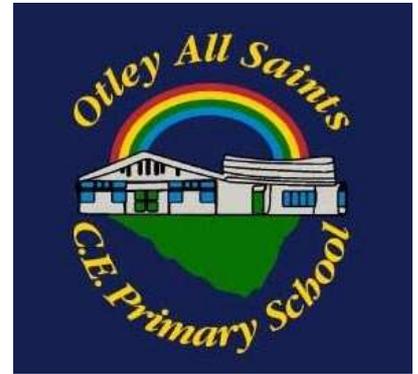


Otley All Saints CE Primary School

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'Pride comes before a fall' as the saying goes; no sooner had I boasted in our last newsletter that we had managed to keep the school open when many were forced to close, then the weather returned with a vengeance. So it was that on Thursday 8th

March we were forced to take the decision to close the school, given the treacherous road conditions which prevented staff from getting to school. Of course the snow was short-lived, and we were able to hold Parents' Evening as intended, but for the first time in Mrs Sowden's 25 year tenure the weather defeated us! Here's hoping that is an end to it for this winter!

Sport Relief 19th -23rd March This year sees the return of Sport Relief, an opportunity to raise money to help vulnerable people in the UK and the world's poorest countries through sport. Next week Year 6s are organising a daily sporting challenge – penalty shootout, bench hops, tennis bounce etc. – and we would like all our pupils to join in. We are asking for a donation of your choice as a challenge entry fee – suggested amount is £1 per child, but it is strictly 'pay as you feel'. Sainsbury's have provided us with a variety of Sport Relief goodies which will be offered as prizes to the children who do the best at the challenges over the week, but the important thing is to have fun while raising money. Please help us to support this cause.



Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)

Having already experienced our long-awaited Ofsted inspection this term, we were well-prepared for our 'other' inspection, which looks at the distinctive aspects of our work as a church school. Mrs Angela Knowles, an experienced inspector and headteacher, spent the day with us on Friday, and commented very positively on all she saw, particularly the good behaviour and considerate attitudes our pupils displayed. We look forward to receiving and sharing her report within the next few weeks.

This half term our core Christian value is:



Diary Dates

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

Friday 30th March – Service to celebrate 50 years of the Otley Cross, 12.30pm, Otley Methodist Church.

Monday 16th April – Back to school.

Thursday 19th April – PTA Disco, KS1 5.30-6.30, KS2 6.45-7.45

Friday 27th April – Year 1 visit to Hesketh Farm.





Parent Support Many thanks to those who have taken the time to return the governors' questionnaire distributed at parents' evening. We are always grateful, not only for the many kind and supportive comments, but also for the constructive suggestions and minor concerns that are raised. It all helps to make our school a better place. The governors have promised a Fairtrade prize for one of the (named) questionnaires returned, to be drawn at random, so if you haven't yet returned a form, and would like to, do pick one up from the office.

PTA Events Thank you to Jan Lewis, Rachel Winter and all the parents who helped to make and sell the presents at our Mothers' Day shop last week. We hope that Mothers' Day was a special day for all our families. 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.

Easter Service and Competitions As in previous years the PTA are organising competitions to find the best decorated Easter egg and Easter bonnet or hat. Entry is 50p, and there are 1st and 2nd prizes for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. The competitions will be held on the last day of term, Thursday 29th March, and we hope to have an Easter hat parade in church as part of our Easter service at All Saints Church. The service, led by Year 6, will start at 9.30am, and all our families are very welcome to attend.



Musical Extravaganza, Tuesday 20th March, 7.00pm A final reminder of 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.

Carnival Queen and Consort The Otley Carnival queen, consort, deputy queen and attendants will all be selected this evening at the Otley Old People's Welfare Centre (top of the bus station), beginning at 7.15pm. All Otley children aged 10-12 are eligible to be considered for queen and consort roles, and children aged 7-9 may apply to be attendants. If your child wishes to be considered, please accompany them to the selection evening, having filled out the brief application form which can be found in the newsletter section of our website.



Ragbag Clothes Collection One of the sources of PTA fundraising that has been very welcome in recent years has been the old clothes collection bin which is situated in the school car park. We welcome sealed bin bags of clothes that can be reused elsewhere; if you are spring cleaning and have clothes to throw out, please consider popping them in the collection bin instead. Thank you.

Playground Security We appreciate the support that families give us to keep our school site safe for our children. We hope that it is a welcoming place, and that parents and families feel they are part of a community. However it is becoming difficult to lock gates and secure the site at the start of the day, as some parents are enjoying a chat after they have dropped their children off. We don't want to be inhospitable, but please allow us to lock up promptly. Thank you for your co-operation.