



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful Summer term so far and pupils should be very proud of their achievements. I have seen some truly fantastic learning on my classroom visits and can't commend the children's enthusiasm highly enough.

Moreover their attitudes have been excellent. We are especially proud of our Y6 pupils for showing such determination, commitment and perseverance as they approach their SATS.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

STAFFING UPDATE

I am delighted to inform you that following a very successful interview, Mr Cooper has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher at Orchard.

An Assistant Headteacher (AHT) is the third-most senior position within the leadership team. Amongst other things, working with myself, Mr Cooper will be responsible for further developing learning and teaching strategies across the school.

SPORTING NEWS

Having taken part in the Active Travel Month initiative in March, we were very pleased to have been placed (in no particular order) amongst the top three schools. Across the participating schools an amazing 14,070 active travel journeys were recorded!

YEAR 5 & YEAR 6 ENTERPRISE MORNING

Pupils in all year groups are invited to bring up to £5 on Friday 17th June to spend at the Enterprise Scheme which will be lead by pupils in Years 5 and 6.

Given the challenge of 'growing' their £1 loan, our oldest pupils will soon be busy planning their profit making stalls.

As well as a number of groups selling food and drink items, there will also be plenty of competitions to enter, games to take part in and of course the usual favourites including the popular nail varnish bar!

SPORTS AMBASSADORS

Our Sports Ambassadors are doing a superb job and have really impressed staff with their responsible attitudes over the last two terms. The job of a Sports 'Leader' requires pupils to act as a 'Playground Pal' to play a leadership role at break and lunch times; organising play activities for our younger pupils and ensuring that all children are being kind and considerate towards one another.

Their in-school training allows them to think about and prepare for their leadership role, helps to boost their confidence in working with others, and enables them to understand how to be an effective leader of others through the development of skills relating to organisation and communication.

The younger children benefit too by having older pupils lead their games, and help to solve problems if any should arise. We're very proud of our young leaders - well done!

PUNCTUALITY

We have an increasing number of children who are regularly missing morning registration as they are not arriving at school on time.

A polite reminder that children should arrive between 8.35-8.45am please. Registration takes place at 8.45am; gates are locked at this time. Thank you.

REMINDER: Y6 SATS (Mon 9th – Thurs 12th May 2022)

Year 6 will be taking their SATS tests throughout the week. SATS results will be published and therefore shared with pupils individually on Tuesday 5th July.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual reports will be sent out on **Friday 24th June**. Please check your child's bag to ensure that the 'pupil post' service is efficient. For any parents' wishing to discuss their child's report, there will be an opportunity to do so on **Wednesday 6th July** (See separate letter in report envelope for details).

LOST PROPERTY

The mountain of clothing in Lost Property at the end of last term was a sight to behold! Please could you check that all of your child's personal belongings have their name on them as this makes it so much easier to return items to their owner. Thank you.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We very much welcome your opinions and feedback regarding school performance and would therefore appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the annual parent questionnaire, which will be circulated via Dojo shortly and accessed via a link. It should only take a few minutes to complete. A paper copy can be made available on request.

Please bear in mind that the pandemic will have had an impact on the enrichment opportunities and clubs that we have been able to offer, PTA events, the progress some children may have made this year due to absence, and to some extent, how settled pupils will have been so please answer 'overall' so that we get a general sense of where we are at as a school.

The deadline for completing the questionnaire is **Thursday 26th May**. Thank you.

REMINDER: YEAR 2 SATS TESTS

Pupils in Year 2 will be sitting their SATS tests week beginning 16th May.

REMINDER: SPONSORED READATHON

Thank you to those parents/carers who returned sponsorship forms and money to school during the last week of term. Please could we ask for any more forms/money to be sent in by Wednesday 11th May - thank you.

SPORTS SLAM

Thank you to Mrs White who entered the Sports Direct Sports Slam competition on the school's behalf. We won a very large box of sporting equipment which will be put to very good use!

