



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2019

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 as part of their 'Adventure is Out There' project which has enabled them to undertake a lot of outdoor learning. We've also had a number of special theme days. I don't know how we fit it all in!

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### LITERACY WEEK

Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the range of activities and special events on offer during our fantastic Literacy Week.

From Drop Everything And Read sessions, to storytelling; an author visit to 'Shelfies'; Buddy Reading in PJs to 'Extreme Reading', and of course, 'The Great Orchard Book Swap'. There really was something for everyone!

Pupils produced some superb Literacy work, including BBC News Reports about a ferocious dragon attacking the school and some very creative diary entries inspired by the book 'When the Mountain Roared'.



The ERT session proved to be a huge success with 419 readers in school during the last session on Friday.

We really hope that your children enjoyed the week. Please keep encouraging your child with their reading - it makes such a difference.

### FILM NIGHT

Thank you to the PTA for providing the refreshments for Film Night. It proved to be a huge success, with over £400 being raised by the PTA from this event.

### 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.

### DONINGTON DYNAMOS

Well done to all of the pupils who took part in the Donington Dynamos session for budding writers.

Pupils produced some beautiful poems inspired by Miroslav Holob's 'The Door', which will shortly be uploaded to the website for parents to read.

### SPELLATHON

Congratulations to Coppice House Team for winning the Spellathon. They will be treated to a special Golden Afternoon in the Summer Term as a reward.

The results were as follows:

Coppice 1791 points  
Redgate 1752 points  
McLeans 1742 points  
Wheatcroft 1677 points

Well done all. Thank you to those parents who encouraged their children to learn spellings at home. We had some super individual scores.

### BIKEABILITY - YEAR 5 PUPILS

Letters are due to be circulated shortly. Bikeability will take place between 1.4.19-12.4.19

## SHOW CHOIR SING TO VICTORY

Congratulations to our school choral group who won the choir section of this year's Rotary Club Music Festival. We couldn't be more proud of your dedication, teamwork and enthusiasm. A huge 'well done' to you all!



## IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME!

Children in Years 5 & 6 enjoyed an Ancient-Greece inspired day, complete with a Greek banquet and mini-olympics. A wonderful way to end what has been a fantastic topic!



## ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE

Pupils in Class 3 have enjoyed 'exploring' the schools grounds to hunt for QR codes, as part of their Explorers Inspiration Day.

Each QR code was a clue which gave pupils hints as to which explorer it might link to. They then had to match the clues with pictures of personalities such as Tim Peake and Amelia Earheart.



Class 1 pupils also went exploring. They explored a 'Mission Impossible' maze, visited the 'Rainforest' had to cross a lava river on planks of wood and undertook a variety of explorer 'team challenges'.

## SCHOOL NURSE DATES

Please contact the school office to book.

**8.4.19** - 8.30-9.30

**9.5.19** - 8.30-9.30

**11.6.19** - 2.30-3.30

**4.7.19** - 8.30-9.30

## SPORTING NEWS

The Ivanhoe Challenge proved to be a great day for Orchard pupils, as did the cross-country event at Grace Dieu where the school achieved first place in the girls' event.



The cross country team also took part in the regional qualifiers held at Charnwood College where eight of our runners qualified to represent the Loughborough area at the County Championships.

In the Y3/4 Quicksticks Hockey, our team came third, as did the Y5/6 Basketball team. Fantastic achievements by all!

## TEAM FEARLESS

On 18th May, 2019, some of the staff at Orchard will be tackling the Run Fearless muddy obstacle course (see pic attached).

We are raising money for the children's charity "Young Minds". Please take a look at our fundraising page by following the link below:

[https://www.justgiving.com/TeamFearless?utm\\_source=Sharethis&utm\\_medium=fundraisingpage&utm\\_content=TeamFearless&utm\\_campaign=pf-p-email&utm\\_term=aGmrXPr6g](https://www.justgiving.com/TeamFearless?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraisingpage&utm_content=TeamFearless&utm_campaign=pf-p-email&utm_term=aGmrXPr6g)

You can help Orchard School raise money for this great cause by donating directly to their fundraising page. JustGiving sends your donation straight to Young Minds Trust and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. Many thanks!

## HUNTING FOR THE DONINGTON HOARD

Armed with a metal detector and lots of curiosity, pupils in Classes 4,5 and 6 took turns to hunt for buried treasure, in order to learn more about how archaeologists work.



It was a great start to their 'Raiders and Traders' Topic, which will be focusing on the Vikings and Anglo Saxons.

## STAFFING NEWS

We are delighted to have appointed a new Premises Officer, Mr Kai Maguire, who will be joining the school in April. Mr Maguire is an experienced caretaker and will therefore be a huge asset to our team.

## PROGRESS CHECK REPORTS

Progress Check Reports for the Spring Term will be distributed on Friday 12th April. Please check your child's bag. We hope that you find these reports about attainment, behaviour and attendance useful and informative.

## REMINDER: COMIC RELIEF - Friday 15th March 2019

On Friday 15th March, to raise funds for Comic Relief, children are invited to wear none uniform. We would kindly ask that a donation of £1 is brought into school to support this important event.

School Council would also like to run a cake sale. Donations would be fantastic please. We plan to sell cakes for an additional 50p at break time. Thank you.

## SLEEP ROCKS!

Sleep deprivation is a significant hidden factor in lowering the achievement of school pupils, according to researchers carrying out international education tests.

Worryingly, we are noticing that a growing number of pupils appear exceptionally tired in morning sessions because of a lack of sleep, either through going to bed late, or because they have stayed up to play on computers in their bedrooms late at night.

Please could you be mindful of ensuring that your child gets a good night's sleep in preparation for school the next day. Thank you.

## SCHOOL GROUNDS DIY SOS!

An email has been sent out regarding 'The Great Orchard Spring Clean' which is happening on Saturday 6th April. We are very much hoping that with parental help, we can make the school grounds look great for the Summer Term so that pupils can enjoy 'the great outdoors'. 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.

## CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Tickets for the chocolate raffle will be available to purchase in school from 1st -11th April. School Council members will visit classrooms to sell the tickets at 50p each. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 12th April.

## DIARY DATES

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief fundraiser

Thursday 21st March - World Poetry Day

Tuesday 26th March - Y5 visit to Nottingham Trent University (Outdoor Learning/Science)

Friday 12th April - SCHOOL CLOSES

Monday 15th - Friday 26th EASTER BREAK

Monday 29th April - SCHOOL OPENS

Tuesday 7th to Friday 10th May - KS1 SATS Week (Year 2 tests)

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th May - KS2 SATS

Week beginning 20th May - House Competitions Week

Thursday 23rd May - National Outdoor Classroom Day

Friday 24th May - Y6 Enterprise morning; SCHOOL CLOSES

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May - HALF TERM

Monday 3rd June - SCHOOL OPENS

Thursday 20th June - Sports Day (KS2 a.m./KS1 p.m. )

Friday 5th July - Whole school transition morning

Monday 8th July - Parents' Evening

Thursday 11th - Awards Assemblies KS1a.m./KS2 p.m

Friday 12th July - Leavers' Assembly; SCHOOL CLOSES

## REMINDER: Y6 SATS WEEK (Mon 13th – Thurs 16th May 2019)

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.

## SCHOOL CHOIR PERFORMANCE

We are very proud of our school choir who, after winning the choir section of this year's Rotary Club Music Festival, performed at the Methodist Church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March. A huge well done to you all for your fabulous performance. It was a perfect example of how special music can be for young people and how much joy singing as part of a choir brings. Well done!