



Wistow Ways

Orton Wistow
Primary School



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Issue: 224

Message from the Deputy Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all managed to get out and enjoy the snow yesterday. If in future snow causes the school to be closed, we will put a message on the front page of our school website to inform you as soon as the decision has been made.



A big well done to the Foundation Stage children and staff for their brilliant nativity last week. The children did exceptionally well and it is amazing to see how far they have all come in one term at OWPS. We are now all looking forward to seeing Year Two's Christmas production this week.

Next Tuesday, the last day of term, will be toy day. The children can bring in a toy or game that they would like to play with. They are not to bring in anything electronic and we always advise that they don't bring in anything too expensive or that is too important to them. Games and toys they can play with their friends are always the best choice.

As this is my last newsletter of 2017, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

Colin Marks
Deputy Headteacher

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This week's Assembly Theme:

In this morning's assembly, we learnt about the meaning of Christingle and when this tradition began.

Monty

by Mr Marks

This week's Monty's Mealtime Marvels are:

Reeha Mahmood
Victoria Leshtarova
Riley Dean
Jasmine Barnes

All four children have shown that they remember the PRIDE Code when eating in our dining room.



School Nurse

by Mrs Nalton

Just a reminder that the School Nurse, Lindsay Edis, will be holding Drop In Sessions on **Monday 22nd January** from 9.15 - 12pm, and parents are invited to attend. Please can you contact the School Office if you would like to book a 15-minute slot within this time to see the School Nurse.

School Nursing drop-ins offer a confidential and safe environment for parents to discuss issues about their child's health and wellbeing. Information and advice can be accessed and children and young people can be signposted or referred to other services.

Shining Stars were awarded to:

Attendance

- Hedgehogs:** Amaya Hill
- Penguins:** Scarlett Mahon
- Magpies:** Yusra Ismail
- Iguanas:** Felix Guttman
- Wallabies:** Ryley Honeywood - Down
- Caterpillars:** Phoebe Beckett
- Sharks:** Gareth Drover
- Giraffes:** Gracie Ward
- Armadillos:** Faith Reffell
- Hummingbirds:** Rishi Ghosh
- Macaws:** Jessica Mears
- Toucans:** Tom Ilgunas
- Nightingales:** Mya Fitzgerald
- Wombats:** Harry Alton

Last week, our Whole School Attendance was: **95.11%**

The class with the highest attendance was **Nightingales with 100%**.

House Points by Mr Eardley

DEMPSEY



NENE



MALLARD



FENS



This Week's Menu by Mrs Cooper

	Top Ten Favourite	Roast	Comfort Food	Feel Good Thursday	Basket Meal
	Monday 11 Dec	Tuesday 12 Dec	Wednesday 13 Dec	Thursday 14 Dec	Friday 15 Dec
Main Course 1	Chicken Nuggets	Pork Loin Steak & Apple Sauce & Yorkshire Pudding	Wistow Sausage Roll ✓	CHRISTMAS LUNCH	Chicken Burger in a Bun
Main Course 2 (V)	Vegetable Nuggets	Quorn Fillet & Yorkshire Pudding	Cheese Whirl ✓		Quorn Southern Style Burger in a Bun
Main Course 3	Steamed Salmon				
Starchy Food	Potato Wedges Dauphinoise Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes New Potatoes	Mashed Potatoes New Potatoes		Oven Chips
Dessert 1	Chocolate Fudge Brownie ✓	Chocolate Chip Sponge & Custard ✓	Jam Roly Poly & Custard ✓		Gingerbread Man
Dessert 2		Fruit Salad & Shortbread ✓	Fromage Frais & Sponge Finger		Ice Cream Cone

School Productions

by Mr Eardley

With the first of our Christmas productions in school last Friday, I would like to clarify our expectations with regards to the performances.



Photographs or videos cannot be taken during the productions as we have several children across the school who have not been given permission to be photographed or videoed or to appear in social media.

At the end of the production, you will be able to photograph your child in the school hall against the scenery backdrop.

We are very much looking forward to the remaining productions this year.



Staffing News

by Mr Eardley

As you are aware, Mrs Macey is leaving us at the end of this term. I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Matthewman has been promoted and will take on the role of Platform One Manager in the New Year. Mrs Matthewman has a wealth of experience at Platform One and we wish her every success in her new role.

This promotion created a space for a new Play Worker and I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Gauder will join the P1 team as a permanent member.

Mrs Harries has worked at the school since 1989 and is our longest serving teacher. She has now decided that she would like to reduce her teaching commitment and from September, she will work three days a week as our SENCO/Inclusion Lead/Child Protection Lead – as well as doing a little cover for classes. She will no longer be the FS Team Leader.



FOWS

by Sophie Chambers

Lottery

This week's winner of £23.10 was David Simpson-congratulations! If you don't currently play and would like to sign up then please visit www.yourschoollottery.co.uk and search for Orton Wistow. New supporters signing up before 22nd December are currently being entered into a draw to win a family ticket to Warner Brothers Harry Potter Studio Tour!!



