

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Oxford

"Let us protect with love all that God has given us"
(Pope Francis 19.03.2013)



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10th November 2023



Pope Francis asks us 'to stimulate in the pupils the openness to the other as a face, as a person, as a brother and sister, to know and respect, with his or her history, merits and defects, riches and limits. The challenge is to cooperate to train young people to be open and interested in the reality that surrounds them, capable of care and tenderness.'

Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Italian Association of Catholic Teachers,
Clementine Hall, 5th January 2018

Dear Families,

Pope Francis asks us to encourage pupils' to be 'open and interested in the reality that surrounds them'. Next week is Anti-Bullying Week and we start the week on Monday by holding **Odd Socks Day** – a day when we wear odd socks to remind ourselves that we are all unique and special! Staff and Children alike come dressed wearing an odd pair of socks. This idea of being unique builds so well on our International Day where we celebrated our connections all over the world. We have such a wonderful and diverse community and this week we focus on how we treat each other with dignity and respect.

On Tuesday we held a PTA AGM meeting. Thank you to those who came, but we only had a few families attend. Families enjoy PTA events, but we can only host them if we have volunteers to help. Can I encourage families to attend the meeting on **Monday 13th November at 7pm** – it is either in person (in school) or on-line (a link can be found later in this letter) where we will be planning for the Christmas Fair. Details can be found later in the newsletter.

Thank you to all families for attending the parent/carer meetings both in person and on-line. There was a really positive buzz in the school both on Tuesday and Thursday. Discussing your children's learning is a real joy! Thank you also to our wonderful staff for going above and beyond. Have a well deserved weekend to all of you!

Warm wishes

Jess Tweedie
Headteacher



Book Fair

A huge thank you to Sister Marie Ann for hosting the Scholastic Bookfair. It is a huge job, but provides much needed funding for books for our library. Thank you Sister.

Tombola donations

The PTA would be very grateful for donations of good quality/new gifts for the adult and child tombolas at the air. Please place in the donation buckets in the school office or by the entrance gates. There is a PTA meeting to finalise Christmas Fair planning at 7pm on Monday 13th November [Meeting Link - Click here](#)

Primary school application process opens

Applications should be submitted online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Councillor John Howson, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services, explains: "Please use the opportunity to name four schools. This will not make it less likely that your first preference will be offered. However, it does reduce the risk of all preferences being unsuccessful and your child being allocated a place at a school that is not named on their list.

"It is important to apply on time because late applications will be processed later in the year and are far less likely to secure places at preferred schools than applications received before the deadline."

The deadline for submitting completed applications is **15 January 2024**.

Parents and carers will then be contacted with the result to their application on National Offer Day, 16 April 2024.

Chess News

Oxfordshire Junior Chess is excited to announce that they will be holding the annual county junior chess tournament on the weekend of 6th/7th January 2024 at Cumnor Primary School. As in previous years, there will be U9, U11 and U13/15/18 (possibly split if enough entrants) sections. The online entry form link is <https://forms.gle/ioHQEXXZfePgiewb9> from which full tournament information and rules can be accessed. Any queries to oxfordshirejuniorchess@gmail.com



Odd Socks Day – Monday 13th November

Like every year, we kick off National Anti-bullying Week with Odd Socks Day on Monday of Anti-Bullying Week (Monday 13th November). Odd Socks Day is a chance for schools to celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a positive way by asking pupils and staff to wear odd socks to school. Odd Socks Day celebrates what makes us all unique and spreads kindness! There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or buy expensive costumes. All you need to do to take part is wear odd socks, it could not be simpler! There is no cost to take part and we look forward to seeing some colourful odd socks on feet next week!

Junior Citizen

Earlier this week, Year 6 walked to Rewley Road Fire Station to take part in the Junior Citizen programme. During their two-hour visit our pupils experienced different safety scenarios and each child was given the opportunity to practice making a 999 telephone call. The sessions were fully interactive, with pupils being taught a variety of life skills which focused on keeping themselves safe, whilst potentially helping others who may be in difficulty or distress.

Advent Service

The date for the Advent Service (to be held at St Anthony of Padua Church) is being revised, we will let you know the new date as soon as possible.

Christmas Lunch – Monday 18th December

On Monday 18th December we will be having our Christmas Lunch provided by the School Lunch Company. All school lunches for this day must be ordered in advance by filling in the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/NptPTqbqAt> Orders must be placed by Wednesday 22nd November as the School Lunch Company require numbers in advance.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will not have to pay for this meal, but must still complete the online form. For children in Years 3-6, payment for the meal will be taken via ParentPay in the usual way. If your child does not normally have school meals and you would like to pay for this single meal in cash, please bring £2.50 to the school office in a clearly labelled envelope by Friday 1st December.

Open Afternoon Event

Following the success of our Open Afternoon in October, we will be holding a second event on Wednesday 15th November 1:30pm-3pm. Please share this with any families who are currently considering school options for their child starting school in September 2024.

Christmas Card Orders

Today (Friday) the majority of children will bring home their Christmas card proofs. The instructions for how parents/carers can view, approve and order online are on the card. The company recommend that you keep the proof card until you have received any ordered items in the event of any query, as they have the organisation and design code printed on them. The order deadline for the online shop closing is 11:59pm on **Monday 20th November**, this is to give time for the items to be produced and delivered to the school.



