

Newsletter



8

Friday 20th December 2024



Merry
Christmas
& **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

We'll see you back here at
8:30am on Tuesday,
7th January







Oak Class had lots of fun performing their play, despite being a few children down due to illness. Well done to all of you! Thank you to Mrs Bradley, Mrs Carter, Mrs Humphris and Mrs Cook for your patience & hard work! Once again, many thanks to Pooiyi, (Emily & Caron's Mum) for these amazing photos.



Chaplain Chat

As the final week of the school term is upon us, and we turn full steam ahead towards Christmas with all its traditions and trimmings, I am getting ready for the arrival of two of my grandchildren, 5 and 2. For young children, the magic, awe and wonder of the season are so very novel and vivid in a way that can fade with age, and I'm really excited to be sharing in it with them, re-living my own memories of childhood.



The family rituals we create, perhaps 'Elf on the shelf' through December, an annual visit to a winter grotto or Christmas market, ending with a trail of Santa's sooty footprints and a carrot for Rudolph on Christmas Eve, are setting precedents for behaviours our children are likely to continue when they grow into adulthood. The same goes for the expectations around the giving and receiving of presents...

A mum at one of the six primary schools in my care recently shared a story of what she has done this year, now her children are older. She gave them their own budget (a learning experience in itself) and let them choose some presents for themselves. So off they went to a very big toy shop! Contrary to her expectations, rather than sweeping the shelves, they came away with virtually nothing. Going to a café afterwards, she told me, chatting and enjoying a drink and a fancy cake, was the best part of the day. She had given her children her presence, rather than presents – the gift of time.

The practice of giving presents at Christmas is rooted in the Bible story of the three kings coming to Bethlehem with gold, frankincense and myrrh for the Christ Child. For Christians, God's gift of Jesus as a sign of his unconditional love is immeasurably more than any earthly present – the ultimate gift of presence: *Emmanuel* means 'God with us.' Jesus embraced all the joys and ordeals of being human, including death, so we can know God through him, and by his example showed us how to love one another.



Spending time with someone, especially one-to-one, is the best way to get to know and understand them and build a strong and lasting relationship. It is a form of love language that says, 'You are important. I like being with you.' As parents or grandparents, being truly present with one child makes them feel they are the most important person in the world to us. Often this requires sacrifice: few of us have enough hours in the day to get everything done as it is, and giving a child quality time might necessitate giving up something else, or making the effort even when we are exhausted, rushed or emotionally out of sorts ourselves. It doesn't have to be anything expensive or complicated: read a book, bake a cake, go to the park or a café, linger at bedtime – or ask your child how they want to spend time with you!

Finally, a challenge... unlike so many presents that are just for Christmas, played with fleetingly but quickly forgotten, presence is a gift that keeps on giving, 'to infinity and beyond!' Simply *being with* your child not only means *doing* things together, it is also a means for *knowing* them better. As you spend time together, good conversations emerge, and you create an environment in which you can begin to talk about deeper, more important issues. Will you give someone in your family the gift of presence this Christmas?

Every blessing

Heather (EPA Chaplain)



Well done to our school choir who sang at the 'Carols by Candlelight' service at St Peter's Church on Sunday. (Thank you to Pooiyi for the photo).

IF IT SNOWS....

In the event of school closure due to significant snow, we will send a message via **ParentMail** and also put it on **Facebook** and on our school **webpage** by 7.30am.

We know the disruption caused when school is unexpectedly closed, so we will always make every effort to keep school open. Many children relish the prospect of a children v staff snowball fight, so in the event of significant snow, we will always aim to make it fun! Here are some photos and a link to the newsletter from winter 18/19 which was a very memorable snowy day. <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-peters-cofe-primary-school-cassington/UploadedDocument/83beabfaa9a84c5eada01ace6506c4c9/newsletter19.pdf>





Thank you to the SPSA for paying for everyone in school to go to the pantomime in Oxford. Oak, Maple & Willow went to see 'Sleeping Beauty' (sorry—we didn't even think about taking photos) and Apple Tree went to a slightly smaller performance called 'Hurry up, Father Christmas'! Everyone had a good time!



Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre, whether by attending the event or by purchasing or selling raffle tickets.

We're excited to share that we raised over £2,000 which will be used to support the students' learning.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 14th January @ 8pm in the Red Lion, Cassington.

Merry Christmas from the SPSA team!

