



*'Growing deep roots. Producing good fruit'*

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### Wedding Bells



We wish Miss Ree and Mr Johnson all the very best for their up-coming wedding. Miss Ree, we hope you enjoy a wonderful day. We look forward to welcoming Miss Ree back to school in January as Mrs Johnson.

### Thank You from Ollie, Your Charities and ECD Minister



Ollie went to The Dogs Trust and Cats protection league last weekend with all the kind donations from our school. They were very grateful and a big thank you was sent from both places for the lovely donations made.



Here are some pictures of Ollie making the donations on behalf of us all.



### End of Term Service

We had such a fun time at Church this morning hearing the Nativity story using adults as the actors. Thanks to everyone who took part.



## End of Term Party

We had a great time at the party provided by our amazing PTA. Delicious food, a special visitor with gifts for everyone and a great entertainer!



 Thank you to everyone for your cards, presents and good wishes. I will miss you all. Best wishes from Mrs Steward.



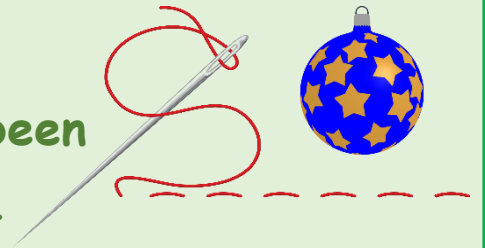
## Carols Round the Maypole

Thank you to everyone who came to sing at the maypole. You sounded amazing!



## This Week in Cotswold Class...

This half term, Cotswold class have been working to perfect their sewing skills.



Their D & T unit of work culminated in a stitched bauble decoration. Here they are in their party hats holding their bauble.



*Merry Christmas*



# Darcey's Health and Well-being Box



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

- |  |   |  |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| 18<br>Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving | 19<br>Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated        | 20<br>Help others by giving away something that you don't need     | 21<br>Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you | 22<br>Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed | 23<br>Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness     | 24<br>Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh |
| 25<br>Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself!      | 26<br>Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature | 27<br>Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat | 28<br>Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy   | 29<br>Turn off digital devices and really listen to people          | 30<br>Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why | 31<br>Plan some new acts of kindness to do in 2024              |

## IMAGE OF THE WEEK

### Silent Night by Viggo Johansen - 1891

I love this traditional family Christmas scene. It is Christmas in the home of the Johansen family, who can be seen dancing and singing round the Christmas tree in their living room.



## DOWMAT NEWS

The Dowmat newsletter for the term is attached on email.

## Stars of the Week

We will celebrate our stars of the week in the first Celebration Assembly after Christmas.

## Music of the Week:

This week we have been listening to Carol of the bells by Pentatonix. This is a Christmas favourite of ours at school.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSUFzC6\\_fp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSUFzC6_fp8)

## Thought of the week:

The gift of love.

The gift of peace.

The gift of joy.

May all these and more be yours this Christmas.



## SCHOOL DIARY DATES

- 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



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

## PTA DIARY DATES

To be confirmed in the New Year

Follow Offenham CE First School PTA on Facebook for information and updates.



Thank you - A huge thanks to all of you who have brought gifts into school for the staff - we are humbled by your kindness.



# A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

## Handmade Christmas Decorations

Thank you for all the beautiful decorations. All decorations have been returned and children given a small token of our appreciation for making the tree look so festive.

**Piano Lessons** - 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.



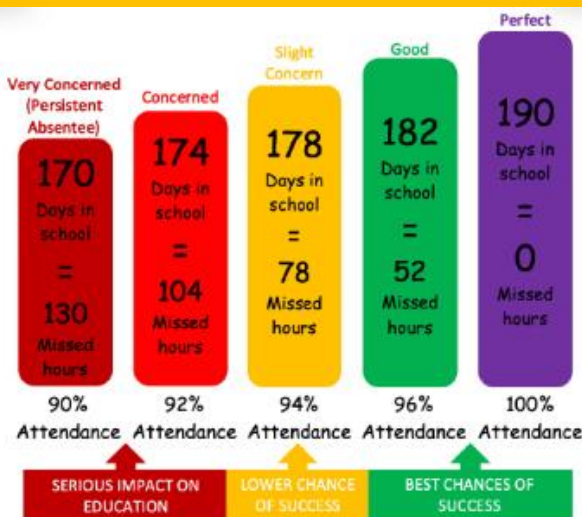
## Another Thank You

This time from the Poppy Appeal. Our school raised £165.77 which together with other fundraising efforts across the district raised the grand total of £2,967.31.

This money helps to support the Armed Forces community both past and present.

## Attendance

In January we would like everyone to aim for 100% attendance. Here are some 'big picture' figures that illustrate the impact of non-attendance at school.



A two-week holiday in term-time means the highest attendance your child can get is 94.7%. This is 65 hours of missed school time.