



# NEWSLETTER

1st DECEMBER 2023

## Reception Camp Fire Night

Last Friday our Reception children enjoyed a fun-filled evening around the campfire. They made shadow puppet shows, listened to a story, toasted marshmallows and had hot chocolate around the fire.



[contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:contactus@oakridge.staffs.sch.uk)

Telephone No.  
**01785 337 300**  
Absence Reporting  
ParentMail



## Year 4 Brass Lessons

The children who are currently in Year 4 have now been receiving Brass tuition for two terms - the cost of this has been covered by a grant that we received from Staffordshire Music Service. The whole class lessons will finish at the end of this term.

If your child has enjoyed learning to play either a cornet, trumpet or trombone and would like to continue they may do so.

Mr Walker, their teacher, will be taking small group lessons at a cost of around £100 for the two terms; this can be paid in 2 instalments. We need at least 4 children to continue and the amount will be confirmed as soon as we know final numbers. There is no cost to hire the instrument.

If your child would like to continue learning to play, could you please complete the ParentMail form no later than Thursday 14th December so that we can 'book' Mr Walker.



## Local Area Visits

Learning outside of the classroom can help us to make sense of the world around us and offers many benefits to children of all ages. The locality around school offers opportunities to enrich learning experiences and help learning become more memorable, often within walking distance of the school grounds.

Following guidance from our local authority Education Visits Advisor, we have updated our policy and procedures relating to visits within the local area that take part wholly within the school day. We have a separate policy for trips which take place outside of the local area.

Local Area Visits are visits/activities within the 'Local Learning Area' that are part of the normal curriculum and take place during the normal school day. The local area includes, but is not limited to, the following frequently used venues:

- Local Shops e.g. post office
- Local Park
- Holy Trinity Methodist Church
- Berkswich Methodist Church
- Berkswich Library
- Walton High School

These visits/activities do not require parental consent but parents will be informed via the school Newsletter or ParentMail before the visit takes place. They will be recorded on the Evolve system (currently in use for all trips and visits outside of the local area) and will work with standard operating procedures.

The full policy, which has been approved by the local authority Education Visits Advisor, is available on the school website.

## Year 1 and Year 2 Sudbury Hall Visit

Year One and Two had a great trip to Sudbury Hall on Wednesday. The children explored toys from throughout history from the Ancient Egyptians through to the modern day. The children then put their learning into action identifying the changing key features of toys through time and wowing the museum staff with their knowledge of historical sources.



## Christingle

On Monday 4th December Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children will be walking to Berkswich Methodist Church to take part in, and experience, a Christingle service.

They will learn about Christingle and how it is celebrated by Christians. They will also enjoy making a Christingle in class to take with them to the church, learning about what each feature represents.

As the children will be walking to and from school please ensure that they are wearing a warm waterproof coat.



## Christmas Stable Trail

On Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December Years 3-6 will be walking to Berkswich Methodist Church to take part in a Christmas Stable Trail. The children will take part in activities that will give them a deeper insight into Christmas celebrations and the meaning of Christianity.



## Years 3/4 Derby Museum

This is a reminder that Years 3 and 4 are visiting Derby Museum next Tuesday 5th December.

If you haven't done so already please make sure to give consent for your child either via ParentPay or a hand written letter.

We must have this for your child to go. Thanks.

## KS2 Holy Trinity Church Carol Concert

Our Key Stage 2 annual Carol Concert will take place at Holy Trinity Church on Baswich Lane on Thursday 21st December at 6.30pm. Tickets will be available to purchase via your ParentPay account shortly.

We have been informed by the Church that the balcony is no longer safe to use, this year tickets will be strictly limited to 2 per family and there will be no extra tickets available.

Anyone who arrives with additional family members who do not have a ticket will not be admitted into the Church and will be turned away.

We apologise for any disappointment this may cause.



## Reception Admissions 2024 and Open Morning

The online admission process for Reception class entry in September 2024 opened on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

The preferred way to make your application is online at:

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>

The County Council no longer issue schools with paper application forms.

We have 1 more Open Morning available where parents are invited to visit the school to meet the Headteacher, view our learning facilities, meet our staff who run our Wrap-around Care provision and ask any questions. This session will be held on:

\* Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December

The session will begin at 10am and last around an hour. If you wish to attend could you please contact the school office so that we know how many visitors to expect.



***Please note that there will be no after school sports clubs on Monday 4th and Wednesday 6th December due to fixtures.***

***Thank you.***

## Sporting Events

### Walsall Kids Cup 2023

On Monday Oakridge took a team to Walsall FC to take part in the 'Kids Cup'. This is a national school's football competition where the top schools eventually compete in a final's day at Wembley stadium. The teams were split into two groups and would each play 5 ten minute games with the winners from each group qualifying for the final. Oakridge competed really well and after 5 games finished with 3 wins and 2 defeats, meaning they finished second in their group and unfortunately just missed out on qualifying for the next round.

Well done to all the boys involved!



