

# OLD CATTON NEWSLETTER



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## Dear Parents

As we are entering the festive period we would like to tell you our plans for Christmas this year. Unfortunately we are not able to prepare, practice and present our normal Year 3 and 4 Christmas plays for you. Our Carol Service is not possible to hold and we have not been able to raise money through holding our annual Christmas Fair. Not being able to hold these events feels incredibly peculiar as our school during this period is normally buzzing with all the festivities that we love. However! We have new and different plans to celebrate Christmas and make sure that we mark it in a special, yet different way.

## Christmas Window Displays

Next week, all the classes will be decorating their classroom windows. It is our aim that we will turn the main school building into a Christmas window display that you can all see and enjoy from the pavement and paths that look onto the school. Year 3 will be decorating Miss Emrick and Mrs Hewett/Mrs Wright's classrooms so that all of the large windows in our school are festive and beautiful. We would like to invite you all to take a walk past our school over the remaining days of term and enjoy your children's Christmas creations.



## Signing Carols

Each class has also been busy learning sign language to some of our favourite carols. As we can't sign together, we thought we would sign together and this would be a lovely way to still enjoy carols and present them to you. We will be making a video to post online so you can enjoy them too. If you are lucky – maybe your child could teach you the sign language that they have learnt?! We will text you the link for the video as soon as it is ready.

## Christmas Picture Competition

We are holding a Christmas picture competition with each class having art lessons planned around the project. School Council will choose a winning entry from each class and we will turn these pictures into Christmas flyers that we will post through the doors of our local residents. There will be a Christmas message from OCJS to our neighbours and a link to our video and carols. We will also share the winning pieces of artwork with you on our newsletter and website.

## Christmas Jumper Day

On Friday 11th December, we will be acknowledging the annual 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day. We ask that all pupils, if they wish to, to come into school wearing their own Christmas jumper. In line with our stance on fundraising this

year, instead of families donating towards the charity 'Save the Children', we ask that children bring in an item that could go towards a Christmas hamper. The items we collect will be sent to the Salvation Army who will create Christmas hampers for those in need in the local community.

We do not expect anyone to spend a lot, however, if you could spare an extra £1- £2 on your shopping then things like colouring books, pencil crayons, toiletry sets, teddy bears, books or chocolate bars would be perfect. You could also have a look in your cupboards for any unwanted/unused gift sets you may have as these would also be very well received.

There will be tables or boxes placed at all entrances to the school so that pupils can place the donations on the table, or in the box, without having to bring these into school.

In order to ensure that we have a variety of items to add to our hampers, please refer to your child's/children's relevant year group(s) for the recommended donations:

- Year 3: Toys and Gifts suitable for under 5s
- Year 4: Toys and Gifts suitable for 5-11 year olds
- Year 5: Toiletries
- Year 6: Sweets and Treats

As mentioned in our previous fundraising letter, every child is welcome to take part in the events throughout the year, regardless of whether they are able to make a material contribution or not.

Many thanks for your continued support.  
Miss Emrick and School Council

## Christmas Packed Lunch

Thank you to all those who have ordered a Christmas party lunch for 15th December. As previously advertised there will be no alternative meals available from the school kitchen on this day. Therefore, if you have not ordered a Christmas party lunch for your child please ensure they bring a home packed lunch on that day. Please note that all children will remain in their classes for this special lunch as they have done at lunch time so far this year.

As you can see we have many things planned to celebrate Christmas. We hope that your children enjoy taking part in them all and that you enjoy our window displays and signed carols. Many thanks and Happy Christmas from everyone at Old Catton Junior School!

## Christmas cards and gifts this year

Unfortunately this year we are not going to be able to facilitate the children giving out Christmas cards in school. We need to continue to comply with our risk assessments and keep our actions consistent this term with trying to minimise items brought in from home and shared in school. We would also be unable to distribute cards between Bubbles.

I have had queries from some very kind parents asking if staff will be able to accept Christmas gifts this year and whilst we appreciate parents' kind generosity, we will again need to keep to our risk assessments and be consistent with our messages. In addition, given the financial pressures everyone is under currently, we would rather not add to the anxiety/stress of feeling that gifts are necessary.

If you would like to send the staff at Old Catton a "gift" this year, I know that a kind message, thought or comment would be hugely appreciated and could be emailed to the office. I will make sure any messages are shared with staff. Many thanks for your support and understanding.



### Stars of the Week!

Congratulations to the Stars of the week– wonderful work and attitudes shown; what brilliant role models we have in our school.

