



Oatlands Community Junior School

Beechwood Grove, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 8QP

Telephone: (01423) 872827

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www.oatlandsjunior.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Estelle Scarth

20th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

End of term message from Mrs Scarth



PTA Christmas Fundraising

Our dedicated PTA have made the final festive weeks at OJS even more special by working alongside Oatlands Infants PTA to organise the annual joint Christmas Fair. It was a huge turn-out and lovely to see families and friends from both school communities supporting this event and having a jolly time. Over **£6000** was raised, to be shared between both schools- tremendous amount and a record! Thank you to the Infant School for hosting and both PTA groups for all their hard work in organising such a big event.



Our PTA Christmas shop had a great selection of gifts to choose from, in the OJS Studio last week, and I am sure that family and friend's will not be disappointed! The total amount raised was a fantastic **£761.46**. Thank you to our wonderful PTA for giving their time to these events. It is always much appreciated.



Well being Champions- 'Harrogate Gives For Christmas'



Thank you for all the amazing toys that were donated to the Wellbeing Champions for 'Harrogate Gives For Christmas'. One of the organisers got in touch with me and said:

"The event was a huge success - people walked into the hall on Sunday and so many got overwhelmed by the generosity of the community, they couldn't believe that it was all free and we had a lot of happy tears. It was a wonderful afternoon."



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



We dropped off 4 carloads of toys this morning to the Harrogate Hospital Charity for children in hospital over Christmas and for their charity looking after children in the community. We'd like to thank the children and parents of Oatlands Junior School for their generous donations, it was incredible."



The spirit of generosity at Oatlands Junior school is super and I would like to thank you for also kindly donating to *Save the Children* on Christmas Jumper Day – we raised **£398**.



Y3 Christmas Assemblies



A huge well done to all our Year 3 children who performed superbly, and teachers who planned and practised with their classes, to ensure such entertaining Christmas assemblies. It was lovely to see families in school and I must congratulate you all on successfully joining in with *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. I have received lots of positive feedback from you which has been lovely to receive. Thank you!

Festive Fun!



The children have all enjoyed a festive end to this term, with lots of fun at their year group parties, singing Christmas songs and making beautiful Christmas crafts, which I'm sure will be memorable keepsakes.



It was also our first whole school pantomime trip to Harrogate Theatre to watch '*Beauty and the Beast*'. All the children and adults thoroughly enjoyed themselves getting involved in all the singing, cheering and booing – great audience participation! A huge thank you to all the parents who helped and our community police officer, Paul Robinson-Ripley who ensured we were able to cross the main roads safely as a whole school





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Sporting Events

We have had a very successful term and a round up of the events and achievements is attached.

Recommended Reads

If any of you are looking for ideas for how to spend your Christmas book tokens, Miss Starrett and Mrs Wilkinson have picked out a few top reads you might like to look out for...
Happy Reading!

Age 7+

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| <p>Fly by David Lindo</p> | <p>The Bedtime Book of Even More Impossible Questions By Isabel Thomas</p> | <p>The Snowman Code By Simon Stephenson</p> | <p>Race to the Frozen North : The Matthew Henson Story By Catherine Johnson</p> |