### Year 5 & 6 Girls Football Match against Banrfields

On a very cold Tuesday evening our Year 5 and 6 girls played their first football match in preparation for the 'School Games' event next week at Stafford Town. The game didn't start well for Oakridge with Barnfields taking an early lead inside 30 seconds! However Oakridge responded well and a neat finish from Jenny ensured Oakridge were level at half time after a close first half. In the second half it was Oakridge who started quickly and took the lead within 30 seconds of the restart with another goal from Jenny. This was the catalyst for some more fine attacking play from Oakridge and they eventually ran out 7-1 winners thanks to a double hat-trick from Jenny and a goal from Daisy.

Well done to all the girls involved – a great start to the season!



## Children's Christmas Meal

**O**n Thursday 14th December we will be serving a traditional Christmas dinner for the children.

### Menu

Roast Turkey with Pigs in Blankets

Or

Festive Quorn Parcel

Served with Roast Potatoes, Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing, Brussel Sprouts, Carrots and Peas

Snowman Biscuit

Or

Neapolitan Ice Cream



The meal can be selected and paid for via ParentPay. We will update ParentPay to reflect this change next week.

If you want to make the meal a little more festive your child may bring in a Christmas Cracker.



## Instagram

**W**e are now 'Live' on Instagram.

We have assumed that if you have previously informed us that your child is ok to be on our Twitter page that this will be the same for Instagram. If this is any different, please let us know.

If you would like to give us a 'follow' we are *@oakridgeprimary*



## Year 5 Standon Bowers

**D**eposits for the Year 5 residential to Standon Bowers next year should be paid by today—Friday 1st December.

If you haven't yet paid, please can you ensure to do this by the end of the day.

*Many Thanks for your co-operation.*



## Christmas Market

**O**n Friday 15th December we will be holding a Christmas Market which has been organised by OSCA as a fundraising activity.

The children will be taken into the hall a class at a time and for £3.00 will be able to choose a wrapped gift for their Mum, Dad or other family member. Children will be able to choose from a number of gifts and the present will be wrapped ready for them to take home and put under the Christmas tree!

We will be asking that you pay for the gifts via ParentPay and children will be issued with a voucher to redeem at the Christmas Market.

OSCA have bought a limited number of gifts so vouchers will be issued on a first come first served basis.

You will be able to purchase your gift vouchers from today.



## Arrival at School

**W**e are finding lately we have an increasing number of children having to enter school via the main school office as they are arriving late to school.

Please be mindful of this and ensure children are in school by no later 8.45am.

This is to ensure there are no disruptions to others already in class and to ensure your child doesn't miss out on valuable learning time.

Many Thanks.



Our School Attendance Target is **96%**

This weeks attendance is **96.3%** which is **above** our school target.

Reception	95.7%
Year One	99.3%
Year Two	96.7%
Year Three	93.6%
Year Four	91.6%
Year Five	98.3%
Year Six	99.1%

## Christmas Fair—8th December

Our Christmas Fair is next Friday and we can't wait to welcome Oakridge families into school for this special event.

Don't forget you will need to bring cash. Please also bring a plastic drinks glass with you if you can, as we want to keep our plastic waste to a minimum. Alternatively, re-usable glasses will be available for a small deposit.

You can bring your donations for the hampers and Christmas Eve gift stall into school any day next week. Donations for the bottle tombola, chocolate tombola, and cake stall, should be brought directly to the ICT suite (accessed via the Key Stage 1 playground), on Friday morning.

There is also still time to volunteer to run a stall at the fair, as we don't yet have enough parents to staff all the stalls we have planned. If you are able to help, please pop into the school office this week to sign-up. If you can help in the daytime on Friday, come and join us in the ICT suite, from 8.45am. We would appreciate all help, even if you can only pop in for an hour!

We hope you've got your spatulas to the ready because the GREAT OAKRIDGE BAKE OFF competition is also happening on Friday. Please bring your bakes to the ICT suite on Friday morning and make sure you label them with your name and tell the OSCA team that it is for the competition. We can't wait to see what our talented Oakridge bakers come up with and to announce our STAR (junior and grown-up) BAKERS! Just a reminder that due to allergies, unfortunately we can't accept cakes containing nuts into school.

And finally, there is still time to sell all your raffle tickets if you haven't done so already. We have some fabulous prizes on offer this year. Please return the money from the tickets you sell, along with the completed stubs, to either the school office or class teachers.

We hope to see you all on Friday 8th!

The OSCA team x



# Poem of the Week

## Jack Frost In The Garden

By John P. Smeeton

Jack Frost was in the garden;  
I saw him there at dawn;  
He was dancing round the bushes  
And prancing on the lawn.  
He had a cloak of silver,  
A hat all shimm'ring white,  
A wand of glittering star-dust,  
And shoes of sunbeam light.  
Jack Frost was in the garden,  
When I went out to play  
He nipped my toes and fingers  
And quickly ran away.  
I chased him round the wood-shed,  
But, oh! I'm sad to say  
That though I chased him everywhere  
He simply wouldn't stay.  
Jack Frost was in the garden:  
But now I'd like to know  
Where I can find him hiding;  
I've hunted high and low -  
I've lost his cloak of silver,  
His hat all shimm'ring white,  
His wand of glittering star-dust,  
His shoes of sunbeam light.

from *100 Best Poems for Children*  
(Puffin Books, 2001)



COME & JOIN US AT

THE OAKRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



# Christmas Fair

-  TOMBOLA
-  RAFFLE
-  BAR
-  CAKE STALL
-  LUCKY DIP
-  MEET SANTA
-  TUCK STALL

AND MUCH,  
MUCH MORE ...



