

Ambition · Bravery · Respect



Oyster Park Primary Academy

Newsletter

Autumn 2: December 2024

Issue 2

Children in Need

This November the children and staff at Oyster Park Primary Academy took part in the National Campaign Children in Need 2024.

To celebrate the incredible work that Children in Need does we invited both pupils and staff to come to school in



Christmas Jumper Campaign

On the run up to Christmas the children and staff also took part in the Christmas Jumper Day Campaign for Save the Children. To help raise money for such an important charity we invited pupils and staff to come to school in a Christmas jumper and make a small donation. As a school we are very proud.



Airedale Children and Baby Centre

Santa has visited Oyster Park once again this year, thanks to the lovely gifts provided to school by the Airedale Baby and Childrens Bank. Each year we are delighted by the amazing gifts provided to our pupils by the charity.

This charity works at the heart of the community and provides help to so many families in the local area. The charity is based at the Airedale Business Centre, Kershaw Avenue, Castleford, WF10 3ES.

Telephone: 07920878782

Email:

airedalebabyandchildrensbank@gmail.com



Key Dates



School Opens for Spring Term

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Year 5

Mobile Planetarium Workshop

Thursday 18th January 2025

Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 6th February 2025

Whole School Sublime Science Workshop

Wednesday 7th February 2025

School Closes for Spring Half Term

Friday 14th February 2025

For our full overview of Spring Term Enrichment Dates please see page 8.

Airedale Food Bank

We would like to say a huge thank you to the ongoing support given to our school community by the Airedale Food Bank. We continue to receive weekly donations of various food supplies brought generously by Cllr. Kathryn Scott, Deputy Chair, Children, Young People and Skills Overview and Scrutiny.

The contact number for the Airedale Food Bank is 07920878782. There can be several reasons why a person or a family asks for help such as loss of work, benefit changes, low income, delayed

Wages. The food bank works under the umbrella of Airedale Neighborhood Management Board working with local businesses and individuals to help alleviate hunger in our local area.

Donation of tinned vegetables, beans, spaghetti, tomatoes, fruit, soup, meat, baby food and milk, tea and coffee, toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, feminine hygiene, toilet rolls, household cleaners, are all welcome and appreciated by the organisation.





Religious Education & Culture

Christianity- ReonDemand

The children this half term took part in Christianity workshops ran by REonDemand. Using a wide range of artefacts, props, food and games, Christianity is brought to life with surprises and age-old stories. Children are familiar with most but not all of the Christian customs and how and why Christians celebrate, so REonDemand takes the children through a journey of exploration looking at the reasons behind the seasons.

The children also looked significant people in the New Testament as well as learning the historical lessons from the Old Testament. Other focuses included the Lord's Prayer, The Holy Trinity, how the Nativity is described in the gospels and more!



Christingle

As part of the Social Skills curriculum, the pupils have been creating Christingles and thinking about the symbolism of each part for Christian's at Christmas time.

- A Christingle is made from: An orange to represent the world
- Red ribbon to represent God's love for the world and the blood of Jesus Christ
- Sticks of dried fruits or sweets to represent God's creations and the four seasons and;
- A lit candle to represent Jesus being the light of the world, bringing hope.



Christingles are usually used during church services and school assemblies during Advent. They are lit during the service and all the lights are turned off. Prayers for people in need are said and songs are sung. During social skills, each class made and lit their own Christingle and sang the Christingle Song.

Hinduism- Diwali

This half term the pupils have explored the celebration of Diwali. They learnt about some of the activities that Hindus do to celebrate the festival of light including cleaning the house, visiting their temple, having a special meal and letting off fire works. The children enjoyed using colorful rice to create Rangoli patterns and paint to design Mehndi patterns.



Judahism- Hanukkah

This half term the pupils have been learning all about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of lights, and this year is celebrated between Wednesday 25th December 2024 and Thursday 2nd January 2025.



During Hanukkah, each night an additional candle on the menorah is lit.

Each day of Hanukkah is filled with songs, games, food and gifts.

Educational Visits & Enrichment

Year 2 – Thackrey Museum

This half term, Year 2 visited the Thackrey Museum to begin their History topic of Nurturing Nurses. The pupils took part in a tour of the museum looking at how hygiene conditions and medicine has developed over time. The pupil then took part in workshop led by Florence Nightingale where they found out all about Florence's life. The children became Doctors and Nurses at Scutari hospital. Before learning about how Florence cared for her patients and changed the conditions in hospitals.



