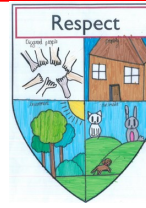
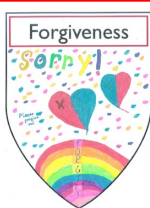


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Autumn Newsletter: 10th December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Only 5 more school days to go! But what a busy 5 days it will be... parties, church and we've even been sent a link to an online pantomime to watch.

It is a truly wonderful time of year to be in school and we look forward to a time when we can share it with you again. We will be uploading Christmas videos to Dojo next week so you can have a glimpse of what we have been doing.

It has been lovely to see so many Christmas jumpers today - it certainly makes us all feel extra Christmassy!

Have a wonderful weekend, take care and stay safe.

Ellie Game

Christmas Raffle

Can we pass on our thanks to the PTA who have organised our Christmas raffle.

It is going to be drawn on Wednesday so please get your tickets in by Monday morning so you don't miss out.

There are some amazing prizes.

Good Luck!

Advent

This week we lit the second advent candle.

The second candle is the candle of John the Baptist who remembered Isaiah's prophecy of PEACE.



Covid Update

We currently have 4 cases of Covid across school these are across EYFS and KS1. We ask for your support in taking your child for a PCR test if:

they have any of the 3 main covid symptoms: a new, continuous cough, or a high temperature, or a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia). Children would also need to isolate until the result came back then Government guidance followed

or any of the wider symptoms:

loss of appetite, sore throat, extreme tiredness, sneezing, headache, diarrhoea, joint or muscle ache, vomiting, nausea, rash, runny nose or congestion. Children can continue to attend school if they are well enough to do so.

Thank you for your support.

Dates to remember

Week beginning 13th December:

Church visit

Monday 13th - Year 1 and 2

Tuesday 14th - Year 3 and 4

Wednesday 15th - Year 5 and 6

Party reminder

Monday 13th - Year 3 and Year 6C

Tuesday 14th - Year 1 and 5

Wednesday 15th - Year 2 and 4

Thursday 16th - Reception

Friday 17th - Year 6F (this is a change of date)

SEND Newsletter

Autumn term - December 2021

My name is Lucy Bedford and for those of you who don't know me, I am the SENCO at OCEPS. My role within school is to orchestrate provision and support children with any of the "four areas of need" in the SEND Code of Practice 2014 which are: (i) Communication and Interaction (C&I), (ii) Cognition and Learning (C&L), Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and (iv) Physical and/or Sensory (P&S).

Once a term, I would like to raise your awareness of a challenge that some of our children face on a daily basis to help you as our parents and carers understand it better and therefore enable you to assist your own children to develop the same empathy and understanding. The more that any need is explored and highlighted by everybody in our society, the more chance we have of our children succeeding together.

Last night, I watched the programme about Paddy and Christine McGuinness and their family's journey with Autism. It was brilliantly honest and open and I would urge you to watch it on BBC iplayer if you have the chance. Autism remains hugely misunderstood by our society. However, thankfully, by celebrities such as these speaking out this can only bring about more acceptance and consideration.

Currently, more boys than girls are diagnosed with Autism. However, this is not necessarily because more boys actually have Autism but it is more difficult to diagnose in girls than in boys. Boys can be more likely to openly display traits of Autism but girls can have a tendency to mask many of their challenges.

Here are some facts for you about Autism. It affects 1 in 44 children. Autism is a spectrum condition and affects people in different ways. Being autistic does not mean you have an illness or a disease, it means your brain works in a different way from other people. Like all people, those with Autism have their own strengths and weaknesses. The following difficulties can be met by children with Autism:

- Social communication and social interaction challenges
- Repetitive and restrictive behaviour
- Over or under sensitivity to light, sound, taste or touch
- Highly focused interests or hobbies
- Extreme anxiety
- Meltdowns and shutdowns

I am truly fortunate to work with many children in our school who have been either, diagnosed with or who are awaiting a diagnosis of Autism. These children continually brighten my day, enabling me to look at things in alternative way. They are often extremely witty and their attention to detail together with their observation skills are phenomenal. Their expertise in favourite topics continually leaves me in awe as does their innovative way in finding a solution to a problem. We also have to realise what incredible tenacity these children have given they come to school every day knowing it will be a challenge.

At OCEPS, we encourage our staff to teach to the strengths of the child. When we are supporting our children with Autism, this should be no different. We must celebrate these children and their alternative ways of thinking and remember just what they add to the world in which we live in. So next time you see a parent/carer who you think continually gives in to their child, or you see a child who is late for school because it has taken their parent/carer two hours to leave the house due to their anxiety. Or, you see a child who is sobbing because once again they feel like they have been misunderstood by their peers and that their perception of a situation wasn't acknowledged or recognised. Remember, this child is remarkable because he or she faces every single day of their life with a unique bravery that we can only try to support and apprehend.

St Mary's Old Swinford

Christmas Services 2021

A warm welcome to all

Sunday 19th December

6.30 pm: Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve: Friday 24th December

4 pm: Crib Service.

11 pm: Midnight 'Mass'

Christmas Day: Saturday 25th December

10 am Christmas Day Eucharist

Sunday 26th December

10 am Parish Eucharist