SUPPORT US!  
VOLUNTEERS WANTED  
FOR MANNING STALLS  
[PLEASE CONTACT THE  
SCHOOL OFFICE]



FRIDAY  
DECEMBER

8<sup>TH</sup>

@ 5.30<sup>PM</sup>  
- 7.30<sup>PM</sup>



JOIN US!  
ALL PROCEEDS  
DIRECTLY BENEFIT  
OUR CHILDREN



# Christmas Fair donation wish list ...

The success of our fair relies upon kind donations from Oakridge families. We know times are still tight but we would really appreciate you donating some or all of the following:

## FOUNDATION & KEY STAGE **1**

### CHOCOLATE



FOR OUR CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA! THERE WILL BE NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM ON THE DAY OF THE FAIR IN EXCHANGE FOR ANY CHOCOLATE ITEM!

**PLEASE BRING THIS IN ON THE DAY OF THE FAIR & DROP IT AT THE ICT SUITE.**

### A HAMPER ITEM



HAMPERS WILL BE KEY PRIZES IN OUR RAFFLE. WE ARE LOOKING FOR LOTS OF NICE FESTIVE GOODIES TO INCLUDE IN THEM. **PLEASE BRING THESE IN FROM MONDAY 4th DEC & PLACE IN THE DONATION BOX AT THE FRONT OF SCHOOL.**

## KEY STAGE **2**

### A BOTTLE



FOR OUR EVER POPULAR TOMBOLA! THERE WILL BE NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM ON THE DAY OF THE FAIR IN EXCHANGE FOR A BOTTLE OF WHATEVER YOU FANCY!

**PLEASE BRING THIS IN ON THE DAY OF THE FAIR & DROP IT AT THE ICT SUITE.**

### A WRAPPED GIFT



BRING IN AN UNWANTED (BUT NEW) CHILDREN'S GIFT FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE BOX GIFT STALL. PLEASE WRAP IT AND LABEL IT FOR A KEY STAGE 1 OR KEY STAGE 2, BOY OR GIRL. **PLEASE BRING THESE IN FROM MONDAY 4th DEC & PLACE IN THE DONATION BOX AT THE FRONT OF SCHOOL.**

## EVERYONE: CAKES



WHETHER YOU BAKE CAKES OR BUY THEM, WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR DONATIONS FOR OUR CAKE STALL. **PLEASE BRING THESE IN ON THE DAY OF THE FAIR & DROP THEM AT THE ICT SUITE.**

## STALL HELPERS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HELPERS TO RUN STALLS AT THE FAIR BETWEEN 5.30 & 6.30pm OR 6.30 & 7.30pm. WE ALSO NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP PACK AWAY.

**PLEASE SIGN-UP IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE. YOUR HELP IS REALLY APPRECIATED!**



## DAY HELPERS

WE NEED PEOPLE WHO COULD HELP ON THE DAY WITH PREPARING HAMPERS, SETTING UP THE TOMBOLAS AND SORTING ITEMS FOR STALLS.

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IN THE ICT SUITE ON THE DAY OF THE FAIR!**

# Also coming to Oakridge This Christmas ...

TICKETS STILL  
AVAILABLE!

## COME & MEET **Santa** AT THE **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DEC**  
TIME (LOW)  
AVAILABLE FROM  
5.30PM TO 7.15PM



£3  
per child

*Buy your tickets after school on Fri 1st Dec,  
Wed 6th Dec & Thurs 7th Dec.*

THERE WILL BE A TICKET STAND NEAR THE MAIN  
SCHOOL ENTRANCE. TICKETS SOLD ON A FIRST COME,  
FIRST SERVED BASIS. PLEASE BRING CASH!



... CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Can you **RISE** to  
the challenge and  
become

Oakridge's next  
**STAR BAKER?**



Bring in your best  
festive themed bake on  
Friday 6th Dec, to put  
before our judges.

There will be a prize for our  
**STAR BAKER** and all  
cakes will be sold on our  
cake stall at the fair!

★ Vouchers on sale on Parent Pay now! ★

◆◆◆◆◆★◆◆◆◆◆  
THE OAKRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

THIS YEAR THE CHILDREN WILL BE  
ABLE TO SELECT FROM A RANGE OF  
GIFTS FOR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS  
& SIBLINGS.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS POPULAR  
EVENT, TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR  
OUR SCHOOL!

◆ FRIDAY  
◆ **15<sup>TH</sup>**  
◆ DECEMBER

◆ BUY YOUR  
◆ VOUCHERS ON  
◆ PARENT PAY -  
◆ INITIAL LIMIT OF  
◆ TWO PER CHILD.

£3  
PER GIFT