

Otley All Saints CE Primary School

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I am very proud of the commitment shown by staff which has allowed us to keep the school open over the last few days. While other schools across the country, through health and safety concerns relating to site or lack of staff, were forced to close, we have tried our best to 'keep calm and carry on'.

It has been wonderful to see our children enjoying the snow safely together. A special thank you must go to Mr and Mrs Sowden, who have worked so hard this week to make sure that we could get into school, and have then had to cope with the extra wet and dirt that we brought in! Here's hoping that we soon see signs of Spring!

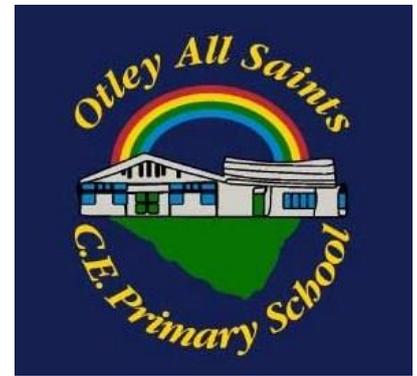
Parents' Evenings, 7th and 8th March

You will have received notification of our parents' evenings appointments next week, which for the first time are being booked online through the School Cash Office system. A reminder letter has been sent out to help any parent who still hasn't activated an online account, and it is clear that most parents have already arranged an appointment. If you are unsure how to do this, or cannot access the SCO system, do get in touch with us, and we will be happy to guide you through the process. On these evenings there will be a chance to look through your child's work and to meet with class teachers. Please note that, with our large class sizes, appointments will be quite brief; if you feel you would prefer a longer appointment please speak to your child's teacher.



World Book Day What a wonderful celebration of reading we saw yesterday. The dreadful weather couldn't dampen our Creative Day activities, which saw pupils working across classes to share their favourite books and learn about new titles too.

Our second-hand book sale was popular at lunchtime and after school, with the proceeds going towards updating our library stock.



This half term our core Christian value is:



Diary Dates

- Tuesday 6th March** – Year 6 Fossil Hunt, organised by Leeds Festival of Science.
- Wednesday 7th March** – Parents' Evening.
- Thursday 8th March** – Parents' Evening.
- Tuesday 13th March** – Celebrating Achievement Assembly, 10.25am
- Friday 16th March** – Year 6 visit to Otley Courthouse, 'Crime and Punishment' workshop.
- Monday 19th March** – Sport Relief Week.
- Tuesday 20th March** – Music Extravaganza, Yeadon Town Hall
- Wednesday 21st March** – Year 2 visit to Armley Mills. PTA meeting, 7.00pm
- Thursday 29th March** – Easter Service, All Saints Church, 9.30am
- Break up for Easter
- Monday 16th April** – Back to school.



Books will again be on sale in the Year 2 classroom on Wednesday 7th March at lunchtime for any children who have not yet had the opportunity to buy. Huge thanks go to Mrs Mayo and the members of our Library Council for organising the day; thanks also to all who donate or purchase books – the love of reading is clearly something we all have in common in our school. World Book Day books are available at Just Books in Otley who also accept the tokens which are being given to the children today.

PTA Events Thank you to all those who helped in the organising and running of our film night/pyjama parties – we very much enjoyed watching 'The Emoji Movie' last week. Our next PTA meeting will be held on **Wednesday 21st March** at 7.00pm, when we will be planning some of our major events for the summer term. All parents are invited to attend, and we would particularly encourage parents of Reception or Nursery children to come along – we are very welcoming, with tea and biscuits as an added incentive.

PTA 50:50 Club Congratulations to our February winners – Charlotte Boardman (£104) and Julia Bottomley (£26). If you would like to be included in the draw, which raises money for PTA as well as offering the opportunity for a monthly payout, please fill in a form at the school office.



FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade Fortnight, 26th February – 11th March As in previous years we are wanting to draw the attention of families to the work of Fairtrade in supporting the rights of farmers and producers in developing countries. Each class has been doing some work on finding out more about Fairtrade products, from a tasting activity in Nursery of different sorts of chocolate and fruit, to Year 4's study of the environmental impact of the humble teabag. Year 6 will be leading an assembly next week for the whole school, as well as organising a Fairtrade café for staff and governors. We hope these activities will help to inform our children about the journey different products have made to our supermarket shelves, and maybe to look out for the Fairtrade symbol on future shopping trips. Do visit the Fairtrade website to find out more information; the film 'Samuel's Fairtrade Story' has been specially produced using a 360° camera, and can also be viewed using virtual reality goggles: go to schools.fairtrade.org.uk/Samuel if you would like to know more.

Celebrating Achievement Assembly Our next achievement assembly of the year is on Tuesday 13th March at 10.25am, when we share certificates, medals and news of any achievements of our pupils beyond the day-to-day curriculum. Any child with something to share should come and tell me about it beforehand, and any parents who wish to attend are welcome to do so.



Sport Relief 19th -23rd March This year sees the return of Sport Relief, the biennial opportunity to raise money to help vulnerable people in the UK and the world's poorest countries through sport. Our plans are to offer children a daily brief sporting challenge – skipping, hula hooping, aerobics etc. – for which they would be sponsored. Sainsbury's have provided us with a variety of Sport Relief goodies which will be offered as prizes to any children who are able to gain sponsors and raise money. Look out for the sponsor forms coming home shortly, and please support your child in their challenge if you can.

Musical Extravaganza, Tuesday 20th March Preparations are now well advanced for our annual celebration of the music making that takes place in the schools in Otley, Pool and Bramhope. This will feature performances from our choir and orchestra, alongside music from Prince Henry's and other primary schools. Children will be attending a rehearsal at Yeadon Town Hall that afternoon between 1.30 and 3.45pm; transport is provided to the venue, but we would ask that parents arrange to pick up their children after the rehearsal. All participant families should now have received a letter about the concert; please let us know if you feel you should have received one.



Partnerships in Art and Cultural Education As part of Leeds City Council's plans for a year-long celebration of the city's diverse cultures in 2023, staff from a number of Leeds schools have been offered the opportunity to make a brief visit to a city which has been a previous holder of the title of European Capital of Culture. Mrs Nunn and I will be travelling to Dortmund in Germany on 14th- 17th March to find out more about their arts culture and music making, particularly their programme of providing every primary school pupil with a musical instrument. We look forward to sharing our findings with you.