



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2021

Dear Parents,

It is the end of a very busy half-term which has seen pupils produce some super work, particularly in relation to History and Science. Staff have given everything in recent months to ensure that school is a safe and happy environment, and that pupils have had exciting, positive and productive learning experiences. I very much hope you are pleased with the progress your child is making. Thanks 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 2022.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

GOODBYE ...

We are saying 'goodbye' to Mrs Horsfall, who is retiring after 34 years working at Orchard. She wanted to say a few words...

"As I will be retiring this Christmas after 34 years at Orchard, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all of the children and their families a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year ahead. It has been a privilege to work with the younger children and watch them progress throughout the school and beyond. Some, even returning to Orchard as parents. I will miss the children and my colleagues, past and present. However, I have many happy memories to make me smile. I'm also looking forward to doing a lot more travelling (hopefully!)"

Wishing you all the best."

Mrs Horsfall.

CAROLS IN THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to Miss Brown for organising our Carol Singing event and to the staff who supported. Pupils had a lovely time helping to get our neighbours feeling festive!

The hot chocolate certainly helped to warm them up after a pretty cold and damp evening. Thanks also to the parents who joined us.

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Pupils from our choir sang beautifully at Donington's Christmas Cheer. It was lovely to be able to take part in this event after missing out on it last year.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to all those who supported this event.

Pictured are our Pudsey colouring competition winners with some of our School Council members.



SANTA DASH

The Santa Dash on 6th December was part of a nationwide event. We had lots of fun completing this activity, with some very competitive running in all classes!

THE HUB CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY

Well done to pupils in EYFS for producing some beautiful decorations for the Orchard Christmas Tree, which is currently being displayed at The Hub as part of a local celebration. Massive thanks to members of the PTA for supporting us with this.



FOOD BANK & CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

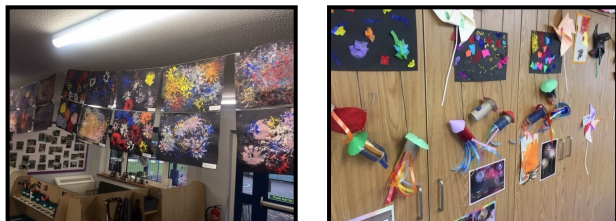
Huge thanks to the following local companies who have very kindly donated supermarket vouchers for our Foodbank appeal, chocolate raffle prizes or Christmas cracker table decorations: Paul Kirby at Octopus PR (£50), DHL (a selection box for every pupil), Miller Homes, Icon Residence, Creed Food Services, William Davies and Golden Kite Trading. Thanks also to the school staff who have also donated chocolate raffle prizes for the children.

CREATIVE CURRICULUM NEWS

EYFS

As the days get shorter and colder, EYFS have had a wonderful time learning about all the exciting celebrations that brighten things up at this time of year.

For Halloween the children carved pumpkins and planted the seeds ready for next year, they made spooky spells, sewed spider webs, decorated the room with bats and finished the week with a fabulous fancy dress party!



They danced and painted and rocketed their way through a week of fireworks (all the while, keeping things safe with a dedicated team of 4 year old firefighters) and celebrated all things Diwali making diva lamps, rangoli patterns and dancing the story of Rama and Sita.

Before the arrival of baby Myles to live in the home corner, we had visits from 2 real babies and their parents who helped teach the children about how to love and look after a baby.

Then onto Christmas and the arrival of another baby who slept in a manger rather than a cosy cot. The Nativity songs, dances and acting are filling the Class story on Dojo and the children's cooking and crafting skills are making the classroom even brighter and more colourful.

Key Stage 1 (Classes 1-4)

The Donington Detectives Learning Adventure began with a top secret box from Detective Green, who set the children the task of learning more about the place that they call home. Pupils used aerial maps and field-work to explore how Castle Donington has changed, not just during their lifetime but also over the last 100 years. Significantly, the children have been investigating how to look after and care for their local community.

Pupils also created maps to show journeys made on the village walk and have been exploring the use of materials for different purposes in regards to building a house. All of this work has tied in nicely with lessons in English, where pupils have been writing an alternative fairy-tale: the Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig!

Lower Key Stage 2 (Classes 5,6 & 7)



Pupils have had a wonderful half-term exploring Ancient Egypt. They've been tomb raiders, geographers, embalmers (the mummified tomato experiment was great fun!) and craftspeople.

