

Ambition • Bravery • Respect



Oyster Park Primary Academy

# Newsletter

Autumn 2: December 2023

Issue 2

# Charity & Community

As a school we know the importance of giving back to our community. This term we have taken part in a number of campaigns for charity. We are also very fortunate to have several amazing local charities that we are looking forward to working with in the future.

## Children in Need 2023

This November, the children and staff at OPPA took part in the National Campaign. To support this incredible charity, we invited both pupils and staff to come to school in Non-uniform to raise money. As a school we are very proud to announce that our school community raised **£230**. Well done and thank you for supporting us to make a difference!



## Save the Children Christmas Jumper Campaign 2023

As part of our annual Christmas celebrations both the children and staff donned their favourite festive knits in support of the **Save the Children's** Christmas Jumper campaign. Through your support and donations our school community raised **£132** supporting the children in the UK and around the world to keep safe, healthy and learning.



## 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 overwhelmed by the amazing generosity and gifts provided to our pupils by this wonderful local 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](mailto:airedalebabyandchildrensbank@gmail.com)



## Key Dates



### School Opens for Spring Term

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Year 5

### Mobile Planetarium Workshop

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### Internet Safety Day

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Whole School

### Sublime Science Workshop

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### School Closes for Spring Half Term

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

*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 local Councilor. Kathryn Scott.

The contact number for the Airedale Food Bank is 07920878782.

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. If you are a local business or would like to support donations of tinned produce, meat, baby food and milk, tea and coffee, toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, feminine hygiene, toilet rolls and household cleaners, are all welcomed and appreciated by the organisation.





## Christianity- Christingle

As part of the Social Skills curriculum, the pupils have been creating Christingles and thinking about the symbolism of each element for Christians during this festive season

- 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.

# Religious Education & Culture

This term across school the pupils have been immersed in learning about key festivals and celebrations in a range of faiths.

## Hinduism- Diwali

The pupils have explored the Hindu 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 painted their own Mehndi patterns.

## Judaism- Hanukkah

This half term the pupils have been learning all about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the Jewish festival of light, and this year was celebrated between Thursday 7th December and Friday 15th December.



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

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

## Islam Workshop

As part of our drive to provide our pupils with a broad and balanced Religious Education curriculum, this half term we welcomed the first of a series of RE workshops that will be delivered across the academic year.

Imran Kotwal, visited school to run workshops focusing on the religion of Islam. He brought a range of artefacts to share with the children and discussed how the artefacts are important to the Islamic faith.

To educate the children about the multicultural society that we live in and to develop the British Value of tolerance, we are looking forward to the other workshops that are taking place throughout the academic year. These will focus on the key religions of Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism and Hinduism.



# Educational Visits & Enrichment

This half term, there has been a range of exciting enrichment opportunities to bring learning to life and to make lasting childhood memories for our pupils,

## Year 2 – Thackrey Museum

To kick off their history topic, 'Nurturing Nurses', the pupils in Year 2 visited the Thackrey Museum. Whilst there, the pupils stepped back in time exploring the museum exhibits to see how hygiene conditions and medicine has developed over time. The pupils took part in a workshop led by Florence Nightingale where they discovered 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 played with a range of toys which they hadn't previously experienced. The children learnt how to identify if a toy was 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 very own rocking horse toy.

## Year 6 – Robinwood at Dobroyd Castle

This half term, our Year 6 children went on their 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 embraced every opportunity. From rock-climbing to zip-lining the children had to apply themselves and work together as a team. Here is what some of our pupils had to say about their experience:

'I enjoyed my time; it was fun and even a little scary on some of the activities. I pushed myself a lot on the giant swing, zip-line and trapeze.' - **Phoebe**

'Robinwood brought me out of my comfort zone, and I loved it. I faced my fear of heights, and if I was scared my friends encouraged me. My group leader, Charlie, was really kind and made sure everyone of Ocean Group had a great time, and we all did!' - **Isabelle**



'I liked the challenges. Piranha Pool was intense' - **Deacon**

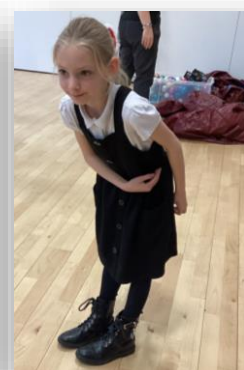


## Year 6 – Cenotaph

In recognition of Remembrance day the Year 6 pupils joined members of the Fryston community at the local cenotaph to pay their respects to those who have 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

The beginning of December saw the start of our Christmas celebrations. Once again we welcomed West End performers, from West End in Schools, to carry out pantomime dance workshops with our pupils from Reception to Year 6. The pantomime this year was based on the classic tale of 'Aladdin'. 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!'

