



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope that having had the opportunity to talk to staff and have a look at your child's work, you were pleased with the learning opportunities they are being offered. Staff are working very hard with the delivery of our Curriculum. As always however, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, just let us know.

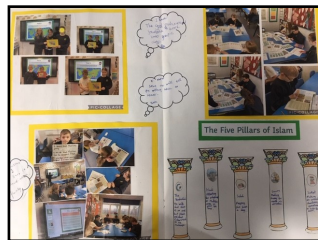
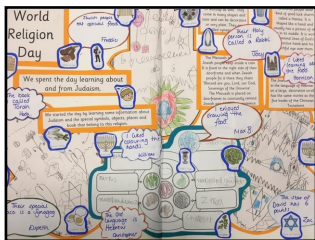
Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

WORLD RELIGION DAY

We are very big on tolerance, harmony and respect at Orchard and so wanted to celebrate World Religion Day by having a special themed afternoon on 14th January.

Through a variety of activities, pupils were encouraged to acknowledge the similarities that different beliefs have, and to explore some of the key beliefs and practices associated with either Judaism, Hinduism or Islam.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

To acknowledge Children's Mental Health Week (7th - 13th February), pupils took part in a variety of activities to fit in with this year's them of 'Growing Together'.

As well as a special assembly, pupils 'Reached for the Stars', made a 'Growing Together' wall and created Support Balloons.

Pupils learnt that challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt but that with the right support from others, they can continue to grow and even flourish.

The week ended with a fun 'Dress to Express' non-uniform theme.

SPORTING NEWS - SPRING TERM A

Well done to the pupils who took part in the recent netball tournament at Charnwood - we reached the quarter finals. We were also very proud of our basketball team for their excellent team spirit.

THE RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH & ECO CLUB

All of our classes braved a very cold and windy week to undertake the 2022 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Pupils had a great time completing the survey.

Thanks also to our ECO Club for litter picking and looking after our wildlife areas. Under the watchful eye of Mr Owen, they are working really hard to ensure that our school grounds look good.



SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day was celebrated globally on the 8th February 2022 with the theme: All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online.

At Orchard, we used it as a great opportunity to spark a conversation about the safe and responsible use of technology, and to inspire pupils to create a better internet for the future.

COMIC RELIEF

On Friday 18th March, to raise funds for Comic Relief, children are invited to 'Dress Themselves Silly'. They can wear whatever they want, backwards, inside out, clashing colours, odd socks ... anything goes.

We would kindly ask that a donation of 50p is brought into school to support this national charity event. Mrs Wintle and Mrs Shields will have buckets available at morning drop off. Thank you.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome a new Learning Support Assistant to the Orchard Team, Gemma Smith. We hope that she will be very happy working with our lovely children in Class 8.

LOCKDOWN

Next half term, we will need to practice our lock down procedure. This is what we would do in the event of an intruder to the site or if we needed the children to come indoors due to adverse weather or chemicals outside.

We have carefully considered the procedure and how best to explain it to the children. The children will not be alarmed or given reason to worry but will be told what to do if they hear a different 'alarm' to the usual fire alarm. Just as we practice the fire drill but do not expect a real fire, so we need to practice the lockdown procedure. The advice is that the procedures should not be shared on-line for security reasons.

We acknowledge that the likelihood of anything happening at Orchard is very low but have a duty of care to the children. If you have concerns, please speak to Mrs Shields.

REMINDERS

Book Bags - Please can we remind parents that children in KS1 and Lower Key Stage 2 should only be bringing Book Bags into school, not large rucksacks please. We don't have enough room for large bags in the cloakrooms.

Dogs - A polite reminder that for Health and Safety reasons, dogs cannot not be brought onto the school site please.

At home-time, if you are a parent/carer who waits with your dog on Grange Drive, please could I ask you to stand in an area away from the school gates so that pupils who are frightened of dogs don't have to walk directly past them. Thank you so much for your understanding.

DIARY DATES

Monday 21st February: School opens to pupils & clubs start

Tuesday 22nd February: Lower Key Stage 2 - Roman Workshop Day

Wednesday 23rd February: Y3 Beaumanor Residential Meeting for Parents 5.00-6.00pm

Wednesday 2nd March: UKS2 Trip to the Black Country Museum

Thursday 3rd March: World Book Day & PTA Film Night

Friday 11th March – 20th March: British Science Week

Friday 18th March: Comic Relief

Friday 8th April: School closes for Easter

Friday 18th March: KS1 Fit for Life Session with Progressive Sports

Tuesday 29th March: KS2 Battlefield Archery with Progressive Sports

Friday 1st April: Times Tables Rockstars Day!

Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th April: Y3 Beaumanor Residential

Friday 8th April: School closes

Monday 25th April: School opens

Wednesday 27th April: Olympian Visitor

Monday 2nd May: Bank Holiday

May: The key stage 1 tests will be administered during May

Week bg. 9th –12th May: Y6 SATS week

Tuesday 17th May: KS2 Fencing Session with Progressive Sport

Thursday 26th May: School closes

Friday 27th May: School is closed (Jubilee Day - day in lieu)

Monday 6th June: School opens

Week bg. 6th June: KS1 Phonics Screening Check Week

Tuesday 14th June: KS2 Zorb Football with Progressive Sport

Friday 8th July: School closes

5 STAR HYGIENE AWARD FOR SCHOOL KITCHEN

I am delighted to report that following a recent inspection, the school kitchen has been given a 5 star rating for Food Hygiene. Well done to our Kitchen Manager, Sarah Sanders and her super team.