6KR Riley Church  
 6KR Sonny Dyke  
 6LR Isaac Kiddell  
 6LR Joshua Moore  
 5GS Ffion Andrews  
 5GS Poppy Wilshaw  
 5JS Hanna Gapinska  
 5JS Isobel Maslen  
 4C Cameron Feetham  
 4C Millie-Rose Bennett  
 4N Charlotte Day  
 4N Alani Lawrence  
 3C Lily Nicholson Tait  
 3C Sophie Ella Tanner  
 3E Ronnie Goddard McClure  
 3E Emily Moore



### Golden Book!

The following children were put into the Golden Book for amazing work that has astonished, astounded and amazed their teachers. Huge congratulations to the following children:

### Week Beginning 30.11.2020

Cameron Feetham  
 Tyler Woodhouse  
 Emilio Williams  
 Kiera Sadd  
 Cody Lee  
 Casey Webster



### Attendance Cup

**3C** won the attendance cup for their attendance this week with an attendance of 100% - Well done!

### Times Table Masters!

Well done to the following children who have completed their Time Table Challenge Tests up to 12x12. Brilliant work.

Joshua Moore  
 Isaac Oarton

Penny Bunter  
 Catherine Burke  
 Lola Gilman  
 Alicja Drozdzik  
 Hollie Harvey  
 Isobel Maslen  
 Idy Akpan  
 Sophia Andres  
 Jack Dennehy  
 Elliot Freezer

### Free School Meals

We have sent out communication to all parents/carers asking if you are eligible for Free School Meals so that we can set up the FSM Vouchers for your children over the Christmas holidays and in preparation for 2021 February half term. Thank you to all those who have confirmed their details with us. If you would like to talk to us regarding eligibility or any changes in your situation or need to update contact details, please phone or email the school office. We can then make sure that we provide a link and code for EdenRed which is the chosen provider of supermarket vouchers to the value of £15 per child per week. This is for two weeks over Christmas and a week at February half term - these vouchers can be used at all main UK supermarkets. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like information regarding eligibility. Alternatively, please use the contact details for the relevant Norfolk County Council department, provided in the letter attached to this week's Newsletter page.



### Norfolk Libraries are reopening!

We're pleased to be able to reopen our libraries on December 2nd under the tier 2 restrictions. We are really looking forward to welcoming you back to the library in the run up to Christmas and we hope our book collections can see everybody through the holiday period. We very much hope to see you back in the library again soon!

You will find the same measures to keep you safe as before:

- The library has limited capacity for customers allowed in to make sure we can maintain social distance. This means you may be asked to queue outside before we can allow you in
- We are taking test and trace details on entry and we have a QR code on display outside if you would rather use that.
- You will be asked to wear your face covering and sanitise your hands on entry and then follow the one way system inside.
- All our staff are wearing masks and are frequently washing and sanitising their hands too.
- When books are returned, we are quarantining them for 72 hours so that they are safe for our customers to borrow.
- All our touch points and self-service machines are kept clean throughout the day.

Before your visit, please make sure you check our opening hours as these may well have changed since you came in last. You can do this online by visiting: [www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/libraries)

We still have grab and go bags available if you would like to borrow books but would rather not browse in the library.

If you're interested in finding out what's on offer online please visit our website; we're planning our next group of online coding clubs for January (children aged 9-11) so if you have a child who would be interested in attending please email [libraries.iconnect@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries.iconnect@norfolk.gov.uk)

For more information about any of the above, or for any other public library queries please contact: [libraries@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@norfolk.gov.uk)

- We will encourage the children to use the WOW word throughout the week.

Thank you for your support in helping your child.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great weekend!

**Mrs K Connelly.**

## TALK HOMEWORK & WOW WORDS

Each week we send a Talk Homework activity and 'Wow' Words home and we would be very grateful for your support.

We are trying to help all our children develop excellent speaking and listening skills, which in turn will help them with their writing. "If a child can't say a sentence then they can't write it either!"



This week I would like you to talk about music! Music is a powerful way for us to connect to our feelings, relax and celebrate. Different pieces of music can evoke memories and emotions.

Spotify have just released the top 5 UK most-streamed songs of 2020. They are:

1. Blinding Lights by The Weeknd
2. Dance Monkey by Tones And I
3. The Box by Roddy Ricch
4. Roses - Imanbek Remix by Imanbek and SAINT JHN
5. Don't Start Now by Dua Lipa

But what music do you like listening to the most? Who is your favourite artist? Which song makes you get up and dance? Which song would you most like to relax to? Do any songs remind you of good times or maybe difficult times too? Talk to you families about their music choices – are they the same as yours or different? How do you think music has changed since your parents/carers were young to now? You could listen to each other's favourite songs and share your opinions about why you have chosen them. Bring your ideas to next week's class discussion.

In Big Talk, we use '**WOW**' Words to improve our vocabulary and 'big up' our sentences to make them more interesting!

*Our 'WOW' Word this week is*

*Harmony*

*(arrangement, chord, composition, melody, tune, unity)*

Please encourage your child to use this WOW word, in the right context, as much as possible.

- The 'Talk Homework' and 'WOW' words will be set every Friday in the newsletter; children will then share their 'Talk' with their class on a Friday afternoon.