



# St Osmund's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning



## Carol Service

On Tuesday, our Key Stage 2 children retold the Christmas story in our Carol Service with amazing grace and care. Our theme was '*Preferring the needs of others*' (a Catholic Social Teaching theme) and at each step of the way through the Christmas story – from the annunciation to Mary through to the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus – the children expertly showed how this journey is as relevant to us today as ever. 2023, like many recent years, has been challenging for the world so the children focused on poverty and our calling to help those in need who are needy through war, famine and the effects of climate change. The children have reminded us that Advent is a time of preparation and Christmas is a time of celebration.

*Open our hearts. Christ is ready to be with us always, and especially in the challenges.*

Have a Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year

## Christmas Fayre

I am sure you will agree, yesterday's Fayre was tremendous fun. It was a fantastic event, and it was a pleasure to see the school community come together to create such a special occasion. The efforts put into arranging the fayre do not go unnoticed, and I am grateful for the time and energy that was dedicated to making sure it was a success. From Santa's visit in his grotto, to the array of stalls, games, and the heartwarming carol singing, the fayre truly brought joy and festive spirit to all who attended.

We are very grateful to our parents for the support you have all given – donating cakes and chocolate, running stalls, or attending and spending! **Thank you!** Events like the Christmas Fayre also raise vital funds for the school. The money raised will go towards further enriching the educational experiences of our children, and I am incredibly grateful for all your support in this. Jess and the team have been busy counting all the money and the total has just come through - £1072! Thank you all so so much 😊

## Year 3 Carol Singing

For those who attended our KS2 Carol Service this week, you will have heard that our Year 3 class were going to be visiting a retirement home to perform for the residents. On Thursday, they visited Monument Place, where they had been invited to perform a selection of Christmas carols. Both children and residents enjoyed the rendition. The event was concluded by Year 3 giving gifts of handmade coasters and Christmas cards to each of the residents in attendance. This is a wonderful living example of Catholic Social Teaching. The residents were so pleased with the performance that they have donated £80 to the school to support our school! Thank you!

## Create and Be Academy – Christmas Workshop

Create and Be Academy are running a 2 day workshop on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December from 10.15am – 3pm at Harnham Scouts Hut, Lower Street for children aged 6 to 13. These workshops include clay sculpture, Christmas art, painting, sketching and offer games, Christmas snacks, hot chocolate and Christmas crackers. The price for the workshop is £75 with a sibling discount. For further information or to book a place call 07855112669 or 07928582205 or email [createandbeacademy@gmail.com](mailto:createandbeacademy@gmail.com)

## Thoughts and Prayers

Please keep in mind Mr Hartley and his family at this time. He has tragically lost both his parents in the last 4 weeks and at this time of year especially, this is immeasurably sad. Mr Hartley is a big part of what makes St Osmund's special – we are all thinking of him, Mrs Hartley and their family.

## Star of the Week Awards

**Rec:** Bertie and Dawid  
**Year 1:** Mason and Elena  
**Year 2:** Daniel and Ridvik  
**Year 3:** Winter and Olivia  
**Year 4:** George and Yannis  
**Year 5:** Mudia and Laura  
**Year 6:** Sofia K and Andy



# Dates for your diary...

[@St\\_OsmundsCP](http://www.twitter.com)

This week ~ no after school clubs. These will return 08.01.24

20.12.23 ~ Last day of Term 2 ~ 1:30pm ~ NON-UNIFORM DAY (be Christmassy!) No donation.

04.01.24 ~ First day of Term 3 (Thursday)

10.01.24 ~ Whole School Epiphany Mass ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 10am

16.01.24 ~ Reception Fire Brigade visit ~ 9:30am

16.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year 2

Mr R Sanderson  
Headteacher

***"The people who walked  
in darkness  
have seen a great light"  
(Isaiah 9:1).***

***God of blessings,  
we celebrate your good gifts  
and rejoice at the gift of  
your son, Jesus.  
Amen.***

## Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school safeguarding team:

Mr Sanderson – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Chapman – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Sambrook – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Windsor – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

## Online safety in the Christmas holidays

At this time of year, with more time at home and colder, wetter weather outside, it is understandable that children – and all of us – may spend more time online. With this increase in online activities, we need to be aware of the importance of online safety.

Here are a few recommendations to help ensure your child's online safety during the holidays:

1. Set clear boundaries: Establish rules around screen time and which websites and apps are appropriate for your child to access. Encourage them to use the internet in shared family spaces, where their activities can be monitored.
2. Open communication: Keep the lines of communication open with your child about their online activities. Encourage them to talk about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or uncertain.
3. Educate about privacy: Remind children to never share personal information online, such as their full name, address, school details, or photos, with people they don't know in real life.
4. Monitor online interactions: Regularly check on the content your child is consuming and monitor their social interactions online for any signs of cyberbullying or inappropriate behaviour.
5. Parental controls: Consider utilising parental control features on devices and internet browsers to limit access to unsuitable content.

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# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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