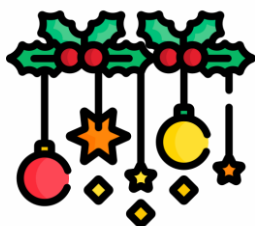






## Christmas Parties

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 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

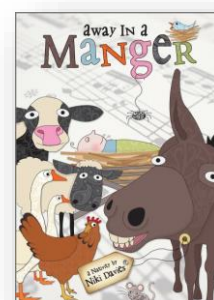
Nursery and Upper Foundation performed the classic Nativity story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of baby Jesus.

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 caused when he has to share it with a stream of visitors!

Year 3 & 4 wowed everyone with their amazing performance of the Christmas classic *Scrooge*!

Year 5 & 6 performed 'It's Christasssss!' Where they added some glitter to the traditional Christmas story, as they counted down the hits to see who is top of the festive pop charts! There's a bit of Motown round the manger with 'Gabriel's Soul Patrol', while glam-rock shepherds, 'The Crooks', bring the beat to Bethlehem in their platform heels!

We are so proud of how hard both the pupils and staff have worked on their performances. Thank you also to you at home supporting your children to learn their lines and practise the songs. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!

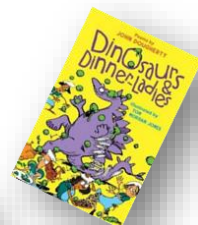
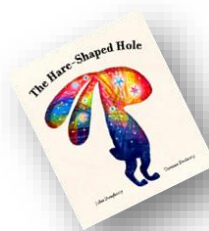


# Reading & Enrichment

At Oyster Park, we believe reading is a key life skill and one to be enjoyed! Reading is at the heart of learning at Oyster Park and is a vital skill that supports our children's learning across the whole curriculum.

## John Dougherty Author, Poet & Songwriter

On Tuesday 12th December, our school was visited by renowned author, poet and songwriter John Dougherty. John's the award-winning author of lots of amazing books such as 'The Hare shaped hole' and 'There's a pig up my nose.' John conducted a series of poetry workshops with children from Reception to Year 6, sharing his love of the craft and helping to nurture our reading for pleasure culture. The children also had the opportunity to purchase their own copy of one of his signed 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 text inspired activities. Pupils and parents got the opportunity to make festive crafts such as reindeer baubles, Christmas cards and read some lovely Christmas stories together.

Thank you for your lovely feedback we have more parent sessions in the pipeline for the new year!



## Book Trunk

Each week a pupil 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.

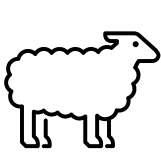


# More Than Club Autumn Term

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 postcard certificate and attended the Hot Dog Party 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.

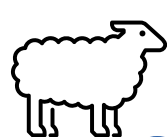




# Spring Enrichment Dates

Events	Dates
Spring Term 1	
Year 5 Mobile Planetarium	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
Internet Safety Day	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Sublime Science Workshop	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Chinese New Year	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Spring Term 2	
Nursery Ian's Farm Workshop	Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
International Mother Language Day	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2024
Year 1 Elvington Air Museum	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
Bringing Books to Life Workshop	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
World Book Day	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
RE on Demand Judaism Workshop	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> & Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
Upper Foundation Dinosaur Dig Enrichment Day	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024





# Spring Curriculum Overview

In the new year we will begin new topics and new units of work. Below you will find a snapshot of the learning that will take place across the term in your child's year group. You will be able to find copies of the subject Knowledge Organisers and the Curriculum Newsletters on our school website to help you to support your child with their learning at home.

