

# Newsletter



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We have come to the end of a long term and the whole OTF community is looking forward to a well-earned rest. The prospect of this festive period cheers us and lifts our spirits away from the cold, dark season. In the last week in particular, the farm has looked extra wonderful, with all the snow and with staff and learners dressed in all sorts of wonderful Christmas jumpers!

Being our first festive celebration at OTF, it has been a magical time for me. It was particularly lovely when I got to see the intense excitement on the faces of our learners during the snowy weather. As the term draws to a close, it is with humility and gratitude that I look back on the term.

I am sure that pupils, parents, and carers would like to join with me in thanking all the staff at OTF for their continued tremendous hard work and commitment to the learners of the farm. I know how hard you all work and I have to pinch myself to believe that I am working with such a commitment, kind team that put everyone else before themselves. Thank you! Likewise, myself, staff and learners would like to thank all parents and carers for all your support, I know that for many of you this has been a journey and I am proud that you are communicating and sharing celebrations and worries so that we can enhance our children's progress further.

Like I say to many, we are on this journey together so do not worry about anything! Last but in no way the least, we the rest of the farm community thank our learners – you are indeed some of the best young people I have ever had the pleasure of working with and I am at ore of the progress each one of you have made, and despite some not so great days, you have built the resilience to keep building yourselves to become the best you rightly deserve to become!

Whilst we celebrate this festive season in our own individual and traditional ways, it is important to focus on those less fortunate than ourselves who may feeling a sense of sadness at their own challenges over Christmas. It is important to think of those who may be feeling lonely or sad, and those adults and children not being fortunate in being with family and friends. I pray for and wish everyone peace in all our homes and families during this holiday season. - may we all be safe and keep healthy.

**Merry Christmas or Season's Greetings to everyone!**

Ludivine

## This half term..



**As Ludivine said.. What an amazing first festive period we have had here at OTF!**



When reflecting on this term, its clear to me that all our learners have achieved a great deal; whether that is in their personal development, independence, working with others, specific skills or engaging in new learning opportunities.

On the farm, we continue to emerge ourselves into some really exciting projects within different elements of our farm life. Each day we are caring for our animals and making sure they have nice warm beds to sleep in and delicious treats to eat.

We have welcomed Rhiannon Entwistle our to our team who has been working with our learners outdoors and teaching them lots of new, exciting skills. They have learnt to start fires using fire steels and create wooden reindeers using different tools and techniques. We would like to thank Rhi for her expertise and look forward to seeing what other lovely things are created at forest school.

As always, we have spent a lot of time in the kitchen, cooking and baking all our favourite things and some other seasonal goodies! We have cooked everything from Mince Pies to Full English Breakfasts – its safe to say no one ever goes hungry on a day at the farm! Whilst cooking our learners have made some really good progress in their skills and techniques when it comes to working with different foods, having a balanced diet and planning and buying their ingredients.

Myself, Laura, Felix and Rhi would like to say how proud we are of each learner and their progress over the term. It has been great pleasure to work with such an amazing and inspirational bunch of young people! We are looking forward to next term already!

**Merry Christmas everyone, have a lovely Christmas Break,**

Bobby!



# Our OTF family..



# Any other business..



- Please note the change in days for your child for next term – Please refer to the email (sent by Jayne on 12.12.22) confirming dates and times for each individual learner.
- Next term Rhi, our Forest School lead, will be with us on both **Mondays** and **Thursday**. Please ensure your child has **really warm** clothing and the appropriate shoes for those sessions.
- We are expanding our therapeutic offer and are excited to welcome Lyzette Jarvey to the team. She is an Art Psychotherapist that will be working at the farm, providing art therapy sessions to some of your children – if you would like your child to have the opportunity to take part in Art Therapy sessions, please fill in the consent form you received via email.
- Thank you to those who have taken the time to fill in our Parent/Carer Questionnaire, the feedback we have received is greatly appreciated and supports our development plan going forward – Please do fill out the questionnaire if you are yet to do so, its not too late!

Merry Christmas

