



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2024

Dear Parents,

It continues to be a hugely successful Autumn Term at Orchard. Lots of children have been praised and rewarded for their excellent 'behaviour for learning', and our 'Respect' rule has now become very much embedded. Staff have been outstanding in their determination to deliver exciting and impactful learning experiences and wider curriculum opportunities for pupils - we've been especially pleased to be able to broaden our range of visitors and clubs this term. As always, thank you for your ongoing support, especially with upholding uniform standards, homework and reading. It makes such a difference.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

CELEBRATING PUPILS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Results for the 'reporting' years are absolutely brilliant again this year. Our Y6 children have performed 27.6% higher than the National Average in Reading, Writing and Maths combined (SATs 2024). This is fantastic!

Data for Year 6 pupils attaining expected and exceeded standards in the SATs is as follows:

Reading	Y6 Writing	Y6 GPS	Y6 Maths	Combined
Expected 92.2% NA 74%	Expected 88.2% NA 72%	Expected 90.2% NA 72%	Expected 94.1% NA 73%	Reading, Writing & Maths combined 88.2% NA 61%
Exceeded 51% NA 29%	Exceeded 25.5% NA 13%	Exceeded 51% NA 30%	Exceeded 23.5% NA 24%	

Our Good Level of Development (GLD) for EYFS pupils at 78.3% is 10.6% above the National Average (NA) and our Y1 Phonics Screening result of 97.8% is 17.5% above the National Average.

A full breakdown of academic achievements for the last year can be viewed in the School Performance section of the website.

MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

Thank you so much to the families who donated cakes for our cake sale, or purchased cakes at break and after school. We raised £632.09 and McClean achieved the highest sales bringing in a grand total of £188.20! Well done team Green!

SPORTING NEWS

A fantastic festival of football saw the Orchard Y5/6 Boys' Team produce an excellent performance against strong competition, to win the final. We were very impressed with the boys' energy and enthusiasm.

Our Y5/6 girls' football squad showed great teamwork and determination in their first tournament. They were unlucky not to qualify for the semi final having only lost one game.



Very well done to the Sports Ambassadors who continue to run activities at lunchtimes with pupils in KS1 and Y3/4.

Thank you to our super Sports Leadership Team Mrs Astle, Mr Caldwell and Mr Morant for organising events, training pupils and running sports clubs, along with Mr Patching for supporting with competitions.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

We celebrated European Day of Languages with a special KS2 French Theme Day on 26th September. C'était une journée fantastique! It was a super way to launch our new French Scheme from Kapow.

OUR NEW EYFS CLASSES

Our wonderful Foundation Stage children have settled very happily into their new routines and are thoroughly enjoying exploring their inside and outdoor classrooms!



HOMEWORK MENUS: A MASSIVE THANK YOU!

Taking pride in completing homework says a lot about a learner's attitude. Thank you so much to all those parents/carers who have ensured that their child's homework is completed to a high standard. Thank you also to those parents who regularly hear their children read and sign the diary (KS1). Your support at home makes such a difference.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

A Knowledge Organiser is a go-to document for a unit of work: each one identifies the key information that children need to have learned by the end of a 'topic'. It also acts as a tool to support children in retaining and retrieving knowledge for life-long learning.

We have developed our own Knowledge Organisers to support the delivery of the curriculum. Please visit the website to see Knowledge Organisers for each class (class pages.)

CHARACTER ED DAY & ROCK KIDZ

To remind pupils of the importance we place on developing 'character', we ran a special Character Education Discovery Day where pupils took part in a range of activities to develop skills and personal attributes across several fantastic learning zones. We also had Rock Kidz in the house!



PTA FILM NIGHT

Another fantastic film night was had by all! Thank you to the PTA for putting the refreshments together.

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

Children all have Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) login details and should be using this programme regularly at home, to support their maths learning.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Recent elections have resulted in Natalie being voted President of the School Council, and Felicity Vice President. School Council members have also been elected and are busy making plans for the year!

Congratulations to our new House Captains:

Redgate – Sam and Emily

Wheatcroft – Curtis and Sienna

McCleans – Reeva and Isaac

Coppice – Lenny and Maicey

Librarians, Digital Leaders, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Sports Ambassadors are in the process of being selected and will feature on the website soon, alongside our fantastic School Council.

