



Merry Christmas



OTTERHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

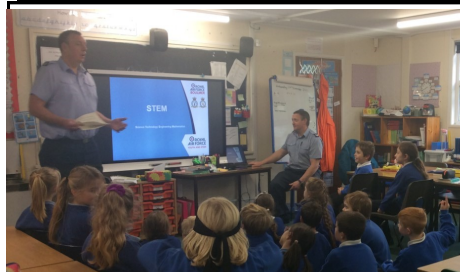
# OTTERHAM OBSERVER

Welcome back to a little slice of pre-Covid normality—a reflective newsletter, celebrating what Otterham School is all about, in line with our vision, 'Experience, Enjoy, Excel'. Although not fully back to normal, this past term has been as close as it gets whilst keeping everyone safe. All of the staff here thank you for your support with this. We have made it (relatively) unscathed to Christmas!

DECEMBER 2021



## Class 2 Christmas Photo



### STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Day with the RAF

It was a pleasure to welcome Sgt Dan Guilfoyle and Cpl Shane Hawkin to Otterham for the day to carry out The Science of Flight Workshops with our children. As well as enjoying the experience of improving our knowledge of the STEM subjects, the children also took the opportunity to ask a range of questions about Dan and Shane's career path into the RAF.

After 10 years of supporting Otterham School, Becky Culver is taking some time out for herself. We thank her for all that she has done for the school and look forward to frequent visits.

### Class 1 Christmas Photo



### Class 3 Nativity Photo



### SLEEPOVER

It seems like such a long time ago now but on Friday 11th November 63 children and adults slept over at school to raise funds for the Friends but also for fun (I hear one or two adults question the 'for fun'). Despite the weather restricting outside activities, everyone had an enjoyable evening spending time together, eating pizza and watching movies. £650 was raised for

The Friends to go towards new outside play structures.



### EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

We hope that you are always treated fairly and feel able to come into school to discuss issues. We are open to reviewing our equality policies. What does this mean? We aim, in everything we do, to treat all members of our school community fairly in all respects—gender, race, age, single parents, sexual orientation, disability and religious belief. If you feel that you are being treated less than fairly it is hoped that you feel able to discuss the matter with any member of staff here at school, or if you would prefer to discuss it with a parent governor, please do so. The parent governors here at school are Lisa Ward and Roz Mather.



## CLASS 2 ENRICH RAINFOREST LEARNING WITH A TRIP TO EDEN



Class 2 had a very enjoyable and worthwhile day at The Eden Project during the first half of the term. The children took part in a Rainforest Ranger Workshop in the Tropical Biome, identifying plants that would provide them with shelter, food or water whilst on an imaginary expedition.

## Otterham 'Friends'

A massive thank you to all members of our 'Friends' for the time given for the benefit of our school community. In a time when school budgets are increasingly tight, your support is invaluable! New members are always welcome—there is much truth in the saying 'many hands make light work'. Keep an eye out for the date of the next meeting and come along to show your support.

### A Focus on Developing Our Skills

As a school we have continued our involvement with the Skills Builder Programme which systematically and explicitly aims to teach and improve children's skills in Listening, Speaking, Staying Positive, Problem Solving, Teamwork, Creativity, Aiming High and Leadership. The skills focus changes every month/2 months. At present the focus is LISTENING. You might like to encourage your child to develop this skill at home too.

### OPEN THE BOOK

Open the Book are a local church/community group who support the school in our delivery of Religious Education by bringing Bible stories to life. The children will often assist with the re-enactments of the stories through role play.

### EYFS Bible Presentation



Thank you to our Open the Book team for providing and presenting the Reception children with their bibles this year.

## DIARY DATES

### JANUARY

TUE 4TH — BACK TO SCHOOL

THUR 13TH—OPEN THE BOOK

THUR 27TH—OPEN THE BOOK

### FEBRUARY

TUE 8TH - DAYA ( HINDUISM & SIKHISM)

THUR 10TH—OPEN THE BOOK

21TH—25ST HALF TERM

### MARCH

3RD, 17TH, 31ST—OPEN THE BOOK

11TH, 18TH, 25TH—CL 2 SWIM

1ST & 8TH APRIL —CL 2 SWIM

### MAGIC MARTIN

We've been welcoming Magic Martin to Otterham School for quite a few years now and he never fails to delight—a perfect way to end the term before we break up for Christmas. A combination of magic and disco provides plenty of awe and wonder whilst using up plenty of excess energy! Thank you to The Friends for providing this experience, it is very much appreciated by adults and children alike.



### CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you for making the cakes, thank you for buying the cakes and thank you children for looking fab in your fancy dress. £159.20 was raised this year which is fantastic!



SHOW RACISM THE RED CARD DAY RAISED £78 AND MUCH AWARENESS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL.

### WELCOME TO JAMES BELL

Largely funded by the DfE, we are delighted to be able to welcome Mr Bell to Otterham School for the rest of the academic year. Mr Bell will mostly be working with children in Class 1 to support them with their learning.

### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



Friday 10th December brought the annual Christmas Jumper day in aid of Save the Children. £54 was raised for this very worthwhile cause and the school looked very festive as a result.

### Christmas Lunch

Huge thanks to Mark and his more than capable assistant, Mrs Sharp for a fabulous Christmas Lunch. As always, the Brussel Sprouts were the star of the show!



### Graffiti Classics

Mesmerising, superb, captivating, talented, entertaining and inspiring was just some of the feedback received after Graffiti Classics had entertained the school with their lively performance on the violin, cello and viola.

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT WITH THE FRIENDS FUNDRAISING EFFORTS THIS TERM, IT IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. SPECIAL THANKS TO MARK FOR HIS INPUT INTO THE HOT DOG FRIDAY VENTURE. IT SEEMS THAT THE TASTY TREAT END TO THE WEEK HAS GONE DOWN VERY WELL.