



Ottery Primary School Newsletter

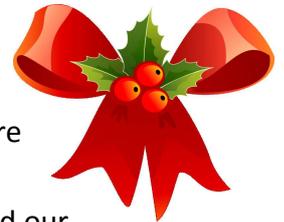


21st December 2017

Merry Christmas!

First and foremost, can I wish everyone a very merry Christmas! It's been an amazingly busy term and the children have risen to every challenge that was put before them.

Key Stage 2 ended the term with two wonderful Christmas performances. Year 5 and 6 were simply magical up at the church and I'm sure anyone who was there would agree. They brought a great deal of humour and talent to their performance and the church setting is hard to beat. Year 3 and 4 then completed our performances with a really lovely collection of songs (in English and French)! Our talented children really do know how to do Christmas!



I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their relentless hard work and dedication to the school and the children. The extra miles they cover, particularly at Christmas really do make a difference and is much appreciated!

I hope you all have a lovely break and enjoy the festivities. The children return to school on Monday 8th January 2018 and we look forward to welcoming them back to the New Year and some new arrangements in school.

Thank you all and have a lovely Christmas!



Mark Gilronan

Lunchtimes

We will be starting the new year with a new lunchtime arrangement aimed at improving the provision and experience for the children. We take great pride in the quality and range of the food we provide and the partnerships we have with local businesses such as K&M Butchers who provide much of our wonderful meat so rest assured there will be no changes there.

We will be listening to feedback from children and changing the structure of the lunch break. Starting from January, whole year groups will be coming in to eat together. We will no longer be separating the packed lunches and school dinners. This will allow children to sit with their friends while they eat. The new arrangements will also streamline the lunch service we provide.

A very brief outline of the lunch break is given below:

12.00-12.30	12.30-1.00	1.00-1.15
EYFS, Year1 and Year2 go straight out to play for the first part of lunch. All KS1 MTAs go to the playground to support them alongside Year 6 Play Leaders and Sports Leaders Years 3, 4, 5 go straight into the hall and the remainder of Year 6 go into the Hub. All KS2 MTAs come in to support this.	Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 go out to the playground with their KS2 MTAs. EYFS go into the Hub. Years 1 and 2 go into the main hall along with the Year 6 Sports Leaders and Play Leaders. All KS1 MTAs come into the hall/Hub to support this.	All children aim to be out in the playground by 1.00. MTAs and Year 6 Sports Leaders and Play Leaders support in the KS1 playground. Kitchen staff clear away and clean the hall and Hub.

There will be a big focus on healthy eating and responsibility and Year groups will be rewarded for meeting our Lunchtime Standards (see next page) ...



Lunchtime Standards



Please be polite to everyone

Please speak quietly with your friends

Please do what you are asked all the time

Please be sensible and enjoy your lunch

Please clear any mess you make

Please don't take food you won't eat

Please make sensible choices

Please have a healthy packed lunch

The last point on our Lunchtime Standards is particularly important. We are seeing a real increase in sweets and chocolate bars in packed lunch boxes and, in some cases, this is all that is in them.

We will be focusing on healthy packed lunches in the new year but my real concern is the presence of nuts in lunch boxes. We are a nut- free school as we have children with severe allergies. Snickers bars are an obvious example of a product containing nuts, but many cereal bars including Tracker bars also contain nuts. Please, please, please do not send in nuts or foods containing nuts for snacks or packed lunches. Below is an idea of healthy as opposed to unhealthy ideas for packed lunches.

One of the main benefits of the healthy option is the slow release of energy from the food as well as hydration from water or natural juices to sustain children's concentration during the afternoon. The unhealthy, sugary options provide a quick burst of energy that is used up very quickly by the children and can therefore affect their concentration levels later in the day.



PE update:

Much like we started the term, Ottery St Mary Primary School has finished successfully. Once again we have participated in many sporting events, both during and after school.

All of Year 6 took part in a Sportshall Athletics event. We had a team finish as Championship Competition Winners and one finish as Premiership Competition Runners Up. Well done!

I was delighted to take a group of children to Kings school to try some new and different sports. The children experienced playing; archery, indoor curling, volleyball and bocce. The group were a credit to the school and their enthusiasm has lead us to look into new sports we can add to our provision.

As mentioned last time, Ottery were crowned champions of the Year 5/6 Football League and we received other honours. Sam Hatswell was awarded player of the tournament (voted for by the other schools) and Rob Hennessey won the much coveted top goal scorer prize.

A group of Year 6 girls showed that they can play by participating in a girls only football event. All the girls did Ottery proud with their attitude and their enthusiasm. A really enjoyable afternoon was had by all! We will be having more fixtures and events in the near future. Watch this space...

Please keep having a look at our PE section on the school's website. It continues to provide information about PE and sport in the school.