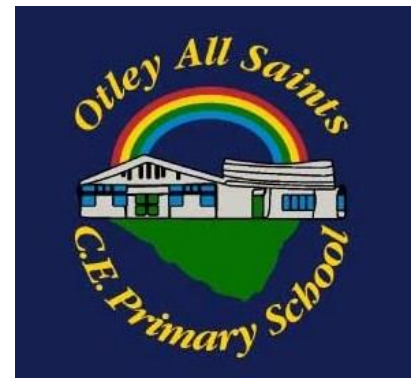


Otley All Saints CE Primary School

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Email: office@otleyallsaints.co.uk Website: www.otleyallsaints.co.uk

Headteacher: Ian Thomson-Smith



This half term our core Christian value is:



Diary Dates

Tuesday 17th January – Afsha from Equilibria visiting KS1 – Life as a Muslim

Wednesday 18th January – Celebrating Achievement Assembly

Y6 girls – Primary Stars football challenge

Tuesday 31st January – Year 6 at 'Billy Elliott', Prince Henry's

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 – PTA meeting, 7pm

Thursday 2nd March – World Book Day

Monday 6th March – School marks Fairtrade Fortnight



Welcome back to our new term. I do hope that all families enjoyed Christmas, and that all children have settled comfortably back into their school routines. It's been great to welcome Mrs Lewis and Mrs Nunn back following maternity leave, and we also welcome

Mrs Polonska and Miss Theaker to our lunchtime supervision team, meaning that, barring illness, we have a full complement of midday supervisors for the first time in a while! We are looking forward to a very successful term once again.

Christmas Concerts It feels like a long time ago now, but we were delighted how well our pupils performed in the different Christmas events. Our performances of our Nativity production, 'Baubles', in All Saints Church were very well received, and the members of Drama Club, coached by Miss Wilson and Mrs Raybould, led the storytelling superbly. Our Nursery nativity was also a lovely occasion – thank you to Miss Wilson, Mrs Thomson-Smith and Mrs Fawcett for preparing and supporting the children. Our choir performed with great distinction at the PTA Christmas Fair, the Otley Victorian Fayre and the church Christmas Tree Festival – thank you to Mrs Fortune and Mrs Bowman for all their hard work with this – and finally, our orchestra players put on an enjoyable concert for parents, with the wonderful accompaniment of Mrs Beck. Well done to all our brilliant performers!



Attendance In general our school attendance is very good when compared to schools locally and nationally; last term our school attendance overall was 96.4%, compared to 93.5% across the country. As part of our responsibility for safeguarding and welfare, we check regularly to see which children have relatively low attendance, making sure we understand the reasons why this may be. We certainly don't want children coming to school when they are ill, and there are guidelines still in place for those who are sick (48 hours) or who contract Covid-19 (3 days after a positive test). However, once children's attendance falls below 90% it is likely that there will be a marked impact on their educational progress. Please let us know if you feel there is anything we can do to support you in helping to ensure your child's good attendance.



PTA 50:50 Club Congratulations to our December winners – Jan Lewis (£94) and Ani Earney (£23.50). 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 Last term was a very successful one for the PTA, thanks to the organisational work of a small number of parents. Our Christmas Fair and raffle raised an impressive £2,259 and was very well attended – we'll need to ensure we spread it out around the building a bit more next time! The Christmas cards (and mugs, cushions etc.) also sold very well, generating more than £300 profit for PTA funds. A few parents have not yet paid for their orders – please make sure you do as soon as you can! Our quiz night and disco were also popular events. We are very grateful to all our families for their generosity, which is so greatly needed in these challenging times, but particularly to those who have been willing to give of their time and energy to provide exciting social events as well as improve the provision for all our children. Our next event is a return of the 'Break the Rules Day' on Friday 10th February (more details nearer the time), and our next meeting is on Tuesday 28th February at 7pm – please come if you can.



Can you help? Later this term the PTA are hoping to run our popular Mother's Day shop in the run up to Mothering Sunday (19th March). However, at present we have no-one to organise this! Preparation involves identifying a small choice of appropriate gifts that children can buy – in secret! – in the week before. We are in need of two or three parents who will be willing to co-ordinate this, or unfortunately we will not be able to run the shop this year. There are those in school who will be able to offer advice and support, but we desperately need anyone who is able to offer that most valuable of gifts – time. Please contact the school office if you may be able to help.

'Otley Carnival Stars' Following the successful return of Otley Carnival last summer, planning is already underway for this year's event on Saturday 17th June. The organising committee have decided to replace the traditional roles of the Carnival Queen and her attendants with the new, improved and inclusive 'Otley Stars'. Anyone in KS2 and KS3 can nominate themselves to become an Otley Star who will have the opportunity to volunteer in their local community until the next carnival 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 attached to this letter and email to info@otleycarnival.co.uk by Friday 17th February 2023. Paper copies of the application form can be collected and handed back to the Otley Library. The committee look forward to receiving your applications!

Celebrating Achievement Assembly Our first Celebrating Achievement Assembly of 2023 is on Wednesday 18th January, when we share certificates, medals and news of any achievements of our pupils outside of school. Children should bring anything they would like to share to me on that morning.



Children's Mental Health Week, 6th-12th February As in past years we will planning activities across school to highlight the importance of good mental health habits during this week. This year's theme is 'Let's Connect', looking at how we make meaningful connections with those around us. 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.

Free Access to National Online Safety Resources As detailed in our letter earlier this week, our families now have free access to a huge range of videos, courses and guides to help you keep your child safe online. Go to <https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/otley-all-saints-c-of-e-primary-school> to create an account and access the resources.

