



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2020

Dear Parents,

Staff are exceptionally proud of how hard the children have been working on their Creative Curriculum topics this half-term. Pupils have produced some wonderful History work in KS2 and in KS1 each class has been exploring 'Jurassic Park' which has enabled them to roam with dinosaurs (no honestly, there's been a giant egg and T-Rex on the school field!) We're also having a lot of special theme days. Like to keep things exciting!

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

OUTCOME EVENTS - SPRING TERM A

We ended last half-term with a real bang, with all classes celebrating their outcome events on the last day.

KS1 invited their parents on board the Titanic to perform a couple of waltzes before showing off their fabulous topic work back in class. This included some lovely Inukshuk artwork.



Lower Key Stage 2 went to the Oscars! After walking the red carpet and posing for the paparazzi, pupils received various awards for their Drummer Boy Shadow Puppet Films, which were premiered to an eagerly awaiting audience.

As well as chilli hot chocolate, Upper Key Stage 2 got to make their own Mexican banquet of tacos, fajitas and dips. They also got to show off their fantastic Day of the Dead masks.



SPORTING NEWS

Well done to the pupils who took part in the recent hockey competitions. We were very proud of their positive attitudes and team spirit.

SPRING TERM B - INSPIRATION DAYS

Inspiration Days to launch new topics have also been amazing for Spring Term B.



Pupils in Classes 7, 8 and 9 were genuinely terrified of their exceptionally strict teachers as they experienced life in a Victorian school.

The Romans invaded Classes 4, 5 and 6 for the day, with pupils making helmets or mosaics.



A giant egg had mysteriously appeared in school. Curious KS1 pupils tracked down CCTV footage showing a giant T-Rex sneaking onto the school grounds. The children were very excited to discover that it had left a rather big 'present' in the middle of the field!



MUSIC UPDATE

Miss Brown and Miss Farrar will be teaching Boom Whackers to all of Year 5 during the Summer Term. Watch this space!

We are very proud of our school choir who took part in this year's Rotary Club Music Festival. A huge well done to you all for your fabulous performance. They also visited 'The Friday Club', entertaining the members of this local community group with their lovely singing.

REFURBISHMENTS

During February half-term, Winvic (who have been amazing in supporting school) very kindly undertook more outdoor improvement jobs for us including the following:

- Removal of the hedge bordering the playground
- Debris removal from the woodland area
- Field repair
- Removal of rotten staging in the sail area
- Cutting down five unkempt conifers to provide more space and light by the bungalow
- Clearing of the garden area by the bungalow
- Removal of rotten garden furniture in the woodland area

Mr Maguire and Mr Owen also worked on clearing the pond area in readiness for jet washing by some of our parents (thank you Mrs White and Mr Thompson!)

The rolling-programme of internal painting has continued with EYFS, Class 7 and the IT suite being painted grey. New flooring has been laid in the staffroom, Head's office and corridor area by the main office. We are due to have the remaining doors replaced in the next few weeks.

Mr Maguire continues to work exceptionally hard to ensure that school is well maintained – he is doing superb job and school is looking fantastic.

KS1 WORLD BOOK DAY

Another fantastic World Book Day was had by all! The children looked wonderful in their costumes and KS1 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their special assembly as well as book themed activities completed back in class.



Thank you parents for all of your support with this special day and for sharing stories with your child/children at the end of the afternoon.

PTA - SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to the PTA for providing the refreshments for Film Night and for funding a set of hand sanitiser pumps for every class. Huge thanks also to the PTA for providing the funding to purchase new outdoor furniture such as log seats, benches, willow dens as well as bulbs, plants and bird feeders etc. The woodland area will look fantastic once it's been re-developed but we couldn't have managed it without the support of the PTA, and of course all Orchard parents, who have helped contribute.

