

Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

Welcome to our first newsletter as Orford CofE Primary School and Nursery, following our successful academisation on 1st December. We have had yet another busy but positive term here. Our website is slowly being updated with photos taken by Veronica Worrall back in October, and our 'Stay and Play' group is becoming increasingly popular. It is open to all little ones aged 0-5 so do encourage your friends and family to come along every Tuesday from 1.30pm.

Despite all the exciting events this term, I have seen some fantastic learning happening across all the classes and have been astounded by the quality of some of the work brought to me for Headteacher's awards. We had confirmation this month that Orford achieved the highest Key Stage 2 SATs results in the whole of Suffolk in 2023, which goes to show that this hard work from the staff and children paid off. Well done!

Very sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Atherton this term; I am sure you will join us in thanking her for her love, care and dedication to all the families she has worked with and wish her the best as she begins her sabbatical. In January, we will be welcoming Mrs Neal to the school who will take over Mrs Atherton's role in Class 1.

We also welcomed our new SENDCo in December, Dr Biran. She works with us every Monday afternoon, and is your first port of call after the class teacher if you have concerns about your child's additional needs in school.

I wish you all a safe, restful and happy holiday. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Thursday 4th January.

With very best wishes,

Miss Cannon 🎅🌲⭐

Values Cup Award Winners

- Jenson - Responsibility, Trust, Friendship
- Jake - Courage, Wisdom, Respect
- Tabi - Hope, Friendship, Peace
- Mrs Atherton - Compassion, Creativity, Generosity
- Rose - Peace, Forgiveness, Perseverance
- Alexander - Responsibility, Creativity, Wisdom



Our whole school values next term will be: trust and forgiveness.

Whole School News

Back in November, school council agreed to support the Poppy Appeal again. We are awaiting a final amount raised, but thank you to those families who generously supported the cause. Freddie read aloud at the Church Service in St Bartholomew's on remembrance Sunday, receiving high praise from Reverend Giles and the congregation - well done Freddie!

On 23rd November, we were very lucky to receive a visit from Tabi's uncle, Commander Michael Norman, who, back in 1978, led a mission to rescue those stuck on the Ben Asdale. [The whole story can be found here](#) but will not compare to the enthralling retelling that we received, with a full slide show of photos that included meeting the Queen to commend him for his efforts! Every child was mesmerized for the whole 45 minutes, and many asked thoughtful and pertinent questions before



getting to see Michael's medals. Zack managed to successfully guess our visitor's age, so got to wear the helmet Commander Norman had worn the day of the rescue. The smile says it all!



As November drew to a close, we had our annual Christmas jumper and decoration day! The children were split across all classes, challenged to make a Christmas decoration from around the world: a Filipino parol (Christmas Star), a Greek karavaki (small boat) or a Norwegian julekurver (woven paper heart). Each year the hall looks beautiful, but this year it seems the children really have raised the bar in terms of decoration - don't they look simply fabulous?!



We hosted a very special Christmas Books Buddies and Biscuits this term, where volunteers led small groups to share a special Christmas story. Thank you to everyone who came forward to read (including a number of Class 3 pupils), we had a lovely time as always. Photos are here on the school website.

Christmas Lunch day was another reason to wear our festive jumpers and accessories - Nicola cooked the scrummiest roast dinner for us all (thank you Nicola!), and thanks also to Carol (with cracker and juice donations from OSLOF) the hall looked magical.



A lovely time was had by all, followed by the annual mud stomp around the river wall, which included some stone skimming. Our chair of governors joined us for the whole afternoon, with very positive feedback.



Our final Christmas event of the term (before today's Church Service!) was school council's movie night yest. The school council put a lot of time and effort into the planning of this, conducting surveys amongst children for preferred films, snacks and activities. Class 1 snuggled up with the 'Lion King' whilst Classes 2 and 3 watched 'The Grinch' before a game of hide and seek around the school! A really happy time was had by all, what a lovely (very nearly) end to the term.

Class 1 News



It's been a busy half term for all the children in the class and we have been delighted to see that the children continue to be brilliant with their learning behaviour. Most of our learning this half term has revolved around Christmas and our class performance of 'A Bundle of Joy'. We were all really impressed at how the children worked hard to learn their lines at home and continued to be enthusiastic during rehearsals. We were all super proud of how well the

children joined in during the dress rehearsal and main performance. It was wonderful to see so many parents and relatives in the audience. In our maths learning this half term we have been focusing on place value, addition and subtraction. All children have worked hard to develop their skills in these areas and have made great progress at their level.

Class 2 News

We have, as always, had a very busy term in Class 2! We are now coming to the end of our unit of work based on The Stone Age, The Bronze Age and The Iron Age and the children have worked so hard; both in our history sessions and in



our English sessions. They have written diaries, adventure stories and cliffhanger narratives based on 'Stig of the Dump' and 'Stone Age Boy'. In art, they have produced cave art and also created responses to the artist Georgia O'Keeffe and they have worked with enthusiasm and care in every session. In D&T they used the Lego Wedo Kits to build different items (e.g. robots) and programmed them to move and make noise!



Class 3 News

This half term has been a creative one for class 3! The children have designed, decorated and constructed drawstring bags, created Maya-style masks from gummed paper and written 2 stories inspired by our book Our Tower. The class have designed and carried out a range of fair tests to investigate forces, including: constructing and testing parachutes with different properties; moulding different shapes from modelling clay and rating how streamlined they were; and measuring the movement of toy cars on different surfaces to investigate friction.



Governors' Message

It has been an autumn term of change as the Governors' application to join Tilian Academy Trust was accepted. Many people worked very hard to prepare, and we were able to join on 1 December in time to celebrate with Christmas parties. Gemma Cannon will have explained that being part of the Trust offers

technical and professional support to the school. Training and other opportunities will benefit all staff - teachers and those in support roles, as we get to know the other nine schools in what is possibly a large family. In turn this of course benefits the children, parents and families and all the Governors very much look forward to the journey ahead. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and flourishing start to 2024.

Janet Bishop

Chair of Governors

OSLOF News

Following on from the great success of the school Christmas Bazaar and the Church Bazaar, OSLOF raised a smashing total of **£505!!!!**

Thank you all for your help and support and what a wonderful afternoon we had.



We wish you all the most wonderful Christmas and New year and look forward to more events next year. We at OSLOF are still looking for a new secretary so if anyone is interested please do contact Daisy (Amelia and Lily's mum) or Niki (Ayden's mum).

UNIFORM - PE KIT

Thank you to everyone who supports our uniform policy. We have noticed this year how much smarter the children look, and how we are all much more of a cohesive school family. [Uniform guidelines are published here on our website.](#)

Please can I remind families of our PE kit in time for the Spring Term:

- Red, blue, green or yellow house PE T-shirt (preferably with school logo)
- Black shorts or jogging bottoms (optional)
- (Optional) Royal-blue hoodie with/without school logo (optional but preferred if your child attends external sporting events). If you do not have one, your child's school jumper can be used. Colourful, branded jumpers are not permitted.
- Trainers

We understand the cost of uniform is expensive - do use OSLOFs £1 per item shop of good quality 'new to you' uniform. It can be accessed all year round, not just at the termly sales. Please speak to the school office to access this, or if you need to know which colour house/team your child is in.