## Nursery

Next term the children in Nursery will be exploring 'Minibeasts' and 'Farms'. The children will be learning about different minibeasts, their chosen habitats and how to care for living things. We will be discussing life cycles and the changes that can happen to insects and bugs. After the children have explored Minibeasts we will begin to look at farms and the daily life of a farmer. The curriculum will be enriched by some exciting visitors to school from 'Ian's Mobile Farm'. This will provide the children with an opportunity to see a range of farm animals in person and listen to professionals explain how to care for the animals on a farm. The children will also have a chance to interact with these animals if they want to. In Mathematics, the children will continue to explore numbers to 5 and develop their Mathematical language. We will be developing the children's listening and attention skills through daily rhyming, story time and phonics sessions. The children will continue to be developing their pencil control so they can hold a pencil using a tripod grip, while others will be developing good pencil control.

## Upper Foundation

Within the Understanding the World aspect of the Curriculum in the Spring term the children will develop their skills as geographers to identify the human and physical features of the local area and Castleford and will make comparisons with the features of Antarctica. As historians, the children will explore the lives of famous explorers from the past including Robert Falcon Scott and Neil Armstrong and will develop their understanding of the role of paleontologists in helping us to learn about dinosaurs from the past. Within the creative curriculum, the children will be practicing their threading and weaving skills before learning how to sew to create a bookmark using a basic running stitch. As artists, they will explore using different tools to apply paint before creating their own collages to show simple landscapes. The children will learn about space and the solar system within science before investigating the features that sea creatures have that allow them to live in the sea. In RE, the children will talk about places that are special to them before learning about places of worship in different religions.

## Year 1

Year 1's topic for the Spring term is 'Up, Up and Away'. As historians, the children will learn about the history and pioneers of aviation and will visit the Elvington Air Museum to bring the topic to life. As geographers, the children will continue to develop their understanding of what it is like to live in the United Kingdom exploring the four countries and identifying key features of a map. As scientists, the children will learn the names of various materials and study the importance of their properties. As theologists, the children will immerse themselves in Bible stories and learn what it means to be a Christian for those that follow the Christian faith. As artists, the children will explore the colour wheel and as designers will make their own moving picture books and puppets.

## Year 2

In Year 2 this spring as computer programmers the pupils will be looking at creating algorithms using the app Scratch Jr. The pupils will learn the skill of debugging and be able to identify 'bugs' within a sequence they program. As scientists, the pupils will explore the uses of everyday materials. They will identify and compare the suitability of materials including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. Across the term they will also study plants. Pupils will observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants and investigate the needs of plants. As historians, pupils will explore how the Great Fire of London began and how it spread across the city. Following this, the pupils will investigate how we have come to know about the Great Fire looking at a range of sources from the past such as Samuel Pepys's diary. They will then explore how the Great Fire ended and the impact that this had on London and the people who lived there. As theologists, pupils will be focusing on the theme of celebrations. They will begin by looking at which foods are eaten at key religious celebrations and explore how people dress. Pupils will learn about the importance of Easter to followers of the Christian faith and will listen and discuss the Easter story. Pupils will also learn about Passover and Eid. As artists, the pupils will explore the life and works of Romare Bearden. They will experiment with secondary colours and will create different textures inspired by nature using a range of media.

### Year 3

In Spring, as writers Year 3 will be focusing on the texts 'The Rhythm of the Rain' by Graham Baker Smith and 'Jemmy Button' by Alix Barzeley. The children will be inspired to write in a range of styles and produce a setting description and a return narrative, building on their knowledge and skills from the Autumn term. As mathematicians, the children will be looking at multiplying and dividing up to 8. They will be using the inverse method as a strategy to check their answers as well as been exposed to reasoning and problem-solving questions.

As scientists, the children will explore the unit of plants where they will develop their knowledge of their requirements to be able to live and grow and how they vary from plant to plant. As historians, the children will continue to study changes in Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They will compare and contrast the Bronze Age and the Iron Age and compare the changes and continuity between these periods. As geographers, the children will develop their maps interpreting skills. The children will understand how to find locations on a map by using a key and 4 figure grid references and 8 points on a compass. As theologists, the pupils will learn in depth about different religious and spiritual ways of life and compare both religions of Christianity and Hinduism. As artists, the children will study the artist Maud Purdy and explore her botanical artwork and style. The children will be inspired by key artwork and make their own creative work in response. As designers, the children will learn about pneumatics and design and make their own a pneumatic toy they will also explore seasonal foods by tasting and a range of food and even make their own tart and fruit kebab.

