



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2020

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for your support last half-term. We hope that you and your family had a lovely winter break and wish you all the very best for 2020. This month's newsletter includes a summary of the superb events that took place towards the end of December as they were all too good not to get a mention! However, pupils have made a super start to the new term at Orchard, returning to school happy, engaged and very well-motivated.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Thank you so much for your positive comments regarding the Carol Service, which featured some beautiful singing by the whole school and some super poetry recitals. (Weren't they all fabulous!)



KEY STAGE 1 PERFORMANCE

A massive well done to Classes 1, 2 and 3 for working so exceptionally hard on their Christmas Production.



The standard of singing, dancing and acting was once again extremely high, and the performance was a joy to watch. The Staff and I were exceptionally proud of our wonderful pupils.

EYFS NATIVITY

We were astonished at the level of confidence displayed by our super EYFS pupils during their performance of The Nativity. Very well done all!



CAROL SINGING

Thank you to Miss Brown, Miss Farrar, Mrs Mycroft and Mrs Daft for accompanying choir as they sang carols around the village. It was a very wet evening, but their spirits weren't dampened! The hot chocolate certainly helped to warm them up! Thanks also to the parents who joined us.

UPPER KS2 CHRISTMAS ENTERPRISE SCHEME

Our amazing Year 5 and 6 pupils raised £148 through selling items that they had created.

From sewn soft toys to reindeer food, there was a lot of enterprise and creativity on show. The money will go into School Council funds. Well done all!

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Thank you to Mrs Daft for organising a fantastic chocolate raffle. We raised £150, which will go towards whole school enrichment events.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH/CHRISTMAS OUTFIT DAY

The midday supervisors and kitchen staff made lunchtime very special for the pupils - thanks to them for their hard work.

We also had a number of splendid outfits on show!



DONINGTON DYNAMO WORKSHOPS

Thank you to Wayne for leading a Donington Dynamos session for our budding sports stars. Pupils had a wonderful afternoon learning some higher level basketball skills.

Our 'future JK Rowlings' took part in a special poetry writing workshop based on the theme of Winter. They produced some superb work, which is on display in the mobile.

Finally, Mrs Daft (a qualified swimming coach) and Mrs Godsell led a special higher level training session for our gifted and talented swimmers in Years 5 and 6.

PTA FAMILY NIGHT

Thank you to all of those parents who supported the Christmas Family Night, either by sending in donations for raffle or tombola prizes, or by attending the event on the Friday. A huge thank you to the school's wonderful PTA group for all of their hard work and excellent organisation.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance during the Autumn Term was 96.5% overall. We obviously understand that pupils will be unwell at times and have good reason to be off but would urge you to think carefully before keeping children off for other reasons. Also, please be aware that attributing an absence to illness when this is not the case can put children in a very 'difficult' position.

If your child is ill, please contact school by phone as soon as possible each day.

Ideally, we want all pupils to have at least 95-96% attendance each term and no less than 90%, as this is classed as Persistent Absence by the Local Authority.

LOST PROPERTY

Please could you check that all uniform and outdoor coats are labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

STAFF LED CLUBS

Staff are running a variety of clubs this half-term:

Mon—Chatterbox Club & Homework Club (lunchtime)
Tues—Japanese Club (lunchtime) & Choir (after-school)
Wed—School Council (lunchtime)
Thurs— KS1 STEM Club (after-school)
Fri—Knitting, Lego & Eco Club (lunchtime)

HOBGOBLIN THEATRE COMPANY

As you know, we always like the end of our topics to have the 'wow' factor! Year 3 and 4 were not only treated to a performance of 'The Mummy's Curse', performed by the Hobgoblin Theatre Company, but also then participated in a drama workshop themselves to explore Ancient Egypt further.



The whole school then watched a performance of Wind in the Willows in the final week, which was the perfect way to end a very busy term.



INSPIRATION DAYS - JANUARY 2020

Pupils in Key Stage 1 boarded the Titanic for the start of their 'Ice, Ice Baby' topic and experienced life in all three classes of cabin!