TALENT SHOW RESULTS:

Overall Winner - Zeraphina Muir

Apple: 1st - Skylar Skinner

Oak: 1st - Reuben Walker

2nd - Maeve Forest & Olivia Ostridge

3rd - Arlow Overmire & John Joe Allen

Maple: 1st - Caron Riding & Emily Riding

2nd - Petra Skinner

3rd - Abigail Andrews & Hudson Meade

Willow: 1st - Celyn Phillips

2nd - Julia Dixon & Yasmeena Chudry

Joint 3rd - Acton Forest, Alfie Bennett & Tobias Woolley

Joint 3rd - Poppy Taylor, Ffion Jones, Annie Baxter, Isla Chapman & Ciara Overmire





Thank you to all of you who came to see the Cassington Players' Pantomime last week! Written by the amazing Mandy Constance, and with a total of 45 awesome cast & crew, 'Doctor Who - The Panto' was absolutely fantastic and brilliant fun! Well done especially to our very own Layla, Frankie & Alfie—you were fabulous!

Cassington Players are donating all profits from the panto to Cassington Sports and Social Club's fundraising for the new play equipment at Elms Road playground. (Calendars still for sale at £5 each!)





A Message from Mr Jeffries



Dear Parents and Carers,

After all the festive activity this week we certainly know Christmas is well and truly here! The Oak class nativity play was exceptional with the children feeding off each other's energy and clearly enjoying every moment of the show. In the weeks prior to show-time, I always enjoy listening from my office and hearing the lines get clearer and the singing more confident as the days go on. The children clearly wanted to show their absolute best so a big thank you to Mrs Bradley, Mrs Carter, Mrs Cook, and Mrs Humphris for encouraging the children to be their absolute best. What a fantastic memory for the children and all the families who saw them perform. Truly heartwarming stuff!

Thanks to the generous support of our wonderful SPSA, the children were once again able to enjoy a free trip to the panto, at the Playhouse for the main school and a trip to the Burton Taylor Studio for Apple Tree class. There was great excitement and much laughter and a wonderful opportunity for the children to experience live performance. The SPSA put in so much hard work behind the scenes, and we are grateful to them for making these trips possible.

The children have really excelled themselves this year with the Christmas challenges. We love the children's enthusiasm, and we have tried to match that this year with a slightly bigger budget for better quality prizes! It was really difficult to judge the winners on some days, and staff had a lot of fun playing the games and hearing the jokes. We think this is unique to St Peter's and long may the tradition continue.

A huge thank you to our incredible staff for their hard work during this incredibly long-term and a big thank you to parents for supporting us in all the wonderful ways that you do. The children have worked so hard, and it's been our absolute pleasure celebrating their successes both in class and in celebration worships on Fridays.

And finally, thank you as always to Duncan for putting so much effort and thought into our Christmas service and Heather for being such a fantastic chaplain and bringing so many new ideas to life.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new term.

Jon Jeffries

Executive Headteacher

Our short staff Panto is always enjoyed by the children!





BRILLIANT BEARS STAY & PLAY

You are invited to come along to St Peter's school in Cassington, OX29 4DN

Friday 31st January 2025

2-3pm

Suitable for families
with children aged
0-4yrs

£3 per family

<https://www.st-petersoxon.co.uk/nursery-children/>



STOP

THANKS FOR REMEMBERING
THIS IS A



**PEANUT/NUT FREE
SCHOOL**

We currently have children who have serious nut allergies. Please remember that we don't allow any nuts or nut products in school. **This includes Nutella.** Thank you for helping us to keep St Peter's School a safe place.



Office.3651@st-peters.oxon.sch.uk



01865 880443



www.st-petersoxon.co.uk

Value of the term

Peace

Child quote of the term

Fly like a dove and spread Peace —

Abigail Andrews

Question of the Week

What examples of Peace are there, from the Christmas story?

'R' of the Term

Reciprocity

Reciprocity



I can share what I did	
I can share my ideas	
I want to know more	

Reciprocity



I can listen to others carefully	
I can discuss ideas clearly and work together	
I can imagine the thoughts and feelings of others	

Reciprocity



- I can **recognise** when to work alone or with others
- I can **listen** to others carefully
- I can **demonstrate** understanding of other views
- I can **discuss** ideas clearly and help others learn
- I can **innovate** with others' ideas and ways of learning
- I can **evaluate** different points of view and adapt my methods




Your children will recognise these posters from their class. You may find these useful to use at home and to help reinforce what we are doing in school.

