



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents,

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all soon at our forthcoming parents' evening. We hope that you will be pleased with your child's progress and the learning opportunities they have been offered. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, just let us know so that we can keep doing our best for you.

Best wishes

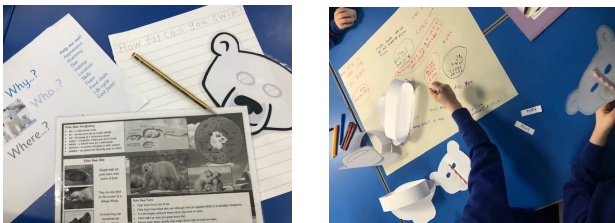
Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

CURRICULUM NEWS ...

What a lovely hook for writing in Key Stage 1 as they prepared for their research on arctic animals...



Followed by some super hot-seating and role play to inspire non-chronological reports on Polar Bears. The recall of facts by the children was amazing!



Some work from our celebration of World Religion Day with phases studying either Judaism, Hinduism or Islam.



All aboard the Titanic to experience life on-board, and to have afternoon tea in First Class ...



THE RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

All of our classes braved the elements to undertake the 2024 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Pupils had a great time completing the survey.



NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

What a lovely National Storytelling Week we had at Orchard. Activities at lunch, a teacher story swap shop, and all pupils joining in with the National Literacy Trust's live storytelling event on the Thursday.



EYFS - EMERGENCY EMERGENCY ...

EYFS pupils are loving their topic on the Emergency Services. Thanks so much to the parents who made visits to the school to talk about their roles, and to bring in their vehicles! The children have been truly inspired.



PTA FILM NIGHT

Thank you for supporting this event. The children had a super time, as always.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

To acknowledge Children's Mental Health Week 2024 pupils took part in a variety of activities to fit in with this year's theme of 'My Voice Matters'.

My Voice Matters has been about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves.

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

SCHOOL 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.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day was celebrated globally on the 6th February 2024 with celebrations and learning based around the theme 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

At Orchard, we used the day to spark a conversation about the safe and responsible use of technology and how we should respond to online issues.

Parents may find the following websites useful:

www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.saferinternet.org
www.childnet.com
www.nspcc.org.uk

DIARY DATES FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2024

Friday 16th February - School closes

Monday 26th February - School opens

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Monday 4th March - Wednesday 6th: Y5 Residential to Whitehall

Tues 5th March - Y6 SATS meeting 5pm

Fri 8th 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

Monday 8th April - School opens

Friday 19th April - House Spellathon

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday

Y6 SATS Week Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May

Friday 24th May - School closes

*CHANGE OF DATE TO ORIGINAL DIARY SHEET

The PTA Mother's Day Tea will be taking place on Friday 8th March.

FORTHCOMING NON-UNIFORM EVENTS

Thursday 7th March: World Book Day. See separate letter. No cost. Whilst pupils will be invited to dress as a book character, costumes will not be judged/paraded so there is absolutely no pressure to purchase or make fancy dress outfits therefore.

Thursday 14th March: Dress up with a number theme to celebrate the International Day of Maths - no expensive costuming necessary. A sports shirt or top with a number on is fine. No cost.

On Friday 15th 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. Adults will have buckets available at morning drop off. Thank you.

Y6 SATS WEEK

A reminder that Y6 pupils will be sitting their SATS from Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May 2024.