

18th November 2020

Christmas comes to Oakworth!

Dear Parents/Carers,

2020 has certainly been a strange year and we are aware that so many of our families have had to make sacrifices and miss out on special times. We are determined that COVID will only affect us positively at Oakworth this year, and our Christmas will be even more special. I have put together this letter to outline the upcoming events. Further, more detailed information around each of these will come closer to the time.

Oakworth Advent Calendar

To make December a special month. Each class will have their own special advent calendar. Each day, this will provide a Christmas activity, event or treat for the children to enjoy and get them in the mood for Christmas. As each class is different, these are all very different and I can't wait to see what they get up to and the memories that they make!

Christmas Campaigns

This year we are running two Christmas campaigns at Oakworth. One of them is to support a charity, the other is to support our school, as we have been limited on fundraising events this term due to COVID. We completely understand that some families are facing financial difficulties in the current climate. Please do not feel any pressure to support these campaigns if you are unable to do so, or feel free to 'club together' with another family to share any donations and keep the costs down.

1. Martin House

Martin House is a local hospice, offering respite and more permanent care to young people who are terminally ill. The hospice is organised across two sites, one of which is called 'Whitby Lodge' and generally houses young people aged 13-19. Whitby Lodge is a wonderful part of the hospice, purpose built for young people with terminal or life limiting conditions. The Lodge has been designed to offer these young people and their loved ones independence and dignity as they move into adulthood. Their brilliant care team love to have a stock of travel sized toiletries (hair products, dry shampoo, bath bombs, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, face wash, deodorant, body spray, toothpaste etc) hygiene products (tissues, sanitary towels and tampons) and beauty products (nail varnishes, make up items) to make their stay as special as possible.

We are therefore asking for donations of these items that can be distributed and used by these young people, who are being so brave, to support them with their stay in the hospice. The team at Martin House have also mentioned items for a teenager's bedroom (single bedding sets that are suited to older children), fairy lights etc, would be most welcomed. All items need to be new and sealed. I will be taking the purple donation bin to the main gate with me each morning starting on 1st December to collect any donations you would like to make.

2. Buddy class reading books

One of the things we were hoping to raise money for this term is library books for the class and shared libraries, particularly as we have to quarantine books on their return. Each class in our school has a 'buddy class' that they used to get together with for certain events. We are asking our families if they would be willing to donate a book (it could be a donation from home, a new book bought with others or a recycled one, as long as it can be read!) for your child's buddy class. These will be placed in a large wrapped box, so your child and their class can have the pleasure of opening a present that they can all enjoy for the rest of the year. Class teachers have spoken to

their children and compiled a 'wish list' of titles they would like to see in their libraries. Your child's classteacher will send this out to you shortly.

As I said previously, please do not feel pressure to support with either or both of our campaigns if you are unable to do so.

Performances

Unfortunately we are unable to hold our usual Christmas performances in the hall due to the restrictions around COVID. Instead this year, you are in for a special treat...

1. Oakworth – the musical!
Miss Quinlan is going to be producing 'Oakworth – the musical!' a pre-recorded extravaganza involving each and every class in the school. This will be available for you to download and share with your families. If you do not wish your child to be recorded, please let the year group email know to ensure we have the most up to date information.
2. Rapunzel – virtual pantomime
On Wednesday 16th December, we are going to be joining with a virtual pantomime, which promises to be full of fun and laughter. More details, including songs and the words (!) will follow soon.

Other Christmas events

15th December – Christmas Dinner and Christmas jumper day

Our wonderful Mrs McAndrew is going to be providing a Christmas dinner 'café style' as she has been for all our meals this half term. Please order via the office. Your child is welcome to wear their Christmas jumper (or outfit!) on this day. As we are already asking for support for our two Christmas Campaigns, there will be no suggested donation.

18th December – Christmas/birthday parties

This is the last day of term (and the last school day of 2020!) so the December birthdays will be celebrated alongside the usual end of term class Christmas party.

The hall is not in full use at the moment, so we have postponed our usual Christmas 'hoops' this year and children and staff will be decorating classrooms and shared areas.

Phew! December is looking busy! And we are so excited! We hope you will be too!

Thank you for all your support as always.

Best wishes

Beki Vargassoff
Headteacher