Amongst other things ... they created clay kartouches and jewelled collars for the Pharaoh. Using Google Earth, pupils explored how the course over the Nile has shifted over 5000 years. In Literacy, children wrote their own Portal Story using Secrets of the Sun King by Emma Carroll. They also produced a detailed Non-chronological report about Life in Ancient Egypt.

For their celebration event, Classes 5,6 & 7 will be creating an Egyptian Museum to show off all of their research and artefacts.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Classes 8, 9 & 10)

The learning journey for this half-term has been 'Dig for Victory', where pupils have been working alongside 'film producers' to develop their knowledge and understanding of World War 2.



History has been a huge focus, not only looking at the war but also other significant events during this time including the holocaust; this provided fantastic discussions within class in which empathy played a huge part.

More recently, pupils have been given the design brief with the motto 'Make do and Mend'. The children have been creating magnificent teddies from old socks and material to provide comfort to lonely evacuees.

The Arts have been a huge focus, with pupils exploring dance styles from the war-time era, and music from Vera Lynn and Glenn Miller.

DERBY UNIVERSITY PHOTO SHOOT

We were delighted to be able to offer ourselves to Derby University as a setting for their Education Department marketing campaign. Pupils in EYFS and Classes 3, 4, 7 and 9 did us proud.

WELL-BEING DAY

Pupils in KS2 had a super day learning all about how to be their best selves. After an inspiring assembly, Paul Griffiths, a motivational speaker, then helped our Y5/6 children to learn more about Growth Mindset, aspiration, the power of teamwork and how to set yourself goals in life.



REMINDER: CHRISTMAS DINNER AND 'JUMPER' DAY

All pupils will have their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 14th December. **There will be no other hot meal option served on this day so pupils not having Christmas dinner will need to bring in a packed lunch.**

Pupils can wear a festive/ordinary jumper and also bring in festive hats/headgear. (Pupils should wear their Christmas jumper with their usual school uniform).

REMINDER: PROGRESS CHECKS

Progress checks will be sent out via pupil post on **Friday 17th December**. Please check bags.

DIARY DATES

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE: Thursday 9th December (50p-£2.00)

CHRISTMAS DINNER & JUMPER DAY: Tuesday 14th December

CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

Monday 13th December - Classes 1,2,3 & 4 (KS1)

Tuesday 14th December - EYFS

Wednesday 15th December - Classes 5,6, & 7 (LKS2)

Friday 17th December - Classes 8,9 & 10 (UKS2)

HOBGOBLIN THEATRE GROUP IN SCHOOL: Performance of King Arthur Thursday 16th December for Y2-6

PROGRESS CHECKS OUT: Friday 17th December

SCHOOL OPENS & CLUBS START: Tuesday 4th January

SCHOOL CLOSES: Friday 11th February

VIRTUAL CHOIR

We were delighted that choir were able to take part in the Leicestershire Music Sleigh Ride Virtual Singing Project this half-term. Pupils performed beautifully.

FIRE SAFETY VISIT

Pupils in Year 1,2 and 5 were treated to a fire safety talk by an officer from the Castle Donington Fire and Rescue Station. Huge thanks to the local crew.

SEVERE WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE

You will be informed of the decision to close school no later than 7.30am. There are a number of ways you can find out if we've had to close the school or part of it:

- School text messaging service
- On the website
- On local radio (Radio Leicester (104.9FM) Leicester Sound (105.4FM) Capital FM)

REMINDER: CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Tickets, which cost 50p each, will be on sale until Thursday 16th December.

EYFS & KS1 - Mondays & Wednesdays

KS2 - Tuesdays & Thursdays

Children can bring money in to buy tickets on their specific days.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a huge amount of found clothing/personal items in the Lost Property basket. All items that remain unclaimed at the end of term will be put into the clothing bank or sent to charity.

Parents are therefore invited to check the Lost Property tub for themselves at drop off/collection times. It is located in the disabled toilet - please check in at reception.

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Parties will take place on the following dates:

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Tuesday 14th December - EYFS

Wednesday 15th December - Classes 5,6, & 7 (LKS2)

Friday 17th December - Classes 8,9 & 10 (UKS2)

Pupils are invited to bring in a change of clothes for the afternoon.