Year 1 – History of Toys Workshop

This half term, Year 1 had an exciting morning exploring toys from the past. The children had lots of opportunities to play with toys that they hadn't previously experienced. We learnt how to identify if a toy is from the past by looking at the type of material it is made from and if it has a mechanism. Finally, the children were able to place the toys on a timeline and designed their own rocking horse toy.

Year 6 – Robinwood at Dobroyd Castle

This half term the Year 6 children went on a residential visit to Robinwood. Our children not only got to experience something new and exciting but also, stepped outside of their comfort zone and challenged themselves to conquer their fears and embrace every opportunity. From rock-climbing to zip-lining our children had to apply themselves and work together as a team.



Year 6 – Cenotaph

On Remembrance Sunday the Year 6 pupils joined members of the Fryston community at the local cenotaph to pay their respects to those who sacrificed their lives during wars and conflict. They thought about how the courageous soldiers fought valiantly so that we could all have a peaceful life where we are free to make our own decisions.

West End in Schools

This half term we once again welcomed West End performers, from West End in Schools, to carry out pantomime dance workshops with our pupils from Reception to Year 6. The children experienced the magic of panto, through the art of movement and storytelling along with classic pantomime tricks and humour –'It's behind you' and 'Oh yes it is!'



Year 4 - Chester Zoo

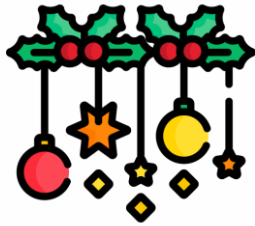
Year 4 had a wonderful time on their trip to Chester Zoo last week. The children were able to see and learn about a variety of animals from different habitats around the world. They looked at large mammals such as elephants, as well as experiencing bats at close quarters in the bat cave! By far their favourite animal, were the playful penguins who kept the children entertained with their underwater acrobatics! It was a great experience for all to see the animals up close and one they will remember for a long time.





Christmas Parties

This week our pupils have been coming to school all dressed up to celebrate their Christmas parties in style. Our pupils enjoyed a festive disco in the school hall as well as some Christmas party games and delicious treats. What a fabulous week of celebrations it has been to get into the Christmas spirit!



Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday 13th December the whole school enjoyed a festive Christmas meal together. The teachers, staff and pupils enjoyed a Christmas feast, telling jokes and dancing around to some festive favourites. We truly had a cracking time!



Christmas Performances

This half term our pupils have been working extremely hard to perform some amazing Christmas productions for their parents and fellow pupils.

This half term our pupils have been working extremely hard to perform some amazing Christmas productions for their parents and fellow pupils.

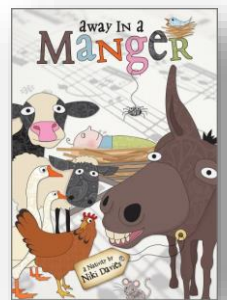
Nursery and Upper Foundation performed the classic Nativity story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of baby Jesus.

Year 1 and Year 2 performed *Away in a Manger*, a delightful children's Nativity play about a proud mule called Maurice, who has become rather attached to his manger.

What a commotion it causes when he had to share it with a stream of visitors!

Year 3 & 4 wowed with their amazing performance of the ELF!

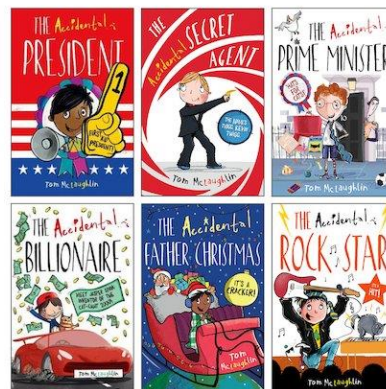
Year 5 & 6 performed 'The Grinch' with the addition of some popular classic Christmas songs.



Reading & Enrichment

Tom McLaughlin Author, Poet & Songwriter

On Wednesday 6th November, our school was visited by Tom McLaughlin. Tom the award-winning author of lots of amazing books. Tom conducted a series workshop with children in KS2. John's major aim was to help the school in developing and maintaining a culture of Reading for Pleasure. At the end of the session, Tom will be offered a book signing opportunity for the children to be able to purchase some of his well-loved books.



