

# The Ossia

December 2018

Together with Jesus, we will Learn and Grow in Faith

## OFSTED Inspection!

At the beginning of this half term there was a very important couple of days in school, when we had a visit from the OFSTED inspectors. The morning after the inspection, Mrs. Walsh gathered everybody together in assembly and told us that the inspectors had told her a lot of wonderful things about our school. Everybody began to cheer, Mr. Crowther and Mrs. Rose played some music and we all celebrated together. We were all so happy and it was a very proud day for us all. A huge thank you and well done to everybody who is part of our school family for all of your continued hard work and support.

We would also like to say another massive well done to all of the year groups who have performed their Nativities to mark this special time of year. Each performance was truly wonderful and left us all very proud at how the children re-told the story of the birth of our Lord and captured the true meaning of Christmas. On behalf of everybody at St. Oswald's we would like to wish you all a peaceful and Holy Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing everyone again when school re-opens on Monday 7th January.



## Building work update!

The re-development of our school building has continued to make great progress this term. Classes have now moved into their brand new and improved classrooms, while the new offices and staffroom are ready for us to move into when we return after Christmas. We are already looking forward to the next stages of the work to begin in the coming weeks and months!

## Early years

### Nursery

Nursery have done so much this half term including developing our vocabulary by learning the meaning of lots of new words and enjoying our Stay and Play sessions, where parents have been staying to join in with our activities. We have been busy preparing for Christmas by learning lots of songs for our Christmas celebration in Church and have enjoyed making Christmas cards and decorations. We have also been learning about the very first Christmas and have even been taking the travelling crib home to share the story with our families.



### Reception

In Reception we have been working really hard to improve our phonics, learning lots of new sounds and learning how to spell some new words. We've had a fantastic first term and have had the opportunity to try lots of new things such as cooking, gardening and gymnastics as well as visits to church to see Father Mark. Some reception children have even visited local care homes singing carols for the community with Mr Crowther and Mrs Rose! We're already looking forward to the challenges and exciting activities the new year will bring!



## Key Stage 1

### Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy during this half term! Following our walk around the local area of our school, we have been writing letters to some local councillors in our Literacy lessons, to suggest some ways in which we think our local area could be improved. In our Maths lessons we have been working hard on our methods of addition and subtraction, whilst also developing our reasoning skills. We have also been preparing for Christmas by looking at the real meaning of Advent and Christmas in our RE lessons, as well as enjoying making our own pizzas in our cookery lessons!

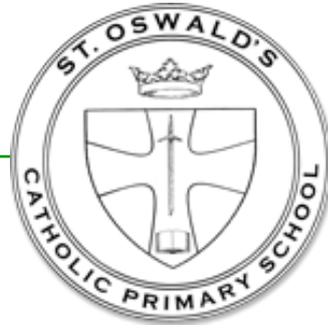


### Year 2

In Year 2 this half term we have travelled around the world and visited different continents in our Geography topic and stopped off in Europe to study the Spanish surrealist painter Joan Miro in Art. We enjoyed learning about different Traditional Tales in English, while in Maths, we have worked hard on multiplication, division and fractions and tried hard to complete reasoning problems based on our new skills!

## School Council

Our new school councillors have been working very hard during this half term, discussing lots of ways that we could continue to improve our school. We have been discussing some initial ideas of things that we could do to help achieve the Liverpool Writing Quality Mark, including writing letters to the royal family or our favourite authors, and creating information leaflets all about healthy eating. We are going to speak to our teachers about the topics we will be studying next term and try to come up with some other ideas to link to what we will be learning about. In Year 3 and 4 our recycling has been going extremely well, we would like to say a huge well done to everybody for their efforts so far!



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## Remembrance Day Tea Party!



This term we hosted an extremely special event in our school, to commemorate Remembrance day and remember all of the heroic soldiers who fought for our country. Fortunately, some of our Ossie News team were on hand to find out all about it and speak to some of the people involved!

Earlier this term, in the days leading up to Remembrance day, we had been learning all about World War 2 in our lessons, discovering what it was like for the people in our country at that time, as well as what a horrific experience it was for our soldiers. We found out all about the terrible conditions that the soldiers had to endure while they were in the trenches, including the poor hygiene, lack of food and horrifying things that they witnessed. We also discussed how difficult it was for their families, who did not know if they would ever see the men that they loved again.

