



## SWIMMING

There will be a swimming session this coming Monday, the 18<sup>th</sup> December - this will be the fun session that the children missed on Monday the 4<sup>th</sup>.




**CAROLS round the Maypole**  
5.30pm 17<sup>th</sup> December

It is a tradition that the children of the village school are invited to sing a couple of songs at the maypole. We will sing *Away in a Manger* and one other.

If you could find time to practice *Away in a manger* with your children that would be great!



## LUNCHES



Lunch orders for the first week back starting 8<sup>th</sup> January must be ordered by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. **Any orders received after this date cannot be added.**

**Piano Lessons** - Goodbye to Pauline who is retiring into grand motherhood. We have loved having you here and wish you all the very best! We have secured a new piano teacher for January. If you are interested in your child having lessons please send an email to the office.



## ELFRIDGES

Thank you to the PTA for yet another wonderful event. Our children really enjoyed the Elfridges event at school at the beginning of this week. We hope you enjoy un-wrapping the gifts they've selected for you.



## Handmade Christmas Decorations

Our school tree is looking beautiful with all its wonderful handmade Christmas Decorations - thank you to everyone who has made one.



## End of Term Service

Our church service will start at 9am on the 21<sup>st</sup> December - you are all welcome to join with us.



## Goodbye

At the end of next week, we say goodbye to Mrs Steward. We will be sad to see her go and we wish her well in her new post. Thank you for everything you've done for our school.



## End of term party – 21<sup>st</sup> December

The PTA are arranging our Christmas party afternoon on the 21<sup>st</sup> December. They have arranged lunchtime party food, a special visitor to arrive after lunch and an afternoon of entertainment.



In appreciation of the generosity of their supporters, the PTA are kindly paying for the party and entertainment out of the funds they have raised throughout the year. Thank you!

Your child should come to school wearing their party clothes but please make sure they are wearing appropriate footwear and a warm coat as we will be walking to church. Church can sometimes be cold so it is essential they are warm enough.



## Snapper in Malvern!

This week, we were gifted a wonderful book and stuffed toy called 'Snapper' from a local supermarket for us to enjoy in class. The story taught us that no matter who you are or what you look like, you can be whatever you want to be. Snapper wanted to be a Christmas tree and found out he had a secret talent that made him the best Christmas tree ever! We really enjoyed this book and playing with our lovely Snapper stuffed toy!



## RAFFLE

The raffle, with prizes donated by the staff, which took place at the nativity plays, raised £114.90 which will be used to fund new glockenspiels for music lessons.

*For those of you who saw the nativity, I am sure you will all agree that the children were amazing! Thank you to the children and teachers for all of their hard work.*



### CHRISTMAS CARD ARRANGEMENTS

The school Christmas card box is open! If your child is sending cards to their friends we ask that they put the first and surname as well as their class name on the envelope.



## Darcey's Health and Well-being Box

Here are Darcey's tips for the week from 'Action for happiness' – 'Do Good December' calendar.

18 Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving

19 Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated

20 Help others by giving away something that you don't need

21 Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you

22 Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed

23 Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness

24 Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh



# Music of the Week:

This week we have been listening to 'Troika' by Sergei Prokofiev. A Troika is a vehicle drawn by three horses abreast.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mq3hRVAC1GE>

This music of Prokofiev was used by Greg Lake in his song 'I believe in Father Christmas'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yfY4b1NszyY>

Please only use YouTube with your parents' supervision and permission.



## IMAGE OF THE WEEK

'Painting with Troika' by Wassily Kandinsky.



## Thought of the week:


A verse from the Bible.



## SCHOOL DIARY DATES

- 19.12.23 – KS1 Trip
- 21.12.23 – Christmas Service 9am and Christmas party at school (parents are very welcome at Church).
- 21.12.23 -TERM ENDS FOR CHILDREN
- 22.12.23 Staff Training Day
- 08.01.24 - TERM STARTS FOR EVERYONE
- 01.02.24 – Year 5s to make Christingles
- 04.02.24 – Christingle service
- 09.02.23 - Staff Training Day
- HALF TERM - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February
- 22.03.24 - TERM ENDS
- 08.04.24 – TERM STARTS FOR CHILDREN
- 06.01.24 – May Day
- HALF TERM – 27<sup>th</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May
- 24.05.24 - Staff Training Day
- 19.07.24 – TERM ENDS
- 22.07.24 – Staff Training Day



**Christingle:** The Christingle service will take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Year fives will make the Christingles on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, in school, for this service. 

**Childnet** – Information for parents about online issues: <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/>

## PTA DIARY DATES

21.12.23 – Christmas party at school  
Follow Offenham CE First School PTA on Facebook for information and updates.



# REMINDERS



**RECYCLING** - We have a recycling drop-off point in our entrance area – you can bring your pens, batteries and empty crisp packets.



**Water bottles** - Children should bring a water bottle with them each day. If your child would like juice at lunch time, please send another bottle. ONLY WATER IN CLASS.



## Safeguarding



Please could we ask that if your child has hurt themselves at home and has a scratch, bruise or bump that you email the office alerting us to this.

## REMINDER – SCHOOL MEALS

School meals must be ordered on ParentPay by Thursday of the week before. **ANY ORDERS LATER THAN THAT WILL NOT BE PROCESSED.**

## Health and Safety



Just a reminder that bikes and scooters should not be ridden across the playground. Please make sure to dismount and push them across the playground so that everyone remains safe.

## Reader Helpers

If you can spare an hour or so to come and listen to children read, please speak to a member of staff. You will then be provided with all the required safeguarding forms to complete.



Offenham Baby and Toddler Group (NCT) takes place every Friday @ Offenham Village Hall 9.45-11-15am.

**Viv Bear - Eze**  
**Cheer Bear – Alina**  
**Sports Award – Jude**



## Awards This Week:

### Golden Apples:

**Avon** – Freddie & Finlay  
**Malvern** – Skylar & Jessica  
**Cotswold** – Jack P & Oliver D  
**Severn** – Maisy & Jack M

**Stars of the Week**  
**Avon** – Sorrel  
**Malvern** – Henry P  
**Cotswold** – Jacob W  
**Severn** – Mason



### Housepoints

**1<sup>st</sup>** - Sapphires with 411 housepoints  
**2<sup>nd</sup>** - Rubies with 426 housepoints  
**3<sup>rd</sup>** - Emeralds with 429 housepoints

## Birthdays

This week we celebrate the birthdays of Faustus, Isla G, Tyler, Liliya and Alina

Father God, today we celebrate the birthdays of Faustus, Isla, Tyler, Liliya and Alina and we say thank you that they are part of our school family. We pray that they may grow in wisdom and grace, give dignity and respect to others and that they may know your hope and joy every day. Strengthen and bless them on their birthday and every day throughout the next year. Amen.

## Attendance

**Avon** –95.4%      **Malvern** –98.1%  
**Cotswold** –97.3%      **Severn** –96.1%

**Overall–96.8%** ✓