Practical Help and Signposting

Sadly, things at the moment are difficult for many of our families. Bills all seem to be rising, and everything is getting more expensive. We want to make sure that all our families have support in place if it is needed. Even if your child is not eligible for Free School Meals, we may be able to help with uniform from our vast stock of good-quality second-hand items, we are able to refer to local Food Banks and signpost families to other sources of help, advice and support.

If you are struggling, please contact our home/school link worker, Mrs Kate Stratford. Her contact details are below. Mrs Stratford will be happy to talk to you in confidence to see what support we can offer.

If you need help towards paying for school trips, please contact the office to arrange a confidential conversation with Ms Tweedie.

Mrs Kate Stratford

Home/School Link Worker and Deputy DSL

Tel: 01865 763357

Mobile: 07500 802732




Email: kstr3838@st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk

Dairy Dates

Date	Year Group/Class	Event
Tuesday 7 th – Tuesday 14 th November	All year groups	Bookfair in school
Monday 13 th November	All year groups	Odd Socks Day
Wednesday 15 th November 1:30pm-3pm		Open Afternoon Event for families with children starting school in September 2024
Monday 20 th November	All year groups	Deadline for ordering Christmas cards and products via Class Fundraising online shop
Monday 20 th – Friday 24 th November	All year groups	Road Safety Week
Wednesday 22 nd November	All year groups	Deadline for ordering Christmas Lunch via online form
Saturday 25 th November	All year groups	Christmas Fair


2pm-5pm		
Friday 1 st December	iRock pupils	iRock Concert
Tuesday 5 th December 09:30am	EYFS	EYFS Nativity Performance
Wednesday 6 th December 2:30pm	EYFS	EYFS Nativity Performance
Friday 8 th December	Year 4-6	Advent Penitential Service
Monday 11 th December 3:30pm	Year 2	Nativity Performance
Tuesday 12 th December 3:30pm	Year 1	Nativity Performance
Friday 15 th December	All year groups	End-of-term Mass
Friday 15 th December	EYFS	Christmas Crafternoon
Monday 18 th December	All year groups	Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 19 th December 3:30pm	Choir	Christmas Choir Performance
Wednesday 20 th December	All year groups	School finishes at 1:30pm

Flyers and Information

United for Nature

Acting for nature and climate in Oxfordshire
 A meeting to discuss how we can have a real impact on the challenges facing our natural environment at this critical time.
 Stimulating speakers and discussion – all welcome




Craig Bennett
Director,
The Wildlife Trusts



Prof. Nathalie Seddon
Nature-based
Solutions Initiative,
Oxford University

Prue Addison
Director of
Conservation Strategy,
BBOWT

Camilla Burrow
Chief Executive, Wild
Oxfordshire

Reserve your place:
bit.ly/unitedfor_nature



Tuesday 28th November
7 – 9pm
Wesley Memorial Hall,
New Inn Hall St., Oxford



GOOD NEIGHBOURS NEEDED

COULD YOU HELP RUN A GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME IN YOUR AREA?

- Good Neighbour Schemes are local voluntary groups supporting older, vulnerable, and isolated people in your community.
- They help with things like shopping, transport, household tasks, dog walking, gardening, befriending – whatever is most needed in your area.
- £500 start-up grants are available for new schemes; existing informal schemes may also be eligible for funding.



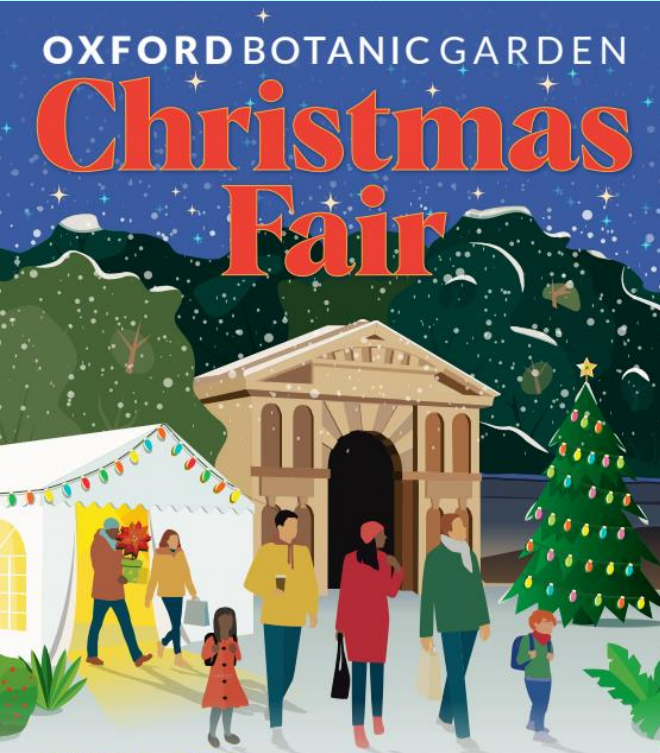


WANT TO KNOW MORE? tel: 07545 923327
 email: oxfordshiregns@vlu.org.uk
www.vlu.org.uk/good-neighbour-schemes/







OXFORD BOTANIC GARDEN Christmas Fair



2ND & 3RD DECEMBER FROM 10AM

Enchantingly Festive

SCAN HERE TO BUY TICKETS