It's Light, Camera, Action for Classes 4, 5 and 6 as they explore the world of Light and Sound. Their Inspiration Day began with the Sound Collector stealing their teachers' voices! They also explored how the artist Kandinsky was inspired by music and sound before creating their own pieces of art.

Classes 7, 8 and 9 are travelling to the 'Amazing Americas' this half-term. They launched their topic with a trip to Mexico to explore art and literature associated with the Day of the Dead Festival.

Homework Menus and Topic Maps are available to view on the website.

SPRING TERM SPORTS CLUBS

Afterschool clubs can be booked online:

Mon—KS2 Football
Tues—EYFS/KS1 Football
Wed—KS2 Hockey
Thurs—Dodgeball for Y2-6
Fri—EYFS/KS1 Multisports & KS2 Cross Country

LEARNING TIMES TABLES

We are having a big push in school on learning times tables! By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know their times tables and corresponding division facts up to 12 x 12, as stated in the National Curriculum. They should be able to recall a multiplication or division fact within about five seconds.

In school, we explore times tables so children have a secure understanding of the concept of multiplication and division, and the various patterns and sequences related to each times table. There's also regular practice in each class.

Don't forget that pupils can access Times Table Rockstars online from home - each child has their own login. Please contact your child's class teacher if you require more information.

SPORTS RELIEF - Friday 13th March 2020

On Friday 13th March, to raise funds for Sports Relief, children are invited to 'dress as their favourite sports-person'. (Failing that, wear sports kit/leisure gear!) We would kindly ask that a donation of £1 is brought into school to support this national charity event. Thank you.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Thank you so much to those parents and visitors who donated items for the foodbank during December. Your generosity was very much appreciated.



PARENTS' EVENINGS

Parents' Evenings for the Spring Term will take place on the following dates: Monday 10th February 3.30-6.30pm and Wednesday 12th February 5.00-7.00pm. A letter will follow late January/early February for you to indicate your preferred appointment times.

READING FOR PLEASURE

We really understand that families are very busy and that time can be limited, but if you can only do one thing to support your child, please make it reading with and to them. Reading for pleasure has huge benefits as the quoted below illustrates (Egmont, Reading for Pleasure 2019):

Children who read for pleasure daily or nearly every day are a year ahead in reading performance versus those who never do.

DIARY DATES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Thursday 16th January - Y6 & EYFS Height & Weight check

Friday 17th January - World Religion Discovery Day

Friday 31st January - Phonics Meeting for Y1 parents

Week beg. 3rd February - Children's Mental Health Week

Tuesday 4th February - Safer Internet Day & Parents' E-Safety Presentation (info to follow)

Monday 10th February - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 11th February - Fire Safety Talk for Y1 & Y5

Wednesday 12th February - Parents' Evening 5.00-7.00pm

Friday 14th February - School closes

17th - 21st February Half-Term

Monday 24th February - School opens

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day (dressing up for EYFS & Key Stage 1 pupils)

Thursday 12th March - Shakespeare Day (themed day for KS2 - more info to follow)

Friday 13th March - Sports Relief fundraiser

Wednesday 18th March - PTA Mothers' Day Tea

Friday 27th March - Spellathon & PTA Spring Disco

Monday 30th & 31st March - Y3 Beaumanor Residential

Friday 3rd April - School closes

STAFFING UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome two new Learning Support Assistants, Mrs Wintle and Mrs Brain, who will be working in Classes 6 and 7.

We are currently advertising for a Midday Supervisor. Please contact the school office for details.

PARKING

Parking is a continuing problem. We do not have the legal power to ask drivers of cars parked hazardously by the school to move their vehicles and can only appeal to their wish to do what is best for the children.

Manoeuvring vehicles, especially ones being reversed, are a real danger to the children however and it is very upsetting when near misses are reported, as they frequently are. As a school, we constantly try to improve the situation but we need the co-operation of parents and carers in this respect. Thank you for your understanding.

SPECIALIST COACHING SESSIONS

Y3 and 4 pupils are being treated to four specialist tri-golf coaching sessions led by a member of the Charnwood Sports Association.