OLD MILL PRIMARY SCHOOL









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ATTENDANCE STARS

As we approach the end of 2024, we wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude for your continued support in ensuring your children maintain good attendance at school. It truly does makes a difference!



Week commencing 25.11.24

KS1 - 2PB 99.5%

KS2 - 6SV 98.3%

Week commencing 02.12.24

KS1 - 2IB 99.5%

KS2 - 6ST 99.3%

Week commencing 09.12.24

KS1 - 1CD 99.0%

KS2 - 3JL/KS 99.3%

Since October half term, the class with the highest overall attendance was 218, sitting at a fantastic 98.00%. Congratulations!



Dear Parents/Carers.

As we approach the end of term, school has been buzzing with excitement and achievement. Pupils in the EYFS and in Year 2 have worked tirelessly to prepare for their festive performances, which were a delightful showcase of their talents and hard work. Our 'in-house' pantomime was also a highlight that never fails to bring joy and laughter to our community.

Christmas dinner last week was a wonderful opportunity for our school family to come together and celebrate. It's a time for sharing, gratitude, and creating lasting memories.

I'm particularly proud to highlight our recent Governor awards recipients. These pupils have demonstrated exceptional qualities, embodying the values we hold dear at Old Mill. Their achievements, along with the outstanding performances we've witnessed recently from some of our youngest pupils, remind us of the incredible potential within each of our pupils.

As we reflect on these events, I'm filled with pride for our school community.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas with best wishes for the New Year.

Alison Smith-Stewart Head teacher



Our pupils did a 'TREEmendous' job of decorating the Old Mill christmas tree for St. Mary's Church Christmas Tree Festival. Entitled, 'Clever Christmas Crafters', children from Mrs. Hodder's craft club decorated the tree using a variety of reuseable and repurposed everyday household items from toilet rolls to washing pegs!

FESTIVE PERFORMANCES FROM EYFS AND YEAR 2

YEAR 2...

On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December, Year 2 performed their Christmas play, 'A Christmas Recipe.' All children worked really hard to learn their lines and the songs and by the end of the performance, they had created the perfect Christmas Recipe, including all of the vital ingredients! It was a performance to remember!



EYFS...

EYFS shone like stars in the final week of term in their annual Christmas production of '10 Christmas Wishes.' We enjoyed watching snowflakes and elves dance, squirrels hug family from far and wide and the angels arrive in Bethlehem to see the new born baby Jesus. An amazing performance to end the school term and put us all in the mood for Christmas.

Well done EYFS. Merry Christmas!



DECORATIONS MORNING

We welcomed parents and carers into school on Thursday 5th December for a morning of festivities! Children put their artistic skills to use and created Christmas decorations fit for Santa Claus's workshop! The morning wouldn't have been complete without Christmas songs, festive attire and some tasty treats. Thank you so much to everybody who attended - this annual tradition wouldn't be the same without you.



A MUSICAL TREAT AT SUTTON ELMS BAPTIST CHURCH



The choir and string musicians delivered an outstanding performance at their annual Christmas Concert. The choir sang in perfect harmony, and the string ensemble played beautifully, with some exceptional solo performances adding to the magic. The event was filled with smiles and joy from both parents and performers alike. A heartfelt thank you to our parent volunteers —this wouldn't have been possible without you! A special thanks to Fiona Chamberland for her incredible dedication and quidance to the string musicians.



SANTA GLAUS VISITS OLD MILL!



Santa Claus made a special visit to Old Mill Primary School, bringing magic and festive cheer to our pupils. Dressed in his iconic red suit, he greeted the children with warmth and laughter, taking time to chat with each class. Santa delighted everyone by delivering presents, creating excitement and wonder throughout the school. The smiles on the children's faces were priceless, and the atmosphere was truly heartwarming. A big thank you to Santa and his excellent OMSA elves for making this a memorable day for all!

EQUAL ACCESS SCHOOL 2024



We are proud to announce that Old Mill has been recognised as an 'Equal Access School' for 2024, due to the opportunities we provide for all of our children.



CHRISTMAS MOVIE MORNING





On Thursday 19th December, children celebrated the festive season with a special film morning. The classrooms were filled with excitement as the children settled in to enjoy a selection of movies and festive treats. It was a lovely way to wind down after a busy term and spread a little Christmas cheer before the holidays!



HE'S BEHIND YOU... OH NO HE ISN'T!

Jack and the Beanstalk was a resounding success, filled with laughter, vibrant costumes, and captivating music. Our pupils were thoroughly immersed in the performance, showcasing their joy and enthusiasm throughout. The production highlighted important themes of perseverance and bravery, allowing the children to reflect on these values in a creative context. Even the teachers took to the stage!





GOVERNORS' AWARDS AND JORDAN BLANKLEY AWARD

We held our termly governor's awards ceremony during the last week of term, rewarding children's hard work and development of a range of character muscles...

GOVERNORS' AWARDS...



Teo EYFS Liza Year 1 Tilly Year 2

Year 3

Year 4

Ava Year 5 Elliot Year 6

JORDAN BLANKLEY AWARD...

Each term we present the Jordan Blankley award for 'endeavour'. Jordan was in Year Two at Old Mill and was a happy, hard-working little boy. He sadly lost his battle with meningitis, but fought the illness with great courage. Each term we give this award to recognise effort and resilience. Congratulations to Florence, who is the deserving winner this term.





A huge congratulations to Year 3's Pippa who sang 'I See the Light' from Tangled and 'You've Got a Friend in Me' from Toy Story in a recent singing exam. She scored a very high Distinction and has been named as the singing academy's highly commended of the month!



