

Newsletter

December 2023



Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

I can't believe it is December already! Since half term, the children have been working hard and continuing to try their best to earn marbles for following our three school rules – Be ready, be respectful and be safe. As a reward for filling the whole school marble jar three times before half term, the children have enjoyed a fabulous silent disco (which the staff also enjoyed!), an amazing circus skills workshop and an ice pop treat – well done Oulton! Things are starting to feel festive in school now. We began the run up to Christmas with a very successful Christmas fair, run by POPS. Attendance at this even was brilliant and we know lots of people enjoyed participating in the games, buying treats from the stalls and meeting Santa. A huge thank you to POPS for organising such a fun event – a grand total to be announced soon. As you know, there are a number of festive events you are invited to in school over the coming weeks – please see the end of this letter for further details. We hope to see as many of you as possible in school before Christmas. **Mr Horton.**

E-safety workshop

Following on from our phonics, spelling and maths workshops, we will be running an E-safety workshop for parents on Monday 29th January at 3:30pm. More information will be sent out soon.

Support Staffing Changes

One of our valued teaching assistants, Mrs Wilson, will be leaving Oulton at the end of term. We will really miss her and wish her all the best for the future. We will let you know about her replacement in due course.

Teaching Staff Changes

As you know, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Cooper and Miss James are all leaving at the end of term. Mrs Ellis, who we appointed to replace Mrs Harrison, has already spent a few days in school this week, getting to know the children, staff and some parents. The children in Reception have really enjoyed spending time with her and we know she is looking forward to starting in January.

Miss Wood, who already knows Oulton quite well due to her role as a supply teacher, has been appointed to teach Blue Tangs after Christmas. She has already spent a number of days teaching the class this term (and some of the children last year too) so the children know her quite well already. Miss Cooper will continue to teach the class for one day each week, on a Friday.

We have interviewed today, for the vacancy in Starfish class, and we are pleased to report that we have made an appointment. Once we formalise this appointment, we'll share the details (next week) of Starfish's new teacher and the arrangements for them visiting Oulton before the end of the term.

Baby news!

We are pleased to announce the birth of Mrs Shuttleworth's baby girl, Ada. Although Ada surprised Mr and Mrs Shuttleworth by coming over a month early, she is doing really well and came in for a visit with Mrs Shuttleworth today.

Miss Barrett is happy to share that she is expecting a baby and will commence her maternity leave at Easter. We are in the process of planning Miss Barrett's cover and this will be communicated with Orcas as soon as we know more.



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Sporting events

Groups of children have had a fantastic time going out of school to participate in a Y2 & 3 cheerleading event and a SEND bowling event this term. Thank you to Mr James for organising these trips.

Yorkshire Children's Charity Christmas Party

Miss Birch, Mrs Holtby and a group of children from across school were lucky enough to be invited to the Yorkshire Children's Charity Christmas Party at Elland Road this year. At the party, they got to watch a pantomime, eat lots of party food, play party games and dance at a disco! The children had a very exciting day and looked amazing in their Christmas party clothes! Thank you to Miss Birch and Mrs Holtby for arranging this special event.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Miss James sent a letter to you all a couple of weeks ago, asking you to make donations to our reverse advent calendar. All donations will go to St George's Crypt which is a charity that supports people who are homeless. We know Christmas is an expensive time of year but we are hoping many of you will still be able to donate one or two items to this worthy cause. Class teachers will send separate letters letting you know the item we would like you to donate. Thank you for your generosity with this.

Bike Shed Security

Unfortunately, we have had some attempted thefts from our bike/scooter sheds. Luckily, we were able to locate the missing items and return them to the sheds; the police have been informed and we have passed on information/CCTV footage to aid them. We want our pupils to be active and cycle/scoot to school and for their property to be safe. To this end, we will be locking the cycle cages during the school day; if you need access during the school day, you will need to let the school office know.

Events

Listed below are the Christmas events we will be holding in school this year. We warmly welcome to come to as many of these as you can! One of our new events is our Christmas craft afternoon, next week, which we might add to our annual list of parent events if it goes well. At the Christmas concerts, POPS will be providing refreshments so we will open the doors early enough for you to get a drink before the show starts. Thank you again to POPS for providing this.

14 th December	EYFS - Christmas Performance: 2.30pm (Doors open at 2:15)
15 th December	Whole school Christmas craft event - parents invited - 2pm
19 th December	KS1 - Christmas Performance: 2pm (Doors open at 1:45)
21 st December	Christmas Lunch (School Pupils/Staff Only) - children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers on this day.
22 nd December	KS2 - Carol Concert: 2.30pm (Doors open at 2:20)
23 rd December-7 th January	Christmas Break- School Closed
2024	
8 th January	School Opens
29 th January	E-safety workshop for parents
10 th -18 th February	Spring Half Term- School Closed
19 th February	School Closed to Pupils - Training Day #4
20 th February	School Opens
28 th -1 st March	Y4: Whitby Residential Trip
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day