It was fascinating to learn about World War 2, and as we had been looking at writing for purpose, we thought this would be a perfect opportunity to use our knowledge and interest in WW2 to write about real life events and make links with people in our local community. We wrote poems about the war and diary entries from the perspective of soldiers who were in the trenches. We also, created lots of Remembrance day art work, and contacted as many people who we could from our families and local community who we knew had links to WW2 and asked them to contribute any photographs, news articles or memorabilia that they had. We gathered everything together and created our own World War 2 scrap book, which was truly wonderful and emotional to read and look through.



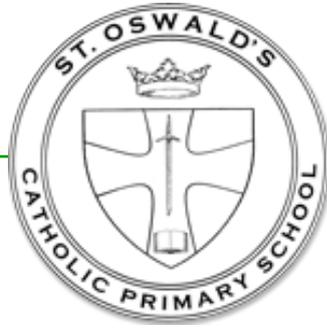
We then used lots of the art work that we had created to decorate our hall ready for our Remembrance day tea party. It looked amazing and we had some very special guests! Lots of people who had family affected by WW2 came, and were able to look at all of the work and memorabilia we had created. Our school choir also performed for them while some of our news reporters were lucky enough to ask them about their memories and experiences.

We were able to talk to lots of guests and most of them told us about what a scary time it had been, as they did not know whether their family members who went to war would ever come back. Doris (101) and Violet (87) also told us all about how they had to have their food rationed, while David (75) and Catherine (84) explained that many people were evacuated to places such as Wales and did not see their family again for a very long time. One of our guests Henry (80) also told us about how his father used to drive the army tanks while Jenny (84) explained how her dad had flown the spitfire fighter jets. It was captivating to hear all of the amazing stories from the people who had been affected and we were extremely fortunate and grateful to be given the opportunity to talk to all of our special guests about their experiences.



We would like to say a massive thank you to everybody who came to our tea party, as well as everybody who worked so hard to make the afternoon such a special time. It was a truly wonderful afternoon and the perfect way for us to commemorate and show our appreciation for those who fought for us. Here at St. Oswald's, we will always remember them.





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## Mince Pie and Baubles Event!



On Wednesday 5th December we hosted another magnificent event in school, our annual Mince Pie and Baubles Christmas celebration! During this amazing afternoon, there were lots of exciting and very festive activities taking place in a number of different areas across both buildings in our school, and some of our Ossie News reporters were there to find out all about what was going on!



In the days before the event, we had the opportunity in our lessons to decorate some Christmas baubles to be sold to raise money for charity. The baubles were sold in the open areas around some of our classrooms, while inside the hall there was a number of different festive activities taking place. Despite the extremely cold and wet weather, we had an unbelievable number of people who came to join our celebration.

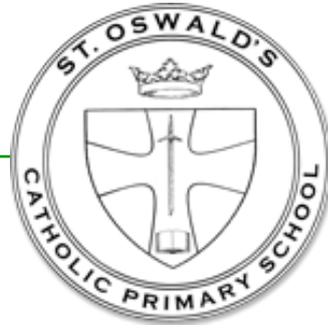


Inside the hall, our choir beautifully performed a range of different carols for everybody, while at the extremely popular crafts table, children and their grown ups were elbow deep in paint and glitter as they decorated snowmen, Christmas trees and star decorations! There was also a lot of excitement around the Christmas cracker table, as people pulled crackers together and tried to win some delicious selection boxes! Some of our amazing staff and PTFA even cooked up some tasty treats and delicious drinks for everybody to have while they enjoyed the festivities, including hot dogs, pizzas, mince pies and much, much more!



In our magical Christmas grotto, we had an extremely important guest, as Santa Claus himself came to visit us! Children flooded to see him and he even brought us some fantastic gifts, while our choir had the chance to meet him and sing 'Jingle Bells' alongside him. Next door to Santa's grotto Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Mosaid completed a phenomenal two hour charity run in fancy dress! The run was to raise money for their chosen charity; Phab kids and thanks to some very generous donations they managed to raise around £150 which was brilliant! Both Mrs. Murphy and Mr. Mosaid will be running the London Marathon for Phab kids next year and you can continue to support them by texting PHA-B59 £1 to 70070 to donate to their truly amazing cause.