DIARY DATES

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

Monday 20th April- School opens

Monday 4th May onwards - Y2 SATS

Friday 8th May - Bank Holiday

Mon 11th-Thurs 14th May - Y6 SATS

18th-21st May - House Competitions Week

Thursday 21st May - School Closes

Friday 22nd May - INSET DAY

Monday 1st June - School opens

Week beginning 8th June - Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y4 Multiplication Check

Thursday 18th June - Sports Day (KS2 a.m./KS1 p.m.)

Friday 3rd July - Whole School Transition Day

Monday 6th July - Volunteers 'Thank You' Cream Tea (p.m.)

Wednesday 8th July - Talent Show (p.m.)

Thursday 9th July - Awards Assemblies (KS1 a.m./KS2 p.m.)

Tuesday 14th July - Y6 Leavers' Assembly/**School Closes**

SPRING TERM CLUBS

Monday—KS2 Football

Tuesday—EYFS/KS1 Football

Tuesday—Choir (staff led)

Wednesday—KS2 Hockey

Thursday—Y2-Y6 Dodgeball

Friday—KS1 Multi-Sports (staff led)

Friday—KS2 Cross Country

Friday – Bricks for Kidz

Staff run lunchtime clubs currently include:

Chatterbox Club

Homework Club

Storytime Club

Book Club

ECO Club

School Council

Knitting Club

Media Club

Lego Club

Japanese Club

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: KS2 SHAKESPEARE WEEK

To acknowledge this national event, pupils in Classes 4-9 will take part in a Shakespeare Discovery Day on Friday 20th March. One of the tasks, will be for each class to create a 'Shakespeare in 30 Objects' Museum – this is where we need your help please! We'd like every pupil to bring in something linked to Shakespeare to put on exhibition. (A letter has already been emailed re: ideas.)

REMINDER: Y6 SATS WEEK (Mon 11th – Thurs 14th May 2020)

Year 6 will be taking their SATS tests throughout the week. Children are preparing for these important tests currently. Your help and support with any revision tasks sent home is greatly appreciated.

YEAR 2 SATS TESTS

Pupils in Year 2 will be sitting their SATS tests week beginning 4th May and 18th May.

SCHOOL GROUNDS DIY SOS!

'The Great Orchard Spring Clean' is happening on Friday 1st May. We are very much hoping that with parental help, as well as the support of a volunteer group from HSBC, we can make the school grounds look great for the Summer Term.

Please let the office know if you are able to help out during the day - even as little as half an hour would make a difference.

We also have a request for a few items that we would like to 'recycle' in the school grounds:

14 inch tyres to plant insect friendly plants in

Pallets and bricks for bug hotels

Car hub caps

Metal bowls

If you are able to provide any of the above, please contact the school office.

LOCKDOWN

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding how much the children had enjoyed (!!) practicing lockdown and being 'silent ninjas'. We were exceptionally proud of how brilliant they were in making the drill a huge success.

REMINDER: ROLLS ROYCE STEM CHALLENGE

On Saturday 14th March four teams of Y4,5 & 6 pupils will be working with members from Rolls Royce on a special Science and Technology Cranes building challenge. They will be competing against teams from Weston CE Primary and Shardlow Primary. Fingers crossed!

HOUSE SPELLATHON - Friday 27th March

Over the next few weeks, we are asking children to learn the spellings in their band for our House 'Spellathon'. (Paper work has been distributed). Every word spelt correctly in the Spellathon will earn a House Team a point. The House Team with the most points overall will win an additional 'Golden Afternoon'. Everybody is expected to try to learn at least 20 words from the list. Pupils who achieve full marks will be awarded with a special certificate.

PROGRESS CHECK REPORTS

Progress Check Reports for the Spring Term will be distributed on Friday 3rd April. Please check your child's bag. We hope that you find these reports about attainment, behaviour and attendance useful and informative.

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Tickets for the chocolate raffle will be available to purchase in school from 23rd March - 2nd April. School Council members will visit classrooms to sell the tickets at 50p each. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 3rd April.