



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2024

Dear Parents,

We hope that you and your family had a lovely winter break and wish you all the very best for 2024. Thank you for the lovely Christmas cards and gifts received by staff. Many thanks also for your support last term - it was much appreciated. 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. New staff have already become very well established, and together we are really looking forward to a positive and productive Spring Term.

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

INSPIRATION DAYS - JANUARY 2024

It was all aboard the Titanic for KS1 pupils! Children spent the day experiencing life in the different 'classes' which included learning to waltz in First Class, then having afternoon tea in Second Class.



LKS2 became roving reporters working live for Sky News with the help of our inspirational guest Becky Cotterill from Sky who answered lots of interesting questions posed by the children. She gave Y3&4 tips on how to present, speak to the camera and use prompt sheets to produce their own location live links.

They have also begun to learn about light and sound, using Kandinsky as an inspiration for art work based on the sounds of different musical pieces.

UKS2's Inspiration Day was packed with lots of research about rivers and some super artwork.



MILD ILLNESS GUIDANCE

We know that winter is one of the peak times for adults and children to come down with mild illnesses such as colds, coughs and sore throats. This is therefore the perfect time to share a resource with you which aids in making judgements about mild illness:

[NHS Guidance: Is my child too ill for school?](#)

BIRDWATCH

On Friday Jan 26th January, all pupils will be taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and therefore it is advised that children bring in a hat, scarf and gloves as well as a warm winter coat. Thank you.

NEW BEHAVIOUR POLICY & ZONES OF REGULATION

Pupils have responded very positively to our new 'Respect' Behaviour Policy. They are also becoming confident with exploring feelings and emotions via The Zones of Regulation and are excited to start collecting their 'above and beyond' Dojo points. It's been a super start to the term behaviour wise.

If you would like to find out more about The Zones of Regulation, there is now a new page dedicated to it on the school website under the Mental Health & Wellbeing tab. Miss Webster will continue to add new resources and ideas as the term progresses.

[Zones of Regulations | Orchard Community Primary School \(orchardprimary.org\)](https://orchardprimary.org)

ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY

Mrs Wood and our ABA Team (Anti-Bullying Ambassadors) led a special assembly to remind pupils about some key anti-bullying messages. The theme was: 'Say No; Go Tell'.

Whilst incidents of bullying are exceptionally rare at Orchard, all pupils are encouraged to tell an adult if they experience or witness unkind behaviour. There are also 'Worry Monsters' in each class, where pupils can put in a note about any concerns they may have regarding bullying. If we are aware of any bullying behaviours then we will always deal with the issue; therefore, it's so important that children recognise that it's 'ok to tell'.

REMINDER: PTA Film Night Monday 5th February. A letter has already been circulated re: booking.

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 96.6% overall. Children with attendance below 90% are classed as 'Persistently Absent' by the Local Authority.

A polite reminder that if your child 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.

PARKING

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.

READING FOR PLEASURE & WORLD BOOK DAY

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 educational benefits.

Advanced Notice: World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March and will be celebrated at Orchard as part of a special 'Reading Week'. (Letter to follow.)

A number of pupils have requested dressing up this year. We understand that families may be under significant financial and time pressures and aim to ensure that every child can participate in World Book Day, and can celebrate the stories they love, without an expectation for families to provide a costume.

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. Some characters don't require any dressing up at all e.g. Charlie (from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory); Matilda; Alex Rider There's even a book called 'Horrid Henry and the Football Fiend' for those children who want to wear their football kit!

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.

REMINDERS

Book Bags - Please can we remind parents that children in KS1 and Y3 & 4 should only be bringing Book Bags into school, not large rucksacks. We don't have enough room for large bags in the cloakrooms and coats are constantly falling off overcrowded pegs, causing a trip hazard. Thank you for your anticipated support with this matter.

Labelling clothing - We have many unclaimed items in Lost Property that can't be reunited with owners due to a lack of name. Therefore please could you check that your child's jumper/cardigan and coat are labelled.

DIARY DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM 2024

Friday Jan 26th January - RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Monday 5th February - PTA Movie Night

WB. 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week with Dress to Express on Fri 10th Feb

Parents' Evening - (Monday 12th 3.30-6.30 & Thursday 15th 4.00-6.00pm)

Tuesday 13th February - Safer Internet Day

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

Tuesday 5th March - Y6 SATS meeting 5pm

Friday 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)

Friday 15th March - PTA Spring Disco

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief Fundraiser

Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th March - Y3 Beaumanor Residential

Friday 22nd March - School closes