Please see the website for more information - <https://www.st-petersoxon.co.uk/diary>




HAPPY CHRISTMAS!



JANUARY 2025

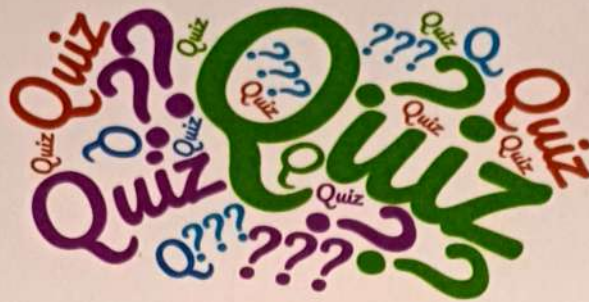
- Monday 6th - **INSET DAY** (School closed)
- Tuesday 7th - **New term**
- Friday 10th - Maple class trip to **Ashmolean**
- Tuesday 14th - **SPSA meeting** - 8pm in the Red Lion - All welcome! 
- Thursday 16th - Year 6 out for **IMPS** 10am-12:30pm
- Friday 17th - **Dance festival** - yr 3&4 - Bartholomew School - 9am—10:30am
- Monday 27th—Friday 31st - **YENWORTHY** (Attempt 2!) 
- Friday 31st - **Stay & Play** in Apple Tree - 2-3pm - Brilliant Bears - £3 per family 

FEBRUARY 2025

- Tuesday 4th - **Goldilocks day** in Apple Tree 
- Tuesday 4th - **SPSA meeting** - 8pm in the Red Lion - All welcome! 
- Friday 7th - **Teddy Bear's picnic** in Apple Tree 
- Tuesday 11th - Oak class trip to **Ashmolean**
- Monday 17th — Friday 21st **HALF TERM**
- Monday 24th - **Term starts** back
- Thursday 27th - Willow trip to **Compton Verney**

MARCH 2025

- Tuesday 4th - Netball - yr 5&6 - Bartholomew School - 3:45pm—5:00pm



Join us for a just for fun quiz evening at the
Red Lion Cassington on:

Saturday 18th

January 7:30 pm

start

Teams of up to **6** people are welcome, entry is only **£2**
per person, all proceeds will go towards the play area.

Gather your friends, test your knowledge, and support a
great cause. We hope to see you there!

OSTMA LIONS

**Life and safety skill
programme for
4 - 6 year old
boys and girls.**

*This specialist programme
teaches and develops children's
self esteem, increased awareness
of body and space, fundamental
motor skills, respect, discipline,
self control, initiative, stranger
awareness and a love of learning.*



Classes available in:

WITNEY

EYNSHAM

CHIPPING NORTON

For more information
or to book your child in to
the session, please call Claire on
07540 316188 or email: cmmartialarts@live.co.uk

**GIVE YOUR CHILD
THE EDGE**

**Childrens
Beginner**



KARATE CLASSES

AGES 6 - 12 YEARS

**Classes available in:
EYNSHAM
CHIPPING NORTON
WITNEY**

Pick up the phone and call 07540 316188
or email: cmmartialarts@live.co.uk
for more information or to book your child into one of our free
introductory lessons. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU.

www.clairemaden.co.uk

**FREE
4 Week
Class
Pass**

Are you a Parent or Guardian of a child aged 3-12?

Hello! My name is Evie and I'm a year 13 pupil at Bartholomew School, and I'm currently taking a BTEC Media course. Part of this course is about responding to a brief and conducting our own research.

This year the brief is on Healthy Eating and spreading awareness of the impacts of too much sugar for young children.

For part of my research I have created this survey attached to the link and QR code below:

I would really appreciate it if you could complete it as it will help me massively in my exam in January.

Many thanks,
Evie Edwards :)

<https://forms.gle/mcVdNpNzzdg5UKty9>



BE SMART ONLINE



S

SAFE

Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.



M

MEET

Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

THINK
U
KNOW
CO.UK

A

ACCEPTING

Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.



R

RELIABLE

You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.



T

TELL

Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk



BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.





Dino Digital Detectives

Name	
Class	
Potential harmful activity detected	
Date handed to office	

Action	
Review	

Unlocking....

Minds that learn, Hearts that love, Faith that gives

