



OLQP News

Friday 8th December 2023
www.olqoprprimary.org.uk



Forthcoming Events

A reminder to parents that the following events are coming up in school over the next fortnight.

Christmas Performances

We are looking forward to celebrating and welcoming you all to our Christmas performances in school.

Tues 12th December - EYFS Nativity 1:30pm Hall
Wed 13th December - EYFS Nativity 10:00am Hall
Nursery children can go home early after their morning performance, if parents wish, but are also able to stay for their full session as usual and be collected at normal pick up time. Reception are able to leave early from their afternoon performance only, if parents wish. Thank you very much.

Thurs 14th December - KS1 Nativity 1:30pm Hall
Fri 15th December - KS1 Nativity 10:00am Hall

Tuesday 19th December -
KS2 Carol Service 9:30am in Church

Parents do not need tickets for these performances. All we ask is that **no more than two adults per child** attends each event to comply with safety guidelines. Mrs Ludford and Mrs Dickman will be greeting parents at the main doors into the Hall and keeping a tally of numbers attending per performance to comply with safeguarding and Health and Safety requirements. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Refreshments will be available before the 10:00am performances. Parents are welcome to come straight into the Hall after drop off and wait for the performance to start. Refreshments will be available after the 1:30pm performances. Children will be then dismissed from the afternoon events in the usual manner from their allocated exit doors.

Christmas Party Days

Class party days will be held in school on:

Monday 18th December - EYFS
Tuesday 19th December - Year 1 and Year 2
Wednesday 20th December - Year 3 and Year 4
Thursday 21st December - Year 5 and Year 6

Children can come into school wearing their party clothes on their allocated days. Please remember a warm coat and a change of shoes, especially if your child may be wearing special party shoes which could be ruined on the school playground. Party food will be provided by the school kitchen for all children. Packed lunches are not required on your child's party day. Sincere thanks to Mrs Lines and her team!

Christmas Singing

Our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will be singing at our local care homes across the next couple of weeks. We know this will bring Christmas cheer and many smiles! We look forward to hearing your beautiful carols.

Some of our KS2 children are also performing in the Ecumenical Carol Service which is to be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church on Thursday 14th December at 7pm. It isn't too late to put your name down to sing. Please let the School Office or Mrs Lamond know if your child would like to attend.

All are very welcome to come and join our choir, or attend the service in Church. Thank you to those who have already volunteered.

Music Tuition Performances

Some of the children take music lessons during the school day. The children would like to perform a selection of their musical pieces to their parents and friends. A very short and simple performance will take place on the following days:

Thursday 14th December - 9:00am Hall
Guitar and flute recitals

Friday 15th December - 3:00pm Hall
Keyboard recitals

Parents or carers of pupils who play an instrument are welcome to stay for the 20 minute recital. Representatives from classes will also be present so that every child will have an audience member to cheer for them.

A Christmas Message

Thank you to all our parents, grandparents and families for your continued support. It has been a very positive term in school and a great start to the academic year.

As Christmas time draws near, we would like to remind families that there is absolutely no obligation or expectation to buy gifts for staff. We appreciate that many children and parents like to express their thanks, but we are living in extraordinary times with the cost of living crisis and financial hardship felt by so many. Homemade cards, gifts and prayers for staff are very much welcomed and will, as always, be very warmly and gratefully received.

Please be assured that you will be in our thoughts and prayers over this Christmas season. If we can be of help in anyway, please do not hesitate to get in touch with school via the Weduc messaging system, or pop into the School Office.



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Christmas Holidays

On Friday 22nd December, school closes for the Christmas holidays. On this day children can wear non-uniform. This can include Christmas jumpers and party clothes. This is not for any money or donations - just for fun!

School will reopen again on Tuesday 9th January 2024 to all pupils. Please note that Monday 8th January is a staff training day. Thank you.

Christmas Fayre

A tremendous *thank you* to the members of our PTA who planned and organised a fabulous Christmas fayre for our community last Thursday.

The fayre was very well attended and the atmosphere was lovely. It was wonderful to see external vendors present and we were delighted to welcome pupils from St. Robert's Secondary School to support our community links.

Special thanks must go to Mrs Lines and her team of helpers who served beautiful hot roast sandwiches and hot chocolate!

Our visit from Santa Claus made it all the more special. Santa has had a very busy week as he visited Our Lady Queen of Peace last Wednesday too for a special breakfast with Nursery and Reception. Thank you Santa, rest now before Christmas Eve!

The pennies are busy being counted and as soon as we have the final total, we will inform parents.

Once again sincere thanks to Mrs Forbister, Mrs Ludford and their amazing team of parent helpers. Without your organisation and vision, these events would not be possible.

We look forward to the next activities in the Spring term.

There are a few items left over from the Fayre which we will place in a basket at the front of school. If any family members are looking for little stocking fillers, please help yourselves.

Raffle tickets from the Christmas Fayre will continue to be sold at the Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity performances in case anyone missed them last week. The raffle will be drawn on **Friday 15th December**. Winners will be notified on Weduc. There will also be a sweet cart, hot chocolate and juice cups available to buy at each performance.

Nursery and Reception will be running their own mini raffle at each performance. Money will go towards their Early Years fund to buy much needed resources. Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Mass Times

A warm welcome awaits everyone as we come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Please find below the Mass times and venues across the Parish of St. John XXIII.

Sunday 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30am - St. John Boste

10:00am - Our Lady Queen of Peace

11:00am - Our Lady Blessed Immaculate

Christmas Vigil - Sunday 24th December

5:00pm - St. Bede's

5:30pm - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate

6:00pm - St. Joseph's, Birtley (Carols from 5:30pm)

7:00pm - St. John Boste (Carols from 6:30pm)

7:30pm - Our Lady Queen of Peace

(Carols from 7:00pm)

11:30pm - Our Blessed Lady Immaculate

(Carols from 11:00pm)

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th December

9:00am - St. Bede's

9:30am - Our Lady Queen of Peace

10:00am - St. Joseph's, Birtley

10:15am - St. John Boste

Thursday 14th December

10:00am - Whole School Advent Mass in Church

Congratulations

After some tough trials with 50 other children, we are delighted to share the news that Harry in Year 6 has made the Washington District Football Team. A fantastic achievement Harry; well done!

Our school football team are having a brilliant season so far. They played last week in the Futsal League and won one of their games.

Keep working hard everyone; we are very proud of you. Thank you to Mr Anderson and Mr Ng for coaching the team and organising the games.

Weduc Newsfeed

Parents may wish to log onto our Weduc newsfeed which is being populated with class and school activities regularly. We welcome parental interaction and any positive comments for the children. Thank you for your support.

Payment for Christmas Lunch

If your child is in Key Stage 2 and usually has a packed lunch, but ordered a Christmas dinner last Thursday, payment can be made via Arbor. The cost is £2.65. Thank you to all parents who have topped up their accounts accordingly. Any questions, please ask.