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will take place week commencing 14th October. Pupils can purchase books after school; books will also be available to purchase during parents' evening.

PE UNIFORM

Please could we ask that children are sent to school in the correct PE uniform please as we are seeing an increasing number of breaches in school policy. The official PE kit consists of:

- A navy sports sweatshirt with the school logo
- Navy jogging bottoms (no leggings please)
- A plain white t-shirt with a round neck (no t-shirts with logos please)
- Navy shorts (cycling shorts or football shorts, both just above the knee - no tiny gymnastics shorts or black shorts please)
- EYFS only – black plimsolls; Y1-6 'Lightweight' Trainers (suitable for outdoor physical activity as well as all day use)

PE drawstring bags only please. No rucksacks as space is in short supply.

Your support in upholding our high standards is much appreciated.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNDRAISER: HALLOWEEN DRESSING UP DAY

To raise money for School Council projects, pupils have asked to once again have a Halloween dressing up day. Therefore, for a 50p donation (bucket collection at drop-off), on **THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER**, children are invited to come to school in a Halloween themed outfit.

Please don't feel the need to purchase expensive costumes. It's basically non-uniform, so children who don't wish to dress in Halloween costumes can simply wear Autumnal/Halloween colours to school – grey, orange, green, red, black etc.

Could we request that pupils leave scary masks and accessories, such as sickles, cauldrons and broomsticks at home. We'd also ask that pupils don't wear face paint and put dye in their hair as these are further added distractions in the classroom.

Pupils who would usually wear PE uniform on a Thursday should bring their PE kit with them on this day. Staff will have buckets for pupils to put their money into when they arrive at school. No change will be able to be given. Thank you.

CHILDREN IN NEED - NONE UNIFORM DAY

The BBC Children in Need appeal has been confirmed as Friday 15th November. For a donation of 50p, School Council members are inviting pupils to 'Shine Bright' by wearing their brightest coloured clothes for school that day.

Pupils are also welcome to bring in a bear/cuddly toy to honour Pudsey! Pupils who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day. Staff will have buckets for pupils to put their money into when they arrive at school. No change will be able to be given.

LOST PROPERTY

Please could we remind parents to ensure that all school uniform and water bottles are named - we have an increasing number of items in lost property. It also takes staff extra time to try to reunite non-labelled property with their owners. Lost Property is located in the disabled toilet cubicle. Thank you.

PUNCTUALITY

Please could parents ensure that their children are in school for 8.45am. An increasing number of pupils are arriving at the school gates well after 8.50am which means that they are being marked late for registration. It also means that the office then have to amend lunch registers. Your support with this is very important please as punctuality and attendance is being closely monitored this term.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

We will once again be supporting the Royal British Legion again this year by selling items such as poppy/remembrance themed key rings, snap bands, stationery etc. on our online shop. Products will range from 50p to £1. You will be able to order and pay for items via Eduspot—our School Money system. Office staff will then distribute items to pupils. A text will be sent out once products are available and the order page is live.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

To acknowledge Armistice Day, pupils will be taking part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance on 11th November.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, pupils will be taking part in a number of anti-bullying/kindness activities week commencing 11th November.

To join in with the National Anti-bullying Alliance campaign, pupils are asked to wear their 'Odd Socks' on Monday 11th November in order to express themselves and celebrate their individuality!

GRANTS & BUSINESS LINKS

We are always looking at ways to generate more income for the school. Therefore, if you have any particular business links, or access to grants, which you think would benefit the school, please speak to Laura Thompson in the school office. Thank you.

PARENTS' EVENINGS - Monday 14th & Thursday 17th October

Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that all pupils are supported to do their personal best and achieve the high standards that we set for achievement, behaviour and presentation of work.

I therefore very much hope that when you attend your forthcoming parents' evening appointment, you are pleased with the progress your child has made so far this term, and impressed with the quality of their work.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance, or myself if the matter cannot be resolved.

I would however, politely remind parents to phone ahead to schedule a visit where more in depth discussion may be required so that appointments don't run beyond the 10 minute schedule.

REMINDERS ...