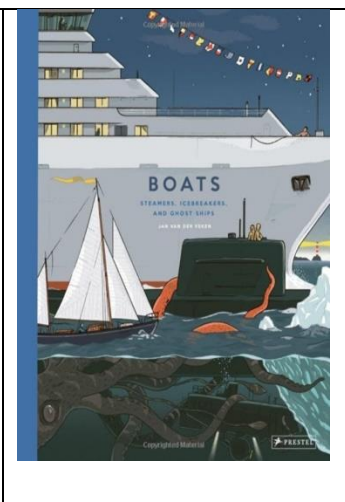
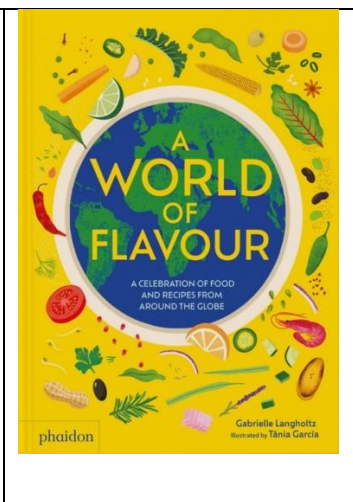
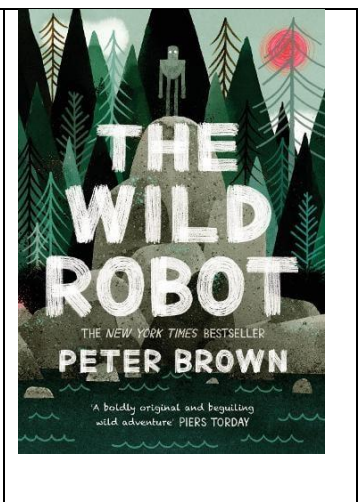
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Age 8+

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|  |  |  |  |
| <p>The Great Reindeer Rescue By Stephen Mangan</p> | <p>Mistletoe and Murder By Robin Stevens</p> | <p>Tinsel By Sibéal Pounder</p> | <p>The Completely Chaotic Christmas of Lottie Brooks By Katie Kirby</p> |

Age 9+

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|  |  |  |  |
| <p>Midnight Treasure By Piers Torday</p> | <p>Boats Steamers, Icebreakers & Ghost Ships By Jan van der Veken</p> | <p>A World of Flavour: A Celebration of Food and Recipes from Around the Globe By Gabrielle Langholtz</p> | <p>The Wild Robot By Peter Brown</p> |

Eco News

As well as being a lot of fun, Christmas can be a time when we create lots of waste, although it is possible to be more sustainable.

Here are some ideas to help our Christmas consciences:

- Use brown paper (drawn on or printed by you or your children) in place of wrapping paper. Easy to recycle, cheaper to buy!
- Alternatively, re-use gift bags, Christmassy fabrics and ribbons to wrap gifts.
- Use paper tape rather than regular Sellotape – it can go straight into recycling.
- Use old Christmas cards to make gift tags.
- Use sprigs of holly or other evergreen foliage to decorate your house – these can be composted once the decorations come down.
- Give a homemade gift – edible items in paper bags or jars, plants from cuttings, something you've crafted.

Have a wonderful Christmas break!



Internet safety support

Attached to my message are leaflets from National Online Safety offering advice on *What Parents/Carers Need to Know About Setting up Apps, Games and Software*, should your child receive an electronic gift from Santa this year.



Term dates

I have attached the 2025-2026 Term Dates

<https://www.oatlandsjunior.co.uk/seecmsfile/?id=8909> and 2025 Spring Term calendar of events <https://www.oatlandsjunior.co.uk/seecmsfile/?id=9071>, for your reference. The Spring term curriculum overviews are also on the school website for each year group: <https://www.oatlandsjunior.co.uk/curriculum/curriculum/spring/>

We always welcome parent/carers volunteers to help with any school trip or into school to read with children. If any of the topics for next term are of a particular interest to you, then please contact your child's class teacher. It is always great to have parents enrich our

curriculum, sharing their knowledge and skills associated with their profession or interests.

A reminder that our weekly news and information is shared through the school website. This is an accessible and convenient way of keeping up-to-date with school news

<https://www.oatlandsjunior.co.uk/>

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Remember you can view our weekly achievements and events through our Twitter feed on the school website. For those of you who do not have a Twitter account, you can still see our main school Twitter feed through the school website:

<https://www.oatlandsjunior.co.uk/latest/oatlands-on-twitter/>

I look forward to welcoming all our children back to school for the start of Spring term, when we re-open on **Monday 6th January 2025 8:55am start.**

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

EG Scarth

Mrs Estelle Scarth

Headteacher

