



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2023

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for your support last term. We hope that you and your family had a lovely winter break and wish you all the very best for 2023. Pupils have made a super start to the new term at Orchard, returning to school happy, engaged and very well-motivated. Their behaviour and attitudes have been excellent and I have seen some fantastic learning during my classroom visits.

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### INSPIRATION DAYS - JANUARY 2023

EYFS pupils were so excited to meet some real life heroes as part of their 'Emergency, Emergency' Learning Adventure. Thank you so much to our special visitors for bringing learning to life!



UKS2 are 'On Safari' this half term. Their Inspiration Day was packed with lots of research and some super artwork.



LKS2 experienced a great Stone Age Workshop led by Dr Jones. Hunting for woolly mammoths proved particularly popular!

Pupils have also had great fun using the Now Press Play headsets to travel back in time to the Stone Age.



Having been into their lessons, it's been great to see KS1 pupils so inspired by their 'Under the Sea' Learning Adventure - poetry, art work, geographical research - it's all been going on! To add an extra bit of magic, the children visited Birmingham Sea Life Centre. The Sea Turtle was a real favourite!

### CAKE FUNDRAISER

Well done to pupils in Classes 8,9 & 10 who brought in cakes for a whole school fundraising initiative, led and organised by a group of Year 6 pupils. After hearing about the plight of some endangered species, notably 'The Big 5', pupils were keen to raise money for the WWF. They devised the event, advertised it, got their friends involved and raised £535! Absolutely brilliant!

### WOMBLES IN LITTER ASSEMBLY

Thank you to Geoff and Keith from 'Wombles in Litter Education' for a super assembly which raised awareness of the harm litter causes for our environment and wildlife.



### STAFFING UPDATE

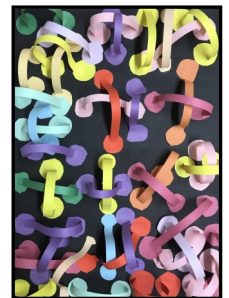
All of our Orchard babies have now arrived safely, with Miss Farrar giving birth to Henry at the end of November and Miss Hudspith welcoming Ralph on New Year's Day!

Mrs Tomlinson has joined our KS1 Midday Supervisor Team.

### EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our clubs offer has proven to be very popular this half-term.

Art Club have produced a lovely display from their first session and it's been fantastic to see so many pupils from EYFS taking part in Multi-sports.



### SPORTING NEWS

We're very proud of our basketball team for winning at Charnwood. A brilliant advert for the character muscles we promote as a school: resilience, cooperation, determination and respect. We have also been delighted to see our Sports Ambassadors develop their leadership skills by running a super Sports hall Athletics event for all of Key Stage 2 last week.



## ATTENDANCE

Good attendance is vital to a pupil's academic success. Often, the number of days pupils are absent accumulate without parents/carers realising just how many days have been missed. Sometimes, there are also extenuating circumstances which affect a child's attendance, such as a family bereavement.

Attendance during the Autumn Term was 94.83% overall. Children with attendance below 90% are classed as 'Persistently Absent' by the Local Authority.

A polite reminder, if you will be absent from school, please contact school as soon as possible. 'Safe and Well' checks for pupils who are off school without any reason are undertaken by 9.20am each day and so it helps with office workload if we don't have to chase up none attendance issues. Thank you.

## LOST PROPERTY

Please could you check that all uniform and outdoor coats are labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

## LEARNING TIMES TABLES

We are having a big push in school on learning times tables! By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know their times tables and corresponding division facts up to 12 x 12, as stated in the National Curriculum. They should be able to recall a multiplication or division fact within about five seconds.

Don't forget that pupils can access Times Table Rockstars online from home - each child has their own login. Please contact your child's class teacher if you require more information.

## PARKING

As per my recent letter, parking remains a continuing problem. We do not have the legal power to ask drivers of cars parked hazardously by the school to move their vehicles and can only appeal to their wish to do what is best for the children. We need the co-operation of parents and carers in this respect. Thank you for your understanding.

## FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Following the school holiday, supplies are running low and so we'd be very grateful for any donations to our Food Bank over the next few weeks. School Council are doing a super job organising our one stop shop again this year. Whilst all donations are welcome, we particularly need cereal, juices/long life milk, pasta, pasta sauce and snack items.

## 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, please make it reading with and to them.

Reading for pleasure has huge benefits as the quoted below illustrates (Egmont, Reading for Pleasure 2019):

*Children who read for pleasure daily or nearly every day are a year ahead in reading performance versus those who never do.*

## SCHOOL DINNERS

For parents/carers ordering hot meals, please could you check that the food item you are selecting is your child's preferred choice.

An increasing number of children are leaving a noticeable amount of lunch, reporting to staff that they don't like the menu item selected for them and would rather have had the other option. Thank you.

## PTA FUNDRAISING

We would like to say a big 'Thank you' to Available Car for their recent donation to enable school to purchase 'Little People, Big Dreams'

## REMINDERS:

**Deadline for booking parents' evening - Friday 3rd February.**

### DIARY DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM 2023

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January: RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Wednesday 1st February: KS1 Awesome Ocean Day

Thursday 2nd February: PTA Film Night

6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February: Children's Mental Health Week

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February: Dress to Express Yourself (linked to the above).

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February: Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February: Safer Internet Day

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February: Parents' Evening 5-7pm

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February: School closes

Monday 27th February: School opens

Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day (KS1 event)

Wk. bg. 13th March: British Science Week

Thursday 16th March: PTA Mothers' Day Tea

Friday 17th March: Comic Relief Fundraiser

Friday 24th March: PTA Spring Disco

Tues 28th & Wed 29th March: Y3 Residential Visit

Friday 31st March: School closes