

## Newsletter

### 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023

December is nearly upon us and we have lots of activities arranged over the coming weeks. This newsletter is purely about those plans so that you have it all in one place.

As well as being busy it is also very exciting, although there are various activities throughout the month, we will try to keep the excitement to a minimum until the last week of term!

#### Autumn Term:

<b>December</b>	
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	Welcome Weekday 2.30pm
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	Start of OPTA's '12 Days of Kindness' fundraiser
Fri 1 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas jumper sale and Tuck Shop
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup>	Hamper raffle goes on sale
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup>	Santa Dash
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup>	Virtual Christingle Service from Ely Cathedral
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Concert – a musical concert from our musicians (10.30am)
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Bingo (Evening event) First event to get your Christmas outfits out! 5-6.30pm
Thurs 14 <sup>th</sup>	Kingfishers trip to see The House with Chicken Legs
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wear Christmas jumpers (and every day for the rest of this week)
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wrens and Robins Nativity - 9.30am and 2pm
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch and visit from Father Christmas
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	KS2 Carols on the playground 6pm
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Hamper Draw
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	Centrepiece workshop 1.30pm
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last Day of Autumn Term
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>	First day of Spring Term

#### Christmas Bingo

This is taking place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 5-6.30pm. Tickets are £2 per child. Please pay via OPTA bank account (Offord PTA 20-05-73 20176346 using reference Bingo and child's name) or cash via your class teacher. Tickets need to be paid for by end of day on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> so we know the number of children coming.

The children don't need to bring anything with them, just lots of Christmas cheer. Snacks and drinks will be provided during the evening. Drop off and collection will be via the hall doors on the playground.

#### OPTA's '12 Days of Kindness' fundraiser

On Thursday each child will be coming home with a plain bauble which OPTA would like them to decorate.

The children can then earn their way on to Santa's nice list by helping their families over the next 12 days for a small fee, which then needs putting into the bauble.

Please return the baubles to school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December – the best decorated bauble will win a book voucher and the year group which raises the most money on average will win a treat afternoon in school.

#### Christmas Hamper Raffle

We have asked for any donations to be sent in for us to make a Christmas Hamper.

Tickets will go on sale week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> December at £2 a ticket, with Father Christmas choosing the winning tickets on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December.



#### Welcome Weekday

We are looking forward to seeing those parents that are able to join us for Welcome Weekday on Friday to join in with our learning. The classes will be doing the following:

- Wrens – PE (bring your trainers!)
- Robins – Science
- Hawks – Computing
- Kingfishers – Gymnastics (or computing if it is raining)

#### Christmas Jumper sale

OPTA will be holding a Christmas jumper sale this Friday after school alongside Tuck Shop. If you have any Christmas jumpers you would like to donate please drop them off to the school office by Friday morning.

---

## Santa Dash

Once again we have chosen to participate in a Santa Dash this year which will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

The Santa Dash is an initiative organised by National School Games. Throughout the country children will be dressing up in Santa outfits and participating in a run.

We would like the children to come into school that morning in their PE kits, but looking as Santa-like as possible (eg wearing a Santa hat and/or a red t-shirt). Doug Finlayson from HSSP will be joining us as he heads around in Santa's sleigh visiting some of the local schools that are also taking part. The children that attend our school running club will lead the whole school outside and we will all have a 'dash' around the playground and field.

The children can stay in their PE all day, but please ensure they have a change of footwear and socks.



---

## Christmas Jumpers

We love to wear our Christmas jumpers in the run up to Christmas and think we should be able to do if for a few days to get the wear out of them!

So, if the children would like to, they can wear their Christmas jumpers/tops instead of their school jumpers for the last 3 days of school. This will ensure we are looking very festive for the Christmas activities happening in that final week, including the Christmas Carol concert and our 'Christmas Day' (when we have Christmas dinner and a visit from Father Christmas).



---

## Hawks and Kingfishers – Carols on the Playground

The KS2 children will be leading 'Carols on the Playground' which is taking place on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 6pm – 7pm. They will be singing, performing poems and bringing lots of Christmas cheer to the festivities. OPTA will be there selling mulled wine and mince pies. We hope you can join us on the playground that evening.

---

## Christingle Service

We will be joining Ely Cathedral for their virtual Christingle Service on the afternoon of Monday 11<sup>th</sup>. This will be taking place in school time and there are no preparations needed from home.

The children will be making Christingles to bring home.

---

## Wrens and Robins Present 'The Nativity'

The Wrens and Robins will be performing their nativity play on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

There will be two performances – at 9.30am and 2pm and OPTA will be selling refreshments at the end of the afternoon performance. The link to request your tickets is: [forms.microsoft.com/r/Gzzn3Qhyhj](https://forms.microsoft.com/r/Gzzn3Qhyhj)

I know costumes are being sorted and the EYFS/KS1 staff have been talking to parents as needed.

Thank you for supporting your child with learning their lines. The children are enjoying the rehearsals in school and I am sure it will be an amazing performance. We hope you can come.



---

## Offord Christmas Day – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>

We have begun calling this 'Christmas Day' as on the Tuesday we will be having our Christmas Dinner and we have heard that Father Christmas has managed to find a space in his busy schedule to pop in that afternoon to visit the children.

Dinner needs to be booked via ParentPay as usual. Please book your child's dinner by Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December so the Kitchen staff have an idea of numbers.

This is always a lovely day with everyone dressed in their Christmas jumpers and Christmas crowns that they make during the morning.

---

## Christmas Concert – 10.30am Wed 13<sup>th</sup>

If your child has music lessons with Matt Young, they will be asked to perform in our Christmas musical concert.

We would also like to invite you along to join in the Christmas cheer.