SUN AWARENESS

With the weather becoming warmer, it is advisable that children bring a hat to wear outside. On hot days, could you also please ensure that sunscreen is applied before your child comes to school. Sunscreen can also be brought into school for self-application. Please note that staff are unable to help children with this.

TRAFFIC ISSUES

Please could I remind parents about the importance of parking and driving considerately near the school during drop off times. I would also request that parents drive slowly and with extreme caution along Grange Drive. The road is very busy at peak times, and with a number of children walking home by themselves now, we want to make sure that all pupils remain safe. Thank you.

DATES FOR THE DAIRY

Wk. bg. 9th May: Y6 SATS

Wk. bg. 16th May: Y2SATS

Tuesday 17th May: KS2 Fencing Session with Progressive Sport

Thursday 26th May: Jubilee Day; School closes

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

Monday 6th June: School opens

Tuesday 7th June: KS1 trip to the National Adventure Farm

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

Tuesday 14th June: KS2 Zorb Football with Progressive Sport

Thursday 16th June: Sports Day (KS2 a.m./KS1 p.m.)

Friday 17th June: Y5&6 Enterprise Morning

Monday 20th June: Y3 trip to Matlock Bath

Tuesday 21st June: Y4 trip to Matlock Bath

Friday 24th June: Annual Reports sent home

Friday 1st July: Whole school transition morning

Friday 1st July: PTA Indulgence Evening

Wednesday 6th July: Parent's meetings to discuss report

Friday 8th July: School closes

OUTDOOR SHOES

A reminder that pupils in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to change into 'outdoor shoes' to play on the field at break and lunchtime and so trainers really don't need to be worn to school. Thank you so much for your understanding.

SPORTS DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Sports Day will take place on **Thursday 16th June**, weather permitting. Timings are as follows:

KS2 – 9.30–11.30ish. Parents are invited into the school grounds from 9.20am.

KS1 – 1.15-2.45pm. Parents are invited into the school grounds from 1.05pm

The children will be in house teams and colours. Parents are asked to provide a top in their child's house colour but we have coloured bibs in school if you are not able to provide one. (Redgate = Red; Coppice = Blue; McLeans = Green; Wheatcroft = Yellow)

The children will sit on benches and chairs on the far side of the running track and parents are asked to make their way to the chairs nearest the playground. Children in Y1-6 should wear their PE uniform to school on this day, with the coloured t-shirt replacing the standard white top. Thank you.

TRANSITION MORNING - Friday 1st July

Class groups for 2022-23 will be communicated to parents on **Friday 24th June**.

All pupils will get the chance to work with their new teacher and/or class group during our whole school transition morning on **Friday 1st July**.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of transition regarding your child, please contact your child's 'new' class teacher in the first instance, or myself, so that we can help to alleviate any anxieties or concerns you or your child may have.

PICTURE BOOKS

We are hoping to re-vamp the KS1 playground for September and would love to create a 'library shed' where pupils can select books to read at lunchtime.

If you have any unwanted good quality picture/story books (such as those by Julia Donaldson or similar), suitable for Years 1 & 2 then we'd be very happy to have them donated to school.

DOGS BY THE KEY STAGE 1 GATE

A gentle reminder to dog owners to please stand with their dogs away from the pavement area directly by the Key Stage 1 gate at drop off/ collection times.

Whilst I'm sure they are extremely well-trained, we do have a number of children who are very fearful of dogs and having to walk directly past them increases their anxieties.

Thank you for your understanding.

MESSAGES TO THE OFFICE

Please could we ask that rather than using Dojo, parents email or phone the school office to relay general or urgent messages or to request short notice after-school club places, so that in Mrs Daft's absence, Mrs Farrar is able to respond to enquiries.

As School Business Manager, Mrs Daft is often in meetings/training events, and therefore cannot always respond to same day enquiries. Thank you.

NUT ALLERGIES

A polite reminder that Orchard is a nut free zone; please do not send peanut butter sandwiches or any nut products into school as we have several children with serious nut allergies. Thank you.