

Otley All Saints CE Primary School

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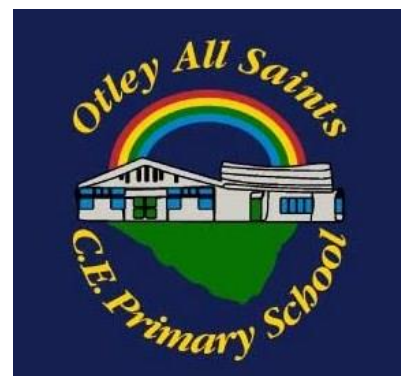


We have been very fortunate this week to hear from two published authors, who were able to share with our children their thoughts on what motivates and inspires imaginative stories. On Wednesday our Year 6 pupils took part in a webinar featuring Katherine Rundell, author of 'The Explorer' and many other children's books, and yesterday we were lucky enough to host a visit from Jeanne Willis, who spoke about her work, including the popular book for young children, 'Bog Baby'. She also led workshops across the school, encouraging pupils to make their own bog babies, and to think about the habitats that would need to be protected in order for them to thrive, before participating in question and answer sessions with our Year 5 and 6 classes. We are very grateful to Neil Griffin, who arranged the visit as well as securing funding from Wharfedale Naturalists' Society. We know our children have been inspired by what they have experienced this week, and hope it will encourage our young writers and environmentalists in the future.

Handwriting and Presentation Across the school there are many children who are rightly proud of how well they write in class – the care that they take with their work and the appearance of their books is a delight to see. However, we are feeling that many children, particularly in our older classes, will benefit from encouragement and focus on handwriting this term, reminding them of the importance of correct letter formation and neatness. To achieve this we are aiming for every class to have, between now and Christmas, a regular focus across the week on handwriting and presentation. There will be plenty of opportunity to praise and reward those who show improvement during this time, and we ask that parents encourage this too as much as you can. Thank you for your support.



'Break the Rules' Day A reminder that our next PTA event is on Friday 27th October, when I have once again been reluctantly persuaded that – for one day only – there are five rules that can be broken:



This half term our core Christian value is:



Diary Dates

- Wednesday 25th October** – Global Champions Meeting
- Thursday 26th October** – Year 3 Otley Town visit
- Friday 27th October** – PTA 'Break the Rules' Day
Break up for half term
- Monday 6th November** – School reopens
- Tuesday 7th November** – PTA meeting, 7pm
- Thursday 9th November** – PTA Disco; Fdn/KS1 5.30-6.30pm, KS2 6.45-7.45pm
- Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th November** – Otley Science Festival
- Thursday 16th November** – Year 6 visit to the Sikh Temple, Leeds
- Friday 17th November** – Children in Need; PTA Quiz Night, 7.30pm
- Friday 24th November** – Early Years Training Day; Nursery and Reception closed
- Monday 27th November** – Year 4 visit to Jorvik Viking Centre
- Saturday 2nd December** – PTA Christmas Fair, 1-3pm

- 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 27th October at the latest – thank you.

Parents' Evening Thank you to all parents who came to our recent Parent Consultation Evenings. We hope that you found it useful to meet your child's class teachers, and that you have been reassured about the way your child is settling into their new class. Please remember that we are more than happy to talk to you at any other time in the year; if you have a concern or just want an update, don't hesitate to get in touch.



Online Safety From animals doing funny things, to slime-making and game tutorials, the internet has lots of fun videos for children to enjoy. However, we must never forget that the internet is a public and open space where anyone can post and share content. This can be fun and entertaining for children, but it does mean your child may see something that is intended for adults. Find out what to do

[if you're worried your child might see something inappropriate online](#) or [what to do if they already have](#).

Children love to watch videos, with YouTube a firm favourite, but sometimes children can be exposed to videos that are not meant for them. [YouTube Kids](#) is a safer way for children to explore their interests. You can find more information about this via the links we have provided on our website [here](#). There are also links here to information about the most popular social media apps; while none of these are meant to be used by primary-age children, we are aware of some pupils who do access these apps, and it is extremely important that families are well-informed about the risks that this access can pose. Remember, young children should be supervised at all times when online.

Christmas Cards This is a last call for orders for packs of Christmas cards or other festive items (mugs, cushions etc.) based on your child's designs, which were sent home two weeks ago. Please return their original design with your order, in the plastic wallet provided. The PTA would prefer payment to be made by cash (in a named envelope) or by bank transfer to: Otley All Saints CE Primary School PTA, Acc: 71022075, Sort: 40-35-33. Ref: XMAS child's surname and year. If paying online, please mark the order form 'Paid online' so the order can be processed.



Individual School Photographs Photos from the recent shoot are now online and available for viewing and purchase via the following link: [Otley All Saints Photographs](#). You will need to enter your child's individual access code from the leaflet sent home this week via your child's class. All orders placed up to and including Friday 27th October will be offered discounts and free postage back via school. Those orders will be processed as one batch and then returned to school for distribution. Any orders placed after that will require postage paying, with delivery to the home address. The shop will remain active until 31st March 2024. For help with payments and orders please contact Ross Photography directly: andrew@rossschoolphoto.co.uk or call 01943 968332.

Site Access at Home Time We are aware that some families, being prompt to pick up their children at the end of the day, are arriving on the school playground at 3.00pm. Often this has been while PE lessons are taking place outside (although this will be less likely as the weather grows worse). Please note that gates will not be unlocked until 3.05pm, which should allow for lessons to be complete before adults come onto the playground.

Reception and Nursery Closure A reminder to parents that Nursery and Reception classes will be closed on Friday 24th November for the annual Otley Early Years Training Day. Apologies for any inconvenience this will cause.