



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2020

It is the end of a very busy and at times, challenging half-term, which has nevertheless seen pupils produce some super work, particularly in relation to History, Science and Geography. Staff have given everything in recent months to ensure that pupils have had exciting, positive and productive learning experiences since August and I very much hope you are happy with the progress your child is making. Thank you so much for supporting your child's learning at home - it makes such a difference. Thanks also for your un-wavering patience and understanding as we've worked around our Covid measures - it has meant the world to us.

I hope you and your family have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year! Here's to a great 2021.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AFTERNOON

Sometimes pictures speak louder than words...



CHRISTMAS ENTERPRISE SCHEME

Well done to pupils in Years 5 and 6 for raising £172 for school funds through the sale of their Christmas 'goodies'.

The children (and staff!) worked exceptionally hard during the week to make and bake a range of items which included hot chocolate reindeer cones, gingerbread biscuits, reindeer food and candy cane themed sweets. We were very impressed with their creativity!



PANTOMIME AFTERNOON

We really hope that the children enjoyed their virtual pantomime experience. If you haven't seen them already, the following live Disney shows are super:

Disney's Aladdin – A musical spectacular (Hyperion Theatre USA) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o-gLbgpzCc8>

Disney Cruise Line's 'Frozen, A Musical Spectacular' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bgl3vp8bEK0>

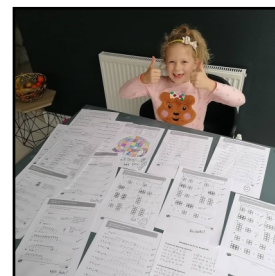


CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Thank you to Mrs Daft for organising the raffle, and for the staff for donating items. We've raised over £240 so far, which is amazing. The final draw will take place on 18th December. All proceeds will go towards Inspiration Days and special events for the children.

DAISY DOES CHILDREN IN NEED IN STYLE!

A massive 'well done' to Daisy, who despite isolating at home, managed to raise over £135 for Children in Need by completing a sponsored Maths Day! Daisy, we are so proud of you.



MR MORANT - ACTIVITY HERO AWARD WINNER

We are delighted that Mr Morant's hard work in supporting the school during the pandemic by running sporting events in the Spring and Summer Terms has been recognised. We nominated him for the Activity Hero Award for North West Leicestershire and he has won first place! Well done Mr Morant!

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAYS/CHRISTMAS DINNER DAYS

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!



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 this holiday, please make it reading with and to them.

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, as well as the Parish Council, we will be celebrating the lovely Icelandic tradition of 'Jolabokaflod' - an Icelandic phrase meaning "The Christmas Book Flood".

Every year people in Iceland buy a new book for someone, wrap it up with some chocolate, and give them to be opened on Christmas Eve. People then spend the rest of Christmas Eve reading their new books and eating the chocolate.

The Parish Council have very kindly offered to supply the chocolate for all of the children, and an exceptionally kind family are donating all of the brand new books. We can't thank them enough.

DIARY DATES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Monday 4th January - INSET day for staff

Tuesday 5th January - School opens to pupils

Jan 5th - Feb 22nd - RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

1st-7th February Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 5th February - Times Table Athon

8th Feb to 2nd March - Parent Consultations

Tuesday 9th February - Safer Internet Day

Friday 12th February - School Closes

15th - 19th February Half Term

Monday 22nd February - School opens to pupils

Thursday 4th March - World Book Day

Week bg. 8th March - British Science Week

Friday 12th March - Comic Relief

Friday 26th March - House Spellathon

Friday 26th March - School closes for Easter

SPORTING NEWS

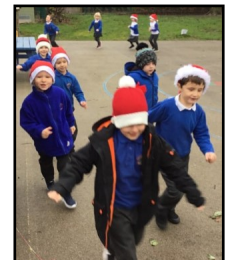
Orchard have been very busy leading the field in our area for virtual sport this term. Although it has been very different to our usual competition format, we have taken part in a number of North Charnwood virtual competitions throughout the school.

Key Stage 2 have competed in the Sports Hall Competition (still awaiting results), hockey, football and target throw whilst EYFS and KS1 have taken part in a variety of football, cricket and throwing competitions. We have also been busy participating in the County wide basketball competition as part of Team Leicestershire.

Thank you to all the children who took part in our Active Travel month in October – we were very proud to receive the highest award of Gold for our participation.

During December all classes will be taking part in the Daily Boost '12 Days of Boostmas' activities. We are already well underway with these competitions and more points mean more prizes for the school!

The Santa Dash on Monday was part of a nationwide event. We had lots of fun completing this activity, with some very competitive running in most classes! North Charnwood will be sharing our photos with other Sports Partnerships across the country.



Finally, a huge 'well done' to our Year 6 girls who competed in the socially distanced cross country at Prestwold in October. Although future events are on hold temporarily, we are hoping that the other two events can go ahead at some point before they leave us for Year 7! Fantastic effort girls, you represented our school brilliantly! You are already winners in Mrs Godsell's book...

