to help children to develop resilience, to stay calm when faced with difficulties, and to learn the importance of good diet, exercise and sleep. If you would like to see the ideas and suggestions that can help to improve mental health and wellbeing go to <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>, where there is a wide range of resources to support families and schools.

Proposed strikes by members of NEU I wrote to families earlier this week with information on how the strike action by teachers in the National Education Union would be likely to impact our school. It is important to note that the amount of disruption on the proposed strike days may be affected not only by teacher absence, but also by staff who are obliged to prioritise childcare. On Wednesday 1st February the following classes will be closed: Year 1, Year 3 (morning only), Year 4, Year 5. All other classes will remain open, unless staffing levels make it unsafe to do so, and pupils in those classes should attend as normal. Pupils in Year 3 should also attend in the afternoon from 1.15pm. The next planned strike day is on **Tuesday 28th February**, and at present we anticipate that only Year 1 and Year 3 will be closed on that day. I will write with more details after the half term break. Once again we apologise for the inconvenience caused.

PTA 50:50 Club Congratulations to our January winners; 1st prize of £94 goes to Jeanette Bardon, and the 2nd prize of £23.50 was won by Kelly Hughes. If you would like to be included in the draw, which raises money for PTA as well as offering the opportunity for a monthly prize, please fill in a form at the school office.



PTA News We are excited to announce that the school is about to purchase some new Chromebook laptop computers, which will greatly improve our IT provision in school. This has been made possible by the generous support from the PTA, which agreed at the annual general meeting to make the upgrading of the school's computing facilities a priority for fundraising this year. We are hoping that, if our events planned for this year continue to be successful, we will be able to improve the quality of both class computing lessons and the support for pupils with special needs. The generosity and support of our families continues to be fantastic, but we still need more of our parents to be willing to provide leadership and organisation for the different events we hope to run. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th February at 7pm – please come if you can.

'Break the Rules' Day Our next PTA event is on Friday 10th February, when I have once again been reluctantly persuaded that – for one day only - there are five rules that can be broken:



- School uniform must be worn
- School shoes must be worn
- Natural hair colours and small hair accessories only
- Only fruit for a snack
- Water only in water bottles

However, for each rule that your child wants to break on that day they have to pay a fine of £1! There's no pressure for children to take part in this if they don't want to, but if they would like to please pay by bank transfer where possible: Otley All Saints CE Primary School PTA, Acc: 71022075, Sort: 40-35-33. Please use your child's name and year group for reference. If a bank transfer is not convenient please bring cash payments in a named envelope. We would be grateful for payment by 10th February at the latest – thank you.



Mothers' Day shop Later this term the PTA are hoping to run our popular Mother's Day shop in the run up to Mothering Sunday (19th March). I'm delighted to say that Beatrice Marshall-Ngan has offered to lead on the organisation of this popular event, and we are now asking to hear from anyone would be willing to help her. This may be in the purchasing and/or preparing of a range of gifts prior to the event, or volunteering to be at school for a short time for one lunchtime in the week beginning 13th March to allow children to purchase a gift. If you are willing and able to help, please let the school office know, and give permission for your details to be passed on to Mrs Marshall-Ngan. Thank you!

'Otley Carnival Stars' This week we had a visit from two members of the Otley Carnival organising committee (Nicola Horner and Sarah Jackson), who explained to the children how the traditional roles of the Carnival Queen and her attendants are being replaced this year with the new, improved and inclusive 'Otley Stars'. Anyone in KS2 and KS3 can nominate themselves to become an Otley Star by championing one of these four themes: Equality & Diversity, Health & Wellbeing, Environment, Community. The successful nominees will also have the opportunity to be on the Otley Stars float during the carnival procession and be involved in some of the events at the show ground after the procession has taken place. We are looking for pupils who are passionate about one or more of these themes and are willing to help raise awareness and contribute to their local community to champion this. To apply, please complete an application form, which can be found on our website [here](#) (paper copies are available in school) and email to info@otleycarnival.co.uk by Friday 17th February 2023. The committee look forward to receiving your applications. Please note also that the annual carnival poster competition is also being launched, with prizes for three age categories: 6 years and under, 7 – 9 years, 10 years +. More details can be found on the [carnival website here](#).



Photographer wanted We are currently preparing a new school website, with the support of parent governor Katja Kaine. Before we launch it, we are hoping to include a number of good quality photographs that will help give a positive impression of our school. Do we have any kind and skilled parents who may be able to offer their services? Please get in touch if you can help.