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**Executive Headteacher:** Mr S Arnold

**Interim Head of School:** Mr P Lane

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the new half-term. I hope that everyone enjoyed a relaxing holiday last week as we look forward to the upcoming weeks - with so many notable calendar dates ahead of us - I am writing this letter to make you aware of the key events as we approach the festive season.

Working together with our amazing Friends of Oak Meadow and super school council, we aim to make Christmas a memorable experience for every child, full of fun and excitement. We would like to replicate the huge success of last year's Christmas Fair (Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December) with a difference as, with your support and donations, we aim to host a community event where pre-loved children's toys, games and clothes will be on sale. These items can be purchased for a nominal price for you to send on to Santa in order to be wrapped and delivered for the big day!

In addition to these dates, this Friday (10<sup>th</sup> November) we will celebrate Diwali Day at Oak Meadow completing wide ranging activities across the school including learning about the story of Diwali, completing Rangoli artwork, singing and dancing. Weather permitting(!) there is also a plan to produce Rangoli patterns on the Key Stage 1 playground after school where families are invited to contribute alongside children. Please note to celebrate the day that we would like all children to attend school in **brightly coloured clothes** this Friday.

Furthermore, next week at Oak Meadow we mark national Anti-Bullying week (13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November) and will work together with the children to look at the importance of taking care of one another and always speaking out if they have any concerns at all. On Monday (13<sup>th</sup> November) all children are invited to wear **odd socks** for the day and as the week ends on Children in Need day (Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November), children may also wear any 'Pudsey' accessory on this day to accompany their school uniform with a suggested voluntary contribution of 50p for the Children in Need charity.

Below is a 'festive' table detailing further dates and events across this half-term in chronological order to support you and your child(ren) as we look forward to the excitement of the weeks ahead:

Date	Event	Details	Donation
Week commencing 6 <sup>th</sup> November until Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Oak Meadow Community Christmas Fair – donations of pre-loved children's toys, games, clothes welcome and much appreciated from <b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November up until Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December.</b>	The main drive behind this year's Christmas Fair will be the collection of pre-loved children's toys, games and clothes. From Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November, we would like you to send in any unwanted toys, games or clothes in good, reusable condition that we will sort and make available for sale (for a nominal price) at the Oak Meadow Community Christmas Fair on Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December. Please bring donations to the main school office in order for our elves to sort ready for the Christmas Fair!	Pre-loved children's toys, games and clothes in good, reusable condition.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform day. Bring a toiletry to school.	Children will be allowed to wear non-uniform for the day in exchange for a voluntary 'toiletry' donation. All toiletries will be available on the bottle stall at the Oak Meadow Community Christmas event.	An unused and unopened toiletry item.

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow...



Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Whole school Pantomime – Cinderella.	Children will enjoy a visiting pantomime on the afternoon of Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November as we gather in the school hall to watch a production of Cinderella.	N/A
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Reception Christmas Performance (9:15am and 2:15pm).	Children in Reception will present their first ever Christmas performance for parent/ carers. Please note that to help with numbers we are requesting that only two adults attend per child for each performance.	N/A
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	A 'naughty' visitor returns...	I have already received a letter from Santa about how much a certain elf enjoys spending the festive period at our school. Make sure you subscribe to our twitter feed <a href="#">@oakmeadow12</a> to see the mischievous videos.	N/A
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Years 5 and 6 Christmas discos (3:15pm – 4:30pm).	This event will be for all Year 5 and 6 children as they enjoy their disco evening following on from the success of the discos for Years R-4 in October. Year 5 and 6 children should attend school in their uniform but bring a change of clothes for the end of the school day (The Friends of Oak Meadow will provide decorations and food/ drinks).	N/A
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 1 Christmas Performance (9:15am and 2:15pm).	Children in Year 1 will present their Christmas performance for parent/ carers. Please note that to help with numbers we are requesting that only two adults attend per child for each performance.	N/A
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Non-uniform day. Bring a bottle to school.	Children will be allowed to wear non-uniform for the day in exchange for a voluntary 'bottle' donation. All bottles will be available on the bottle stall at the Oak Meadow Community Christmas Fair.	An unused and unopened bottle.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	The Christmas Jumper Day.	In line with the national event, children will be able to wear a Christmas jumper to school for the day in exchange for a voluntary donation to 'Save the Children'.	A suggested voluntary donation of 50p per child.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (all donations taken to the school stage for 9am)	Christmas Cake competition.	Children (and their families!) are invited to enter our Christmas Cake completion. Prizes will be on offer for the winning entries with all cakes then sold later in the day at our Oak Meadow Community Christmas Fair.	A Christmas themed cake.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa is back in residence at Oak Meadow!	During the school day, Santa will return to his Oak Meadow Christmas Grotto where children from all year groups will visit him across the day. There will be no need for him to check his list as we know how wonderful every Oak Meadow child is - each and every one of them will receive a Christmas gift.	A voluntary donation of £1.50 per child to help Santa cover his overheads!
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (3:30pm - 5:30pm)	Oak Meadow Community Christmas Fair.	We look forward to welcoming you to this year's Oak Meadow Community Christmas Fair. Children will have made products to sell and designed games to enjoy in classrooms while the school hall will host a plethora of stalls selling the pre-loved children's toys, games and clothes that have been donated along with toiletries, bottles, cakes, food and drink. Santa has also agreed to stay in his Grotto for the evening where a picture with him and gift will be available for £2.	Voluntary donation for entry – costs dependent on each stall. A visit to Santa - £2 per child.



Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle at Oak Meadow.	Children will spend the morning in their classes completing Christingle activities focusing on the message of Christmas less than a week away from Christmas Day.	N/A – an in-school event for children.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas lunches and Christmas parties.	Christmas lunches will be served in the hall (please see the Caterlink menu when published) before children have an option to bring a few food items to share with their class for the afternoon in a buffet (no perishable items as food will remain in the classrooms during the morning and will not be refrigerated). Children may again wear their Christmas jumper on this day (no additional donation required).	Caterlink menu cost. An option to bring in a few food items to share with their class.
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas Carol Concerts (Y2 and Y4 parents/ carers – 9am; Y3 and Y5 parents/ carers – 2:15pm).	We invite parents/ carers from Y2 and Y4 to assemble in the school hall at 9am and parents/ carers from Y3 and Y5 at 2pm to hear the telling of the Christmas story through song. Please note that for safety and to help with numbers we are requesting that just one adult attends per child.	N/A
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Christmas Carol Concert (Y6 parents/ carers and invited guests from the wider community – 9am).	We invite parents/ carers from Y6 and invited guests from the wider community to assemble in the school hall at 9am to hear the telling of the Christmas story through song. Please note that for safety and to help with numbers we are requesting that just one adult attends per child.	N/A
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	End of Term (3:15pm).	The school term ends at 3:15pm on Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December. School will re-open to all children on Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2024 for the new term (Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January is a staff INSET day).	

All funds generated with your support from each event (with the exception of the 50p donation on Christmas jumper day for Save the Children) will go directly into our school fund. This means that all proceeds raised will be spent directly on the children as we aim to enrich the curriculum and provide opportunities to develop and enhance learning experiences.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this letter but I hope that this comprehensive communication supports you in preparing for the weeks ahead. Dates and details could be subject to alteration but we will endeavour to inform you as quickly as possible if anything changes. Further information that is Year group specific pertaining to some of these events and others this half-term (such as any trips) will be sent out by the staff in your child's Year group. If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to speak with me or any of the school's leadership team, your child's class teacher or support staff or make contact directly with the school office.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Lane (Interim Head of School).

