



St Osmund's Catholic Primary School Newsletter



Love for God ~ Love for Each Other ~ Love for Learning

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the final week of this term, which has been filled with Christmas cheer here at St Osmund's. In fact, it was not limited to festive cheer... we celebrated Miss Ramsay's big birthday this week! Happy Birthday Miss Ramsay!

Yesterday, we had a wonderful afternoon of festive singing with all the children. Their voices echoed through the hallways, filling the school with Christmas joy. And this morning, we enjoyed a Christmas Quiz, which was a fantastic way to test everyone's knowledge of all things Christmassy.

As I mentioned last week, but well worth mentioning again, our recent Christmas Fayre was a huge success. Thank you to all the parents and members of the community who came along to support the school. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together and celebrate the festive season. Santa's visit was the icing on the cake!

I must also mention the incredible nativity performances we've had in EYFS and Key Stage 1. The children did an amazing job bringing the story of the first Christmas to life. And let's not forget the beautiful Carol Service from Key Stage 2. Their moving reflection on our mission as a Catholic school to support the poor and needy was inspirational. Throughout the last couple of weeks, the school has been filled with the sound of Christmas music and laughter. The children have been getting into the festive spirit, and it has been a joy to see. We have a crib set up with the baby Jesus, visited by the shepherds and kings. It may be a little early, but the children were so excited to see the scene.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that school starts back on Thursday 4th January at 08:55am. It is a mid-week start but attendance at school is still vital. Being in school on the first day of term is crucial for children as they settle back in and reconnect with the school routines. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and enjoy the festivities with your loved ones.



Apply for your Reception Place

Will your child be four years old before September 2024? You **MUST** apply for a primary school place.

Apply online at

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1698/Applying-for-a-school-place> or complete an application form, available from all Wiltshire Council offices. The deadline for applications is 15 January 2024. Remember to include proof of faith (baptismal certificate) with your application and let us know too.

Staying Safe / Stranger Danger

Please be mindful of safety when out and about this holiday.

We have heard reports of a child not from this school being approached by an adult male and asked to share personal information. You received an email about this on Friday and we spoke to all the children in assembly, in general terms, about stranger danger. Year 6, who have permission to walk home alone, were spoken to specifically about staying safe when walking home. Have a safe and peaceful Christmas.

House Points Winners

Congratulations to the children for amassing huge totals in the house points race. The final total was over 3800 points for St Bernadette's house which is fantastic!

Well done St Bernadette's house, you have a non-uniform day on Friday 5th January.

Star of the Week Awards

No stars of the week this week as we had our special Christmas quiz assembly!



Merry Christmas



Dates for your diary...

[www.twitter.com
@St_OsmundsCP](https://www.twitter.com/@St_OsmundsCP)

04.01.24 ~ First day of Term 3 (Thursday)
05.01.24 ~ Non-uniform day for St Bernadette's (blue) house (house points winners)
10.01.24 ~ Whole School Epiphany Mass ~ St Osmund's Church ~ 10am
16.01.24 ~ Reception Fire Brigade visit ~ 9:30am
16.01.24 ~ Class Mass ~ Year 2

Mr R Sanderson
Headteacher

This week the Church lights the
fourth advent candle on the Advent
Wreath,
the candle of love.

*We light a candle for Love.
May Jesus' love for us light
the
way ahead for us this
Christmas
and always.*

Amen.

Online safety in the Christmas holidays

At this time of year, with more time at home and colder, wetter weather outside, it is understandable that children – and all of us – may spend more time online. With this increase in online activities, we need to be aware of the importance of online safety.

Here are a few recommendations to help ensure your child's online safety during the holidays:

1. Set clear boundaries: Establish rules around screen time and which websites and apps are appropriate for your child to access. Encourage them to use the internet in shared family spaces, where their activities can be monitored.
2. Open communication: Keep the lines of communication open with your child about their online activities. Encourage them to talk about anything that makes them feel uncomfortable or uncertain.
3. Educate about privacy: Remind children to never share personal information online, such as their full name, address, school details, or photos, with people they don't know in real life.
4. Monitor online interactions: Regularly check on the content your child is consuming and monitor their social interactions online for any signs of cyberbullying or inappropriate behaviour.
5. Parental controls: Consider utilising parental control features on devices and internet browsers to limit access to unsuitable content.

Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to a member of the school safeguarding team:

Mr Sanderson – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Chapman – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Sambrook – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Windsor – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

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14 WAYS TO BE KIND ONLINE

Showing kindness online can mean so much to someone else. It is a choice we can all make that helps others, puts people's needs before our own and which can generate feelings of empathy and compassion. Small gestures can have a large impact and often one act of kindness can lead to more, making the world a happier and more positive place. That's why we've created this guide to suggest a few simple 'acts of kindness online' that can benefit people's mental health, support their wellbeing and encourage a more positive approach to engaging online.



1. BE POSITIVE

Post about things that make you happy and that you're thankful for. It could brighten up someone else's day.



Sometimes a friend or family member might post a question online or ask for help with something they can't do themselves. If you know the answer or are able to offer help, provide support and send a response. Something that may be easy for you might be difficult for someone else.



If somebody you know has done something good or shown kindness themselves, thank them for it. It costs nothing and showing them that you appreciate it means so much.

4. SHARE FUNNY VIDEOS OR IMAGES WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY

We often come across funny videos or images online that make us laugh and then we move on. If you found it funny, your friends and family might too. It could help someone smile who may be having a bad day.



5. LIKE, LOVE & CELEBRATE

If somebody posts something that you like on social media, like it, love it or celebrate it! It's a small gesture but could mean a lot.

6. VIDEO CALL YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY

It can be easy to be consumed by daily routine. Using apps like Zoom, FaceTime or WhatsApp are great for connecting with others far away and shows you're thinking of them even though you can't physically meet them in person.



7. TELL SOMEONE YOU'RE THINKING OF THEM

We can't always tell how people are feeling online and just dropping somebody a message to ask if they're ok or that you're thinking of them could literally make their day.

8. SHARE POSITIVE POSTS

If you see something online that inspires you, share it with people you know. An inspirational quote, a beautiful photo or a motivational video can lift spirits, improve self-esteem and help make people feel better about themselves.

9. HOST AN ONLINE QUIZ

Video conferencing apps are a great way to get friends and family together. If you know someone who is feeling lonely, host an online quiz and invite them to join in. It could really cheer them up.

10. THINK BEFORE YOU COMMENT

Sometimes thinking before you act can be just as significant as acting in the first place. Showing thought before you comment could stop you posting something hurtful, offensive or negative. It's always better to post positively or post nothing at all.

11. BE COMPASSIONATE & UNDERSTANDING

Being empathetic towards others and their situation is often an act of kindness and selflessness that gets overlooked. If you notice someone who is upset, drop them a message and offer to listen.

12. CONNECT FRIENDS & FAMILY WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS

You may know two people amongst your friends and family who you trust and know well who have similar interests and likes. Introducing them can be a great way for them to make new friends but remember to always ask their permission first.



13. RECOMMEND SOMETHING YOU ENJOY DOING TO OTHERS

If you enjoy doing something online, such as playing a game, or if you've found a great learning resource, share it with others. Even if you've watched a good film, letting others know can be an act of generosity that brings them excitement or pleasure at a time when they might need it the most.



14. PRAISE OTHERS FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

Sometimes your friends or family might post something online that they're proud to have done. It might be an exam they've passed, learning a new skill or just completing a task. Either way, it's always kind to recognise hard work and effort through praise and celebration.



Meet our expert

This guide has been written by Anna Bateman. Anna is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.