Reading at home

At Oyster Park we are driven to inspire a pleasure for reading within all our children. One of the great ways to achieve this is to read with family members

at home. Reading can be done anywhere; whether it be listening whilst travelling in the car, during meal-times, whilst relaxing on the sofa or even at before bed-time.



All reading done at home can be recorded in the pupils reading records to allow teachers to see how much the children have been reading outside of school. As a school we recommend every child reads at home at least 4 times a week.

Christmas Reads

As part of the Christmas Festivities, we invited parents to come into school and enjoy a Christmas read with their children. The morning began with both parents and pupils listening to a Christmas story, read by the class teacher. The parents and pupils then helped themselves to a hot chocolate and a mince pie before taking part in a range of festive activities. Pupils and parents got the opportunity to make festive crafts such as reindeer baubles, Christmas cards and read some lovely Christmas stories together.



Book Trunk

Each week a pupils from each class in Year 1 to Year 4 is specially selected to take home the class Book Trunk for the weekend! The book trunk is an exciting bag of goodies to create the perfect reading experience at home. The Book Trunk included a lovely story selected by the class, some hot chocolate to enjoy whilst reading, our cuddly book trunk mascot to read to and a reading journal for parents and pupils to write in about their weekend book trunk adventure.



Parent Book Swap

In the school office you will find the Oyster Park Primary Academy Parent Book Swap initiative. We have had some kind donations from staff and the school community and would like to invite you to swap any of your preloved books with one within our Parent Swap Box.



We look forward to seeing which titles and authors are swapped amongst our parent reading community.

More Than Club Autumn Term

As we reach the end of the Autumn Term, we are excited to celebrate the pupils in the More Than Club. All pupils who have achieved 98% attendance or above this term have received a certificate and a hotdog on the last day of term.

The More Than Club will continue to run in the Spring Term. Any pupil with attendance of 97% or above will be celebrated at the end of the term. We are aware many of our pupils have been affected by illness this term but the target of 97% will provide all pupils with the opportunity to join the More Than Club.





Spring Enrichment Dates

Events	Dates
Spring Term 1	
Sublime Science Workshop	Wednesday 5 th & Thursday 6 th February 2025
Chinese New Year	Wednesday 29 th January 2025
Spring Term 2	
International Mother Language Day	Friday 21 st February 2025
Year 5 Wonderdome - Mobile Planetarium	Monday 24 th February 2025
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March 2025
Year 1 Elvington Air Museum	Friday 7 th March 2025
Year 3 Ancient Egyptians Workshops	Monday 10 th March 2025
RE on Demand Hinduism Workshops	Thursday 13 th & Friday 14 th March 2025
Upper Foundation T Rex Workshop	Wednesday 26 th March 2025

Letters relating to all workshops and trips will be sent out in Spring 1

Celebrating Pupil Achievement

Class	Attendance National average is 96%	Start of the Week	Writer of the Week	Hall of Fame
Morning Nursery Miss Swan	82%	All Nursery	All Nursery	All Nursery
Afternoon Nursery Miss Swan	90%	All Nursery	All Nursery	All Nursery
RT Miss Tonks	90%	All RT	All RT	All RT
RB Miss Brannon	75%	All RB	All RB	All RB
1A Miss Ramzan	68%	All 1R	All 1R	All 1R
1C Mrs Coomber	88%	All 1C	All 1C	All 1C
2S Miss Stirling	92%	All 2S	All 2S	All 2S
2A Miss Ambler	85%	All 2A	All 2A	All 2A
3R Mrs Ramzan	89%	All 3S	All 3S	All 3S
3P Mrs Palmer	88%	All 3P	All 3P	All 3P
4E Mr Eccles	85%	All 4E	All 4E	All 4E
4S Mrs Smithson	95%	All 4G	All 4G	All 4G
5G Miss Golding	92%	All 5SL	All 4G	All 4G
5F Mr Foresyth	94%	All 5F	All 5F	All 5F
6AF Mr Adams	93%	All 6AF	All 6AF	All 6AF
6K Miss King	91%	All 6K	All 6K	All 6K

Ambition • Bravery • Respect

Ambition • Bravery • Respect

Autumn 2

Key Stage Attendance Superstars

Early Years Foundation Stage



Class Nursery PM

Key Stage 1



Class 2S

Lower Key Stage 2



Class 4S

Upper Key Stage 2



Class 5F

Feeling

P R O U D

**MORE
THAN
CLUB**

01977 515994

oysterpark.co.uk

 [@Oysterparkprim](https://twitter.com/Oysterparkprim)