

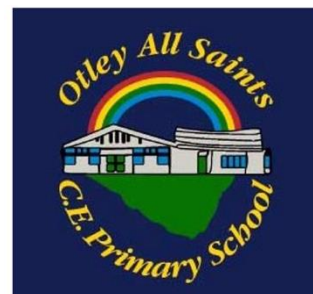
Otley All Saints CE Primary School

Spring Term - Newsletter 3 - 23rd February 2024

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I hope you all had an enjoyable half-term break and spent quality time with your families. It's been lovely to see the children back in school this week.

This half-term brings some exciting news.....I am thrilled to announce that we will soon welcome **guinea pigs** as our new school pets! The children and staff are highly excited about their arrival, and we hope that they will be with us in the next couple of weeks. I will run a Guinea Pig Club every Monday lunchtime, inviting two children from each class each week until the whole school has had the chance to meet our new furry friends. The club will focus on all aspects of guinea pig care, handling, grooming, mindfulness, health, and wellbeing.

I have worked with school guinea pigs before and know only too well the positive impact school pets can have on the whole school community, including health and well-being, mindfulness, empathy, responsibility and life skills.

If your child is allergic to guinea pigs, please contact the school office. We would like all children to have the opportunity to meet and handle the guinea pigs if they wish, and thus, we can provide gloves and protective clothing to make the experience accessible to all.

I will introduce a new section to my fortnightly school newsletter, called 'Guinea Pig Gallery', featuring photos and activities from our weekly guinea pig sessions. (We will always obtain parental permission before publishing any photos of children).

A huge thank you to **David Crowther, Petwise, Otley**, for supplying all our initial accessories and food - we are extremely grateful for this contribution.



World Book Day – Thursday 7th March On this day, children may, if they wish, come dressed as their favourite book character, but for those who would rather not dress up, we would like to suggest some alternatives:

- Make a badge which celebrates your favourite book,
- Customise a t-shirt

PTA News – Father's Day Shop

We always have a Mother's Day shop and feel it's time our Dads had their own Father's Day Shop running in school. The PTA are keen to get this up and running for Father's Day on Sunday, 16th June. Would anyone be willing to help organise this? If you would like to help, please get in touch with the PTA or the school office – thank you.



This half term, our core Christian value is:

Courage



Diary Dates

Tuesday 27th February – Author Visit for KS1

Thursday 29th February – Yr1

Geography Field Trip around Otley
W/B Monday 4th March – Mother's Day Shop (details to follow)

Thursday 6th March – Celebrating Achievement Assembly

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day

Friday 8th March – Author Visit for KS2

Tuesday 12th March - Yr6 Basketball Festival

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief Day – wear something 'red'

Wednesday 20th & Thursday 21st March - Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 20th March - Yr2 Trip to Bolton Abbey

Thursday 21st March – Yr2 at Multi-Skills Festival at PHGS (AM)

Monday 25th March - Easter Church Service & Easter Bonnet

Competition (Details to follow)

Thursday 28th March – 'Break the Rules Day' &

School closes for Easter holidays.

Monday 15th April – School opens for Summer Term 1

Tuesday 23rd April - Next PTA meeting

Future Dates

Tuesday 2nd July – Drama Show (7 pm)

Wednesday 3rd July – Drama Shows (1:30 pm & 7 pm)

Wednesday 3rd July – Yr2 Trip to Nell Bank

Friday 25th October – EYFS Training Day – **Nursery** and **Reception** will be **closed** for the day.

PTA Break the Rules' Day – On Thursday, 28th March, I am happy to announce that – for one day only - five rules 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, your child wants to break on that day, they have to pay a fine of £1! There's no pressure for children to participate 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.



Parents' Evenings 20th and 21st March - You will shortly receive notification of our parents' evening appointments, which may be booked through the School Cash Office system (ScoPay) from Wednesday 6th March. If you are unsure how to do this or cannot access the system, contact us, and we will be happy to guide you through the process. On these evenings, you will be able to look through your child's work and meet with class teachers. Please note that, with our large class sizes, appointments will be quite brief; if you would prefer a longer appointment, please speak to your child's teacher.

NHS Dentist Places at Otley Dental Centre – There are a limited number of NHS dental funded places available for children at **Otley Dental Centre**. Regular visits to the Dentist help to motivate and educate children to take care of their teeth in their formative years. Sadly, tooth decay is still one of the main reasons for children being admitted into hospital in the UK. If you would like to take advantage of this offer, please scan the QR code enclosed in the letter attached and complete the online form to make an appointment.



Macmillan Cancer Fundraising – A heartfelt thank you to Dora Sykes for raising £51 for Macmillan Cancer. Dora knitted many Christmas gifts and sold them to raise money for an amazing charity. Well done!



Further Information – please see the attached documents for information regarding the following:

- 1) Otley Parent Support Groups and Workshops
- 2) Otlionsians Girls Rugby
- 3) NHS Dentist Places

I wish all our families a wonderful weekend. Enjoy the slightly longer days, and we can all look forward to some milder weather in the near future - hopefully!

Best wishes,
Mrs Di Palma-Heath