



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2023

Dear Parents,

You'll see from Social Media and Dojo posts that school has been a very busy and exciting place to be this term. It has been especially wonderful to welcome lots of visitors into school and to be able to get pupils out on so many school trips and outings to local community events. As always, thank you to the staff for their hard work in ensuring that school remains an exciting and engaging place to be. They have truly gone above and beyond in recent months. Well done to pupils for their excellent attitudes to learning - we're very proud of you all.

I hope you and your family have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

From a special Anti-Bullying Assembly to Odd Socks Day and Friendship Friday, there was a lot of super work on kindness and respect being completed in school last month.



CHOIR

Choir had a lovely visit to the 'GrowCookShare' lunch at Castle Donington Volunteer Centre. Pupils sang beautifully, and as always, were a credit to the school. They thoroughly enjoyed chatting to members of the local community and very much enjoyed the pizza and fruit!

STAFFING UPDATE

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed two teachers who will be covering Class 4 for the remainder of the academic year. One staff member will already be familiar! Mrs Sheldon, who retired from Orchard in July, is returning to teach the class Monday – Wednesday morning.

Miss Kucharska, who is in her first year of teaching, will cover the class from Wednesday afternoon – Friday. She will be supporting in EYFS at the beginning of the week. Miss Webster will be taking on the role of Key Stage 1 Phase Leader. She will be focusing her attention on Class 4 on Fridays, whilst continuing to undertake her SENDCO role for the other three days.

Also working in EYFS from January as an LSA, will be Mrs Furniss.

THE HUB CHRISTMAS TREE DISPLAY

Our beautiful Christmas Tree at the Hub's Tree Festival. Well done to all of the pupils in EYFS for making the decorations. It looks lovely.



SPORTING NEWS

Well done to those pupils who represented the school at the Dodgeball tournament at Charnwood at the beginning of December. Tournament Champions AND Spirit of the Games Winners. Brilliant!



ENTERPRISE SCHEME

Our amazing Year 5 and 6 pupils raised £325.95 for school funds through selling items that they had created. From home-made biscuits to reindeer food, there was a lot of enterprise and creativity on show. Well done all!



CAROLS IN THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to Mrs Wood for organising our Carol Singing event and to the staff who supported. Pupils had a lovely time helping to get our neighbours feeling festive! Thanks also to the parents who joined us.

SANTA DASH

We had lots of fun completing this year's Santa Dash, with some very competitive running in all classes!



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We have been astonished at the level of confidence displayed by our super EYFS pupils during their performance of The Nativity. Very well done all!

KS1 children sang beautifully in their Carol Service, and the LKS2 Celebration of Christmas Concert was a super end to the week. It was lovely to welcome so many families into school to share these special events.

PTA FESTIVE FILM NIGHT & WREATH MAKING

Thank you to the PTA for organising the wreath making night, which was exceptionally well attended by members of the community. Thanks also to the PTA and Staff for supporting Film Night - the selection boxes went down a treat!

DIARY DATES

Monday 8th January – School opens & clubs start
Fri Jan 26th January - RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
Monday 5th Feb - PTA Movie Night
WB. 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week with Dress to Express on Fri 10th Feb
Parents' Evening (Mon 12th 3.30-6.30 & Thursday 15th 4.00-6.00pm)
Tues 13th Feb – Safer Internet Day
Friday 16th February - School closes
Monday 26th February - School opens
Thursday 1st March: World Book Day
Monday 4th March - Wednesday 6th: Y5 Residential to Whitehall
Tues 5th March - Y6 SATS meeting 5pm
Thurs 7th March - PTA Mother's Day Tea
International Day of Maths – Thursday 14th March:
Timestableathon & TTRS Dressing Up Day (NB: World Maths Day March 23rd)
Fri 15th March PTA Spring Disco
Friday 15th March: Comic Relief Fundraiser
Mon 18th & Tues 19th March - Y3 Beaumanor Residential
Friday 22nd March: School closes

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE HEADSETS

Thank you to the PTA for continuing to fund a subscription to 'Now Press Play' so that pupils can use the immersive experience headsets to really bring learning to life through sound, story and movement.

CHRISTMAS DINNER & JUMPER DAY

The kitchen staff made lunchtime very special for the pupils - thanks to them for their hard work. We also had a number of splendid jumpers on show!

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Thank you to those pupils and parents who have bought tickets for our chocolate raffle. All of the money raised will go towards whole school enrichment events. Huge thanks to those companies who donated items for the raffle: Dimensions; Azets Accounts; Lenton Electrical; Hey! Display; Central Co-Op; Dynamic Motif; Castle Life; The Priesthouse; Martin & Co. Special thanks to One Connectivity & The Workhouse Gym, who donated selection boxes for every pupil. It was very much appreciated and we can't thank these companies enough.



CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to all those who supported this event. A total of £191 was raised.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a huge amount of found clothing/personal items in the Lost Property basket. 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.

REMINDERS

- Progress Checks will be sent out via pupil post on **Friday 22nd December**. Please check bags.
- All pupils are asked to wear a warm coat to school so that they are suitably dressed for the weather.
- A polite reminder that PE uniform consists of navy blue jogging bottoms and a navy blue sweatshirt, with or without the school logo. A small number of pupils are wearing sports branded tops or T-shirts with various coloured long sleeved tops underneath rather than the standard 'kit'.