Children's Christmas Sale

Last Friday's Sale was a huge success, raising a whopping £1220.40! Many thanks to all the families who sent children in with their money and shopping lists. The children that came to the sale were a delight and all made very considered choices for their gifts. So, whilst you may not be overjoyed to see that foot cream you donated a couple of months ago has found its way under your Christmas tree, please be assured that your child chose it with love!!



Christmas Fayre

We are very pleased to announce that the Christmas Fayre raised a huge £2514.27! We are delighted with this and it certainly makes everyone's hard work worth it. We can now approach Barclays Bank for our match funding, which hopefully, should add another £1000 to our total. Once again, thank you so much for all of your support and participation!

Budgets and Fundraising

by Mr Eardley

You may remember that in the past I have told you that we have always been one of the lowest funded schools in Peterborough when you divide our budget by the number of pupils.

Schools receive money for each child they have and this is called the AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Unit). Additional sums of money are then given for pupils who belong to different categories e.g. English as an Additional Language, Poor Prior Attainment (did not reach expected standards in the EYFS), Free School Meals, Deprivation (based on the postcode of where they live). This means that a single child can attract several different sums of money.

The makeup of our school means that we attract very little of these additional sums.

I have now been sent the 2018/19 predicted budgets for our school. Sadly, from April we will be the **lowest** funded school in the city with £3,487 per pupil. Although this may sound a lot, the highest funded primary school will get £5,036 per pupil. If we were funded at the same rate, we would get £610,306 more. According to national data on average teacher salaries, an extra £610,306 would pay for an extra 16 teachers! Predictions suggest that we will be even worse off in 2019/20.

I have the full support of the Governing Body on this issue, as they are also very concerned about the low level of funding we have received over many years and the potential impact future funding could have on outcomes for children at the school. With a fairer funding system, we could provide additional adult support for children in readiness for each assessment point.

Whilst I recognise that schools face different challenges and that there is a national drive to raise the attainment of children from poorer backgrounds, I believe that all schools need to be well funded. The additional money that some schools receive means that they can afford to put two teachers in each class, or have class sizes below 20, or lots of ICT equipment, or significant numbers of support staff.

Against this backdrop, every pound we raise through fund raising for the school makes a massive difference to us. Fundraising helps us to provide things that other schools could afford from their own budget.

Therefore, I want to say a huge thank you to the staff and FOWS for organising and running a brilliant Christmas Fayre. Not only was it lots of fun, but we also raised an amazing £2514.27 for the school. Thanks to the support of FOWS, in September we were able to complete Phase 1 of our Chrome book project.

I.T. equipment, such as the Chrome books, enable us to enhance all areas of our curriculum, but sadly, it comes at a cost that we cannot afford without fundraising events. For this reason, we will always have to rely on the support of FOWS and your support for the FOWS and our annual sponsored event.

Thanks to one parent, the FOWS have been able to secure an additional £1,000 from Barclays Bank who like to support local charities/schools. This has made me wonder whether any of you work for companies who would want to support OWPS and FOWS in some way. We are the local school to all of the businesses on the Business Park and yet we have very little to do with them.

We have also decided that the collections at the end of this year's performances will go to the school, rather than being split with a charity. Thank you to all of the guests who joined us for the FS Nativity and donated £182. Thank you as well to the FS parents who bought tickets for a front row seat as you helped us to raise £76.

I think that as a school we offer fantastic value for money. We 'cut our cloth' according to the budget we are given and still manage to provide a stunning learning environment, a vibrant curriculum and a talented, caring and committed staff.

I am very grateful to the FOWS and to you for supporting the fundraising events we run as a school. Sadly, we have reached the point where these funds have become essential.

Car Parking

by Mr Eardley

Yet again, I have to write a piece for the newsletter about the inconsiderate parking of some parents.

Last week I was sent a photo from a concerned neighbour of the school. The photograph showed cars parked on the walkway as well as blocking the drive of a disabled resident. I live next to a primary school in Cambridgeshire and know that when you live near a school you have to accept that two times a day in term time, there is a good chance that people park near your house.

However, I do not think that it is fair that neighbours of OWPS should have to put up with people blocking their drives or blocking public walkways.

Scholastic Book Champion

by Mrs Tansley

LAST ORDERS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Tomorrow, Tuesday 12th December, is the last day to order books from our online book store to receive delivery to the school before the end of term. Check out the link for fabulous stocking fillers and present ideas and give your children the gift of reading this year, and don't forget, 10% of all sales go back to the school for more books!

<https://book-parties.scholastic.co.uk/party/owps>

Coming Up!

This Week: WB 11th December

Tuesday

Year 2 Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday

Y2 Production:

Baubles: A Tree-mendous Nativity: 2pm

Thursday

Christmas Lunch for Children: 12pm

Year 2 Production:

Baubles: A Tree-mendous Nativity: 6.30pm

Friday

Year 3 Roman Day

Honours Award 3 Assembly 9am

Next Week: WB 18 December

Monday

Year 4, 5, 6 to Alwalton Church 10am

Tuesday

Last day of term

Wednesday

Christmas Holidays

In 2 Weeks: WB 25 December

Christmas Holidays

In Three Weeks: WB 1 January

Monday - Tuesday

Christmas Holidays

Wednesday

Back to School