### Year 4

In the spring term, as mathematicians the children in Year 4 will consolidate their understanding of multiplication and division, applying their knowledge to explore measurement in particular, length and perimeter. As writers the children will explore key vehicle texts, 'Leaf' and 'Arthur and the Golden Rope', analysing the texts and using these as a stimulus to apply a range of newly taught skills within their independent writing. As scientists, the children will explore the units of electricity and sound. The children will learn the components that make up a simple circuit and create their own and explore how sounds travel. The children will work scientifically to plan and conduct a series of exciting investigations. As Geographers, the children will learn about different climate and biomes around the world, developing an understanding of the relationships between different climate zones and biomes. As designers, the children will follow the design process to plan and make their own working torch. As computer programmers, the children will apply and develop their skills of code using the program Scratch Jr. As theologists, the children will explore, 'Why is Jesus inspiring to some people?'. Taking part in key discussions around the topic. As artists, the children will explore paint and mixed media, looking at the concepts of light and dark. Experimenting with media to create varying tints and shades to provide three dimensions to still life drawings.

### Year 5

In the spring term, as historians the pupils will investigate the Viking, Anglo- Saxon struggle for England and explore whether or not describing the Vikings as just ruthless raiders is a fair description. As geographers, they will enhance their locational and place knowledge by exploring the human and physical geography of North and South America. Pupils will investigate if there is any correlation between the size of the country and its human and physical geography. As scientists, they will explore 'Earth & Space'. Pupils will look at different phases of the Moon and will consider if the Moon is only seen at night and if the Moon creates its own light. Pupils will apply and develop their skills as computer programmers to identify how and why data is collected from space and learn how to read and calculate numbers using binary code. As designers, pupils will create their own doodlers using electrical components and as artists they will explore the life and works of Teis Albers and Karen Rose and develop their printmaking skills. As sportspeople, pupils will explore different passing styles to outwit defenders and apply this to the sport of tag rugby. As theologists, pupils will express their own understanding of what Jesus would do in relation to a moral dilemma from the world today.

### Year 6

In the spring term, Year 6 shall start their topic: Temple of Doom. As historians the children will learn about what it was like to live in Central America during the Ancient Maya Civilisation. As scientists, they will learn about living things and their habitats, classifying groups according to common characteristics. They will apply their working scientifically skills to investigate whether yeast is a living thing. As artists, the children will learn how to convey a message through imagery using paint and mixed media.

As designers, the children will be creating a steady hand game applying their prior knowledge of electricity to support their design process. As mathematicians, the children shall use algebra to learn that a letter can be used to represent a number and further their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages. As writers, the children will explore the vehicle text 'An Origin of Species', to write a discovery narrative based on the expeditions of Charles Darwin.



# Celebrating Pupil Achievement

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Class	Attendance National average is 96%	Start of the Week	Writer of the Week	Hall of Fame
Morning Nursery Miss Swan/ Mrs Marrington	85%	All Nursery	All Nursery	All Nursery
Afternoon Nursery Miss Swan/Mrs Marrington	55%	All Nursery	All Nursery	All Nursery
RT Miss Tonks	95%	All RT	All RT	All RT
1R Miss Ramzan	81%	All 1R	All 1R	All 1R
1C Mrs Coomber	93%	All 1C	All 1C	All 1C
2B Miss Brannon	93%	All 2B	All 2B	All 2B
2A Miss Ambler	97%	All 2A	All 2A	All 2A
3S Miss Stirling	88%	All 3S	All 3S	All 3S
3P Mrs Palmer	78%	All 3P	All 3P	All 3P
4E Mr Eccles	94%	All 4E	All 4E	All 4E
4G Miss Goulding	95%	All 4G	All 4G	All 4G
5SL Mrs Smithson & Mr Lopez	94%	All 5SL	All 4G	All 4G
5F Mr Foresyth	89%	All 5F	All 5F	All 5F
6AF Mr Adams	92%	All 6AF	All 6AF	All 6AF
6K Miss King	88%	All 6K	All 6K	All 6K

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