

NEWSLETTER



Offley Endowed Primary School and Nursery
Newsletter : 20th December 2023

Message from the Head

Dear parents and carers,

As we come to the end of a very busy term, I wanted to thank all the people that have helped out. The OSA is a small number of people doing amazing things for our school community and especially giving enjoyment to the children. We have raised another £700 from the Xmas fair. Please get involved if you can spare a couple of hours each term to spread the workload amongst us. Thank you OSA—you have been brilliant!

I have been blown away with the performances this year. So many superstars in all different year groups. We have supported charities, visited care homes and spread so much joy to so many people. I am so proud of all your children and can't thank our wonderful staff enough for working so hard this term. Thanks also to the office team for their tireless contribution to making the school tick.

In these difficult times, where there is so much suffering in the world, I hope you can take some time to relax with your loved ones and enjoy some quality time together. I'm going to put my feet up and relax, probably with Sir Bandalot craving fuss and tickles and spend some time with my kids on the boat. Hopefully Villa can help me enjoy the holiday even more.

Have a lovely Christmas and take care.

Mr Edwards and Sir Bandalot

REWARDS—last few weeks

Nursery— Vinnie and Rory

Reception- Miles and Luca

Year 1- Poppy and Reuben,

Year 2- Esmé A, Izzy and Aurelia

Year 3 - Isabel S, Dexter, Isabella and Alex

Year 4/5 - Anthony, Ella, Jimmy D & Nathalie

Yr 5/6 - Bella, Amelia, Archie S, Archie W and Kelsey

Bandit Award—Kelsey has impressed Bandit by knowing all of her times tables and Evie W did amazing in the school play.

December Birthdays—Happy birthday to the following:

Nathalie, Isla, Eden Gene, Logan, Jack D, Alex, Isabella W, Evie M-O'K, and Freddie

I hope you had and will have a fantastic birthday.





Nylah makes the stage at Sleeping Beauty. Over 140 of our children had a lovely morning out at the panto this year.

Our fabulous Key Stage Two choir sang at Luton Airport last Friday raising money for Air Ambulance and food banks in Luton. They also performed to Key Stage 1 and Early Years with a medley of great tunes and Christmas songs. As I write this, the performance to parents is later today.





Thanks to Santa for giving up his afternoon in the grotto last week and also to our wonderful OSA for helping Santa wrap presents, help with the marquee, pre-cooking BBQ food, serving food and drinks at the Xmas fair and to James & Terry for the brilliant Xmas tree stands. To Sarah & Paul for the Xmas trees too. You are all wonderful people. Thank you!



What a lovely Church Service to precede our Christmas lunch. Stunning performances from Yr 6 & well done to Asa for his solo singing of Verse 1 in Once in Royal David's City. Early Years sang 'Away in a Manger' & Years 1-2 sang 'Angel's Singing' beautifully. Thank you to Mae Palmer for her engaging 'All age talk'. It was a lovely service once again.



Offley Endowed Primary School and Nursery Newsletter : December 20th 2023—Page 4



Offley had a surprise visitor a couple of weeks ago, asking to see me. He asked to remain anonymous but I'm glad I can share his story with you.

Percy Ludford was born in 1918 and was an apprentice bricklayer to his father. He lived in Highbury Road, Hitchin and whilst working on the school building, sometime in the 1950's he would cycle home from Offley. One miserable day he asked for a lift from one of the building trucks working at the school. On disembarking with his bicycle, he noticed this old bell in the back amongst all the rubble. Percy asked if he could keep it as it was being thrown away. He kept it for the next 60 years and used it as a door-stop in his home. He passed it on to my anonymous visitor just prior to his passing and this chap has had it in his possession for the last ten years or so. He wanted to return it to its rightful home, so I am delighted that the old school bell is now back at Offley. It was probably used over 100 years ago to call the children into class. I need to find a new home for it within the school, so it can be used for the next 100 years. I am so grateful for the gift and pleased we have the old bell back.



It takes some guts to play the piano in front of a hall full of children and staff. Well done to our brilliant pianists: Arlo, Jake, Maggie, Tess, Anthony, Anya and Eleanor. You have all improved so much this term. Well done.



| Day | Date | Mth | Offley Endowed: Future Dates for your diary |
|------|------|-----|---|
| Thur | 4th | Jan | INSET DAY—STAFF PAEDIATRIC TRAINING ALL DAY |
| Fri | 5th | Jan | Children return to school |
| Mon | 15th | Jan | Last day to apply for a Reception place |
| Wed | 17th | Jan | Road Safety sessions—Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 |
| Fri | 2nd | Feb | Young Voices—Years 4-6: Wembley Arena |