



OTTERHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

# OTTERHAM OBSERVER

ARE YOU TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A FREE SWIM AT CAMELFORD ON A MONDAY ?

DECEMBER 2019



## Class 1 Christmas Performance—Billy the Kid

To say that the children in Class 1 wowed the audience with their production of Billy the Kid would be an understatement! Their delivery of the play based around four different texts (Billy the Kid, War Horse, Private Peaceful and War Game) and telling the story of an historical event, 'The Christmas Day Truce', was both emotional and heart warming. The acting was fantastic with the children keeping the audience hanging on their every word. Congratulations to all of the children on their performance and a huge well done and thank you to Miss Forbes for her artistic direction. Investigations are underway into the feasibility of taking the play to a wider audience by performing it in the village hall during the first half of the Spring Term—watch this space!



### School Council—Pirate FM Christmas Toy Appeal

A huge well done to the School Council for firstly having the thought to support this appeal but then for actually organising and delivering the event itself. Thank you to you the parents for baking an enormous amount of cake which all got sold on the day. £82.60 was raised in cash for the Toy Appeal and 3 large bags of toys were also donated. Thank you to Mrs Handley and Miss Forbes-Hardy for assisting the children.

### MENTAL HEALTH

There is a big focus on breaking down barriers regarding mental health. Remember—our children's emotional resilience is affected by our own. Don't be afraid to seek support and/or advice.

### Yoga with Aly Chatterjaj

It has been a pleasure to welcome Aly into our school for 5 weeks to deliver children's yoga to all 3 classes. As a way to focus on core strength and mindfulness, yoga is certainly a discipline that can help promote a sense of calm and wellbeing. Aly has thanked the school (pupils and staff) for their level of engagement and hopes to return at some point in the future.



### Class 2 Pirates Dance

In preparation for a NCLT Dance Festival, Class 2 created and practised a 'Pirates of the Caribbean' dance over a series of weeks. Unfortunately the festival has had to be postponed until the Spring Term but Class 2 did perform their dance to an excellent turn out of parents who were suitably impressed with the performance. Well done children and thank you to Miss Forbes for the choreography!

### SLEEPOVER

It seems like such a long time ago now but on Friday 1st November 69 children and adults slept over at school to raise funds for the Friends but also for fun (I hear one or two adults question the 'for fun'). Despite the wild weather restricting outside activities, everyone had an enjoyable evening especially when watching the 'Otterham's Got Talent' show all together in the hall. £450 was raised for the benefit of all children within the school.



### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

We hope that you are always treated fairly and feel able to come into school to discuss issues. We are open to reviewing our equality policies. What does this mean? We aim, in everything we do, to treat all members of our school community fairly in all respects—gender, race, age, single parents, sexual orientation, disability and religious belief. If you feel that you are being treated less than fairly it is hoped that you feel able to discuss the matter with any member of staff here at school, or if you would prefer to discuss it with a parent governor, please do so. The parent governors here at school are Rachel Quinn and Sarah Northcott.

## HEY EWE!

Class 3 did a fantastic job of telling the Nativity story from the point of view of the ewe. The singing was passionate, the dancing spectacular and the narrating very clear indeed. We even had some of the younger members of the audience attempting to join in the fun on the stage!



Well done to all of the children and staff for a memorable performance and thank you parents for your efforts with the costumes, the children looked fabulous.

## Otterham 'Friends'

A massive thank you to all members of our 'Friends' for the time given for the benefit of our school community. In a time when school budgets are increasingly tight, your support is invaluable! New members are always welcome—there is much truth in the saying 'many hands make light work'. Keep an eye out for the date of the next meeting and come along to show your support.

## PRIMARY FUTURES—CLASS 1 CONSIDER THEIR OPTIONS

A recent BBC article has reported that 'by the age of seven, children are already facing limits on their future aspirations in work'. It is thought that stereotypes about social background, gender and race are contributing factors to this, and children are showing signs of only considering jobs that are 'already familiar to them'. Class 1 children are engaging in a Primary Futures series of activities, the first of which being called 'What's my Line?' Three volunteers from various backgrounds (media, careers and training consultant) allowed the children to ask questions about their area of work and how they came to choose the path they did without actually knowing their line of work. After the Q & A session the children then spent some time considering what the visitors did for jobs and further discussion about careers paths then took place. It was a superb afternoon with very complimentary feedback from our visitors.

## MAGIC MARTIN

We've been welcoming Magic Martin to Otterham School for quite a few years now and he never fails to delight—a perfect way to end the term before we break up for Christmas. A combination of magic and disco provides plenty of awe and wonder before using up plenty of excess energy! Thank you to The Friends for providing this experience, it is very much appreciated by adults and children alike.

**FRIENDS FUNDRAISING—CHRISTMAS FAYRE £300, CHRISTMAS PRESENT WRAPPING £112 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**  
WATCH OUT FOR SPRING NEWSLETTER - **THANK YOU FRIENDS**

## OTTERHAM CHURCH CAROL CONCERT

Our yearly Carol Concert was held on Friday 6th December in Otterham Church. It was a lovely combination of congregational carols and performances by the children. It was great to see so many families joining us for this voluntary event and also to see how much the children enjoy performing to an audience. The School Choir were suitably impressive with some children being brave enough to deliver solos! Thank you to Miss Forbes for the time and effort spent preparing the children for the event. £122 was collected towards the end of the evening which has been split between the school and the church—thank you for your generosity.



*Merry Christmas*



## CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you for making the cakes, thank you for buying the cakes and thank you, Becky for organising the event. £205.31 was raised this year which is fantastic!

## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Friday 13th December brought the annual Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save the Children. £58 was raised for this very worthwhile cause and the school looked very festive as a result.



## GUITAR ASSEMBLY

Very well done to Evy and Hannah for their performance to the whole school under the watchful eye of Tom, their tutor. If any children wish to take up learning guitar, or indeed any other instrument, please see Kerry in the office for more information.

**FROM ALL OF THE STAFF HERE AT OTTERHAM SCHOOL, WE WISH ALL OF OUR FAMILIES A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**  
**SEE YOU ALL IN 2020—7TH JANUARY**