TIPS FOR YOUR

Wellbeing

WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Spending time outdoors in the winter is important for your mental health. Walking can reduce stress and anxiety and instantly boost your mood. Moderate exercise such as a 30 minute walk can increase your energy levels and improve sleep.

Find lots of tips and ideas to make walking more fun this winter, with our 'Step up your game' guide here

why not grab the family and enjoy a festive scavenger hunt around your local area. Can you find them all?

Christmas Scavenger Hunt

SILENT NIGHT

Whatever the time of year, a good night's sleep is crucial for us all. It allows your body and mind to recharge, leaving you refreshed and alert when you wake up. A balanced diet, keeping physically active and ensuring a consistent bedtime routine is important to aid good sleep. Find top tips and information on all things sleep including how many hours your child needs each night here

EAT THE RAINBOW

A healthy, nutritious diet provides the body with the energy and vitamins that it needs to function well and fight off viruses. As well as this, eating well helps to keep your body warm and can help to improve your mood.

Eating a healthy, balanced diet is important to maintaining good health. This means eating a wide variety of foods, in the right proportions, to maintain a healthy body weight. The NHS Eatwell Guide has advice based on the 5 food groups, find out more here!

To encourage healthy eating habits, be a role model. Children tend to imitate, if they see you eating a wide range of healthy foods, they are more likely to try a variety of foods. Eating together as a family also helps.

Research has shown that allowing children to get involved with food preparation and cooking encourages them to eat a wider variety of healthy meals.

Check out some delicious and healthy family meals to make together this winter here!

Source NHS

SPARK JOY

The Christmas period and the cold, dark winter months can feel overwhelming at times. It's important to make time for the things you enjoy. Whether that's a hobby, listening to music, cooking or getting lost in a good book. Finding things that you enjoy helps to relax and unwind during busy and often stressful periods.

STAY CONNECTED

Staying connected with others is important for your wellbeing, especially during the winter months when it's easier to feel isolated and lonely. Spend time with loved ones and try and meet friends and family in person where possible. Reach out by phone or email to keep in touch with those who may not live locally. You could look at joining a new club or trying out a new activity such as a cooking or craft club.

Be kind to others

Helping others can make you feel good. You could volunteer, do something for a good cause, or perform a small act of kindness.

THE 5 WAYS TO WELLBEING OFFER SOME SIMPLE STEPS WHICH YOU CAN DO EVERY DAY.

mind HAVE MORE INFORMATION HERE



INTERNET SAFETY Nowarana

DECEMBER 2024

Screen 19mcl

With the Christmas holidays around the corner, we know that children and young people will be spending more time online. The internet is accessible everywhere, from phones, laptops and tablets to game consoles, smart speakers and even smart TVs!

The internet can be a great resource for young people, it offers a wealth of information and helps build knowledge and understanding.

Playing games can support young peoples learning skills, problem solving and creativity.

Screen time allows young people to connect with friends and maintain a social connection.

Homework is often online based, so it's importnat that young people are confident in navigating it and have the skills to access information.

Signing size grilly at 2

- It's important to understand what young people are doing online.
- Agree rules and boundaries, be clear on what your child can and can't do online.
- Agree times that they can go online during the week.
- Stay involved, start a conversation by asking them about the sites, apps and games they use regularly. It helps you to identify any potential risks.
- Encourage your child to use their device in a communal area to allow you to keep an eye on what they are accessing.
- Set parental controls to filter, restrict, monitor and report.

internetmatters.org has lots of guidance and advice for keeping children safe online <u>here</u>



The NSPCC has
information and
advice about talking to
children and young
people about online
safety.





Social Media

 Children and young people use lots of different social media apps. The most popular being TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram. There are lots of benefits to social networking. It helps to keep young people connected to friends and family. They can also learn things from making slime, learning dance routines and gaming tips. However, there are risks associated with social media use that you should be aware of to ensure your child is safe whilst using it.

Oversharing; children and young people can sometimes feel pressure to overshare online.

· Sharing their location.

· Talking to people they don't know.

Sending or receiving inappropriate content.

Unrealistic sense of body image or reality.

Obsessive focus on likes and comments.

Cyber bullying.

source: NSPCC

Whereally



has lots of advice and guidance about staying safe on social media platforms here

(1) UK Safer Internet Centre

WhatsApp is a hugely popular app which offers a quick, easy and free way to connect with friends and family and allows the user to share photos, videos or memes. The age requirement for the app is 13 but many users are younger. Children and young people might be in group chats of various sizes, this could be with family members, close friends or even whole classes or year groups.

Similar to social media, there are risks associated with using WhatsApp and Internetmatters.org have created a safety guide

LET'S STAY ACTIVE

for parents, find out more here

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DATE OF BANKEY



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Health | Well-being | School Sport | PE | Physical Activity

South Leicestershire Community Board



Leicester, Leicestershire and Autland

`What You Saying?'
Watch the Young Voices on
healthcare here
Find out what matters most
to them, what's working and
what needs improving.



PANTRY

Do you live in South Wigston, Wigston or Oktoy?

Are you struggling to make ends meet?
If so, please come does to our community
food pantry and hygiene bern where we
are here to help!

Thursdays Ham-torn

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Leicester Lecentricibile

free walk-in vaccinations and blood pressure checks. Currently it is offering COVID, flu, MMR, pertussis (whooping cough) and RSV vaccinations.

Find your nearest healthcare unit

support services in your area this winter here