WRAPPING UP WARM: The weather is turning so could all children please bring in a suitable coat for the colder/wetter months. Please make sure the coat is labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

SCHOOL DINNERS: Could I politely remind parents that meals **must** be booked on Relish by 7pm Sunday evening for the week in advance. Bookings for the entire half-term can also be completed. No late bookings can be taken - any meal orders placed after 7pm will not show up on our system.

MESSAGING VIA CLASS DOJO OR EMAIL: All school staff will be happy to respond to messages sent in by parents within 2 working days. However, please be mindful that staff are not expected to monitor or respond to messages out of their normal working hours (including weekends and published school holidays).

KEY STAGE 2 - SPARE OUTDOOR SHOES REQUEST

To avoid an increase in potential accidents on the Key Stage 2 playground due to 'overcrowding', we endeavour to use the field throughout the whole year, weather permitting. So that pupils do not trample mud and grass into school, pupils who would like to play on the field at breaktimes and lunchtimes will be asked to change into 'outdoor shoes' that should be kept in a bag on pegs.

These shoes should be different to both their everyday school shoes *and* the trainers worn for outdoor PE. They will get muddy! Trainers, old baseball /Converse boots, old shoes, wellies will be fine. Please ensure property is labelled.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

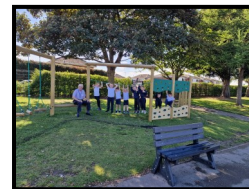
A request from the office ... if you leave an answer message to report your child's absence, please could you tell us specifically what their illness is rather than 'poorly', this will help us to monitor patterns in tummy bugs, coughs, colds etc. Thank you.

MESSAGES TO THE OFFICE RE: HOME-TIME ARRANGEMENTS

Please could we request that unless you are unavoidably delayed in traffic at the last minute, that messages regarding a change in collection/home-time arrangements are received by the office by 2.45pm. Please don't send urgent messages re: collection via Dojo during the school day, as teachers cannot check tablets during the afternoon. Thank you.

KS1 TRIM TRAIL

We were joined by local Counsellor Angus Sowter and Colleen Hempson - EMA Community Engagement Manager to officially open our KS1 trim trail.



The East Midlands Airport Community Grant and Orchard PTA each provided £2000 funding towards our Trim Trail. Castle Donington Rotary Club and Miller Homes also provided funding to make this project possible. Thank you to everyone involved - it's so very much appreciated.

DIARY DATES

- Monday 7th October - SEND Parent Coffee afternoon
- Thursday 10th October - Phonics: Parent Workshops
- Friday 11th October - KS2 Sports Active Event
- Parents'/Progress Evenings Monday 14th (3.30-6.30) & Thursday 17th (4.00-6.00)
- Friday 18th October - School closes
- Monday 21st - Friday 25th October half-term
- Monday 28th October - School opens
- EYFS - Owls Visitor - Monday 28th October
- Prospective Parents Open Day - Tuesday 29th October 10am; Thursday 31st Oct 1.30pm; Saturday 2nd Nov 11am
- Thursday 31st October - Halloween Dressing Up (50p)
- KS1 Inspiration Day: Once Upon A Time - Trip to Tamworth Castle Monday 4th Nov Y1 + Tuesday 5th Nov Y2
- Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day. Mon 11th - Fri 15th
- Friday 15th November - Children in Need
- Tues 26th Nov - UKS2 Visit to the National Space Centre
- Wednesday 4th December - Rock Band/Drum performance 2.45pm concert with parents
- Thursday 5th December - PTA Festive Film Night
- Monday 9th December - Santa Dash
- Tuesday 10th December - KS1 Carol Concert
- Wednesday 11th December - EYFS Nativity
- Thursday 12th December - LKS2 Carol Concert
- Thursday 12th December UKS2 Christmas Enterprise Scheme
- Monday 16th Choir: Carols in the Community 5.00-6.30pm
- Tuesday 17th - Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas Dinner)
- Christmas Parties (afternoons bar EYFS): Mon 16th KS1 Wed 18th LKS2 Thurs 19th UKS2 Fri 20th a.m. EYFS
- Fri 20th Dec - Theatre 2-3pm & Ice Cream Sale
- School closes Friday 20th December & progress checks out