We would like to say a huge thank you, from all staff and children in school, to Mr. Crowther and our PTFA, who helped to make this, and all of this years events so wonderful. Look out for many more exciting events for children and parents next year! For more information about joining the PTFA please contact Mr Crowther.



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## Key Stage 2

### Year 3

Year 3 have had a very busy time during this half term. We have been learning about the features of poetry in our Literacy lessons and have written some of our own poems, while in PE we have been working on our gymnastic techniques, learning to perform lots of new jumps and rolls. During RE lessons we have been focusing on Advent and the Angel Gabriel visiting Mary and Joseph. This has helped us when rehearsing our lines for our Nativity play, which has been a lot of hard work but very enjoyable. We hope everybody who came to watch enjoyed our performance too!



### Year 4

In year 4 we have been learning about advertisements in our Literacy lessons and have even created our adverts. In our Maths lessons we have been developing our division skills, using the bus stop method to divide by 2 and 3 digit numbers, while in Geography we have been looking at different regions of the UK and how they have changed over time. We have also been excitedly preparing for Christmas by designing and creating some amazing Christmas decorations as part of our DT lessons which we have really enjoyed!

### Year 5

In year 5 we have been looking at lots of fun topics this half term. We have learnt about the work of some famous poets in Literacy, and have even written our own version of poems such as 'Twas the night before Christmas', which was very festive! In our Maths lessons we have been working hard to understand more about fractions, while in our Computing topic we have been looking at how to use coding and algorithms. This half term we have also been lucky enough to have PE lessons with Mrs. Williams, where we have been developing our skills in gymnastics. We have been able to develop a range of counter-balances and have even been able to create our own sequences using the gymnastic apparatus and perform them for each other, which has been a lot of fun!

### Year 6

Year 6 have been working very hard during this term, which has been very busy for us. In our Literacy lessons we have been enhancing our writing skills through looking at flashbacks, whilst we have been working hard to develop our understanding of fractions in Maths. In our Science lessons we have been looking at evolution and inheritance, where we have been comparing human and chimpanzee skulls, looking at the similarities between them which has been very interesting to learn about. We have also been lucky enough to go on a retreat day to a church in St. Helens, where we took part in a range of different activities which allowed us to get to know each other better. It was a fantastic day which we all really enjoyed!

### Sports Results

There were a lot of different sporting competitions and events that have taken place during this half term. Our Yr. 5 and 6 boys football teams continued their league seasons with some great performances, while our Yr. 1 footballers were runners up in a tournament at the LFC academy which was a fantastic achievement. We also had a group of KS2 children who took part in a Boccia tournament and performed brilliantly, especially considering it was the first time playing Boccia for most of the children. There was also a magnificent achievement for our KS1 athletics team, as they were the winners of the KS1 indoor athletics tournament earlier this term! We would like to say a massive well done to all of the children who have represented our school so well during this term and look forward to some more exciting events to come after Christmas!



## Christmas Jumper Day!

On Friday 15th December it was Christmas jumper and Christmas dinner day in our school. We celebrated by having a special assembly and all of our teachers and children wore their Christmas jumpers to school. At lunch time each year group went into the hall together with their teachers and teaching assistants and sat down to eat our delicious Christmas dinner all together, while we listened to some of our favourite Christmas songs. Everybody really enjoyed themselves and all contributed to making it such a brilliant, festive day!

We have also been looking at ways that we can show acts of kindness and spread some Christmas cheer to others. One way that we have done this is by collecting gifts to be given to the Radio City mission appeal, as well as donating money for CAFOD world gifts, while our choir have been going out to perform some Christmas carols at some local care homes. A particularly special event was our swap-shop, where lots of people brought in items such as toys, clothes and books to exchange. It was a very popular and successful afternoon, and we were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of our families. Thank you so much for all of the donations that have helped so many people in our community this Christmas time!

