



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2022

Dear Parents,

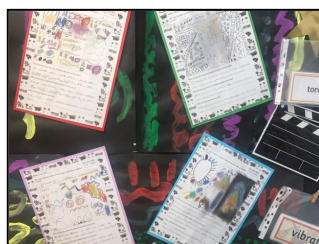
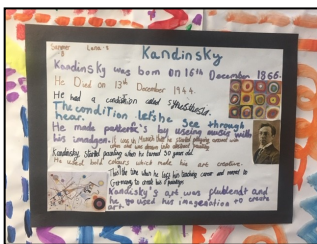
Many thanks for your support last term. We hope that you and your family had a lovely winter break and wish you all the very best for 2022. Pupils have made a super start to the new term at Orchard, returning to school happy, engaged and very well-motivated. Their behaviour and attitudes have been excellent and I have seen some truly fantastic learning during my classroom visits. Thanks to all of the staff for their hard work in bringing our Creative Curriculum to life.

### INSPIRATION DAYS - JANUARY 2022

Pupils in Key Stage 1 boarded the Titanic for the start of their 'Ice, Ice Baby' topic and experienced life in all three classes of cabin! They learnt what life was like for the different passengers, had afternoon tea and experienced some entertainment in the form of listening to some classical music and learning the waltz.



It's Light, Camera, Action for Classes 5, 6 and 7 as they research the wonderful world of Light and Sound. Their Inspiration Day began with an art focus with pupils exploring how the artist Kandinsky produced paintings inspired by music and sound before creating their own pieces of artwork.



Classes 8, 9 and 10 are travelling to the 'Amazing Americas' this half-term. They launched their topic with a trip to Mexico to explore the art and literature associated with the Day of the Dead Festival.



### STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Lane is leaving Orchard after 14 years. We wish her well and thank her for her commitment to the school. Mrs Wintle and Mrs Rees will be supporting Mrs Fordham to lead Breakfast Club.

Mrs Stevenson has also decided to finish at Orchard. Again, we wish her all the very best. Mrs Smith, who currently works at Orchard as a Midday Supervisor, as well as Mrs Fairbrother, will be helping Mrs Jackson to lead after-school wraparound care.

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS

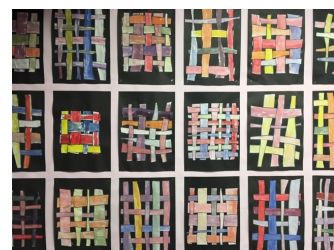
Thank you so much to those parents and visitors who donated groceries, new toys and vouchers/money for the foodbank during December. Your generosity was very much appreciated.

### YEAR 2 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK RESULTS

Cancellation of the phonics screening check in June 2021 meant that pupils starting Year 2 in September 2021 had to complete the screening check during the second half of the 2021 Autumn Term. We are delighted to inform parents that the school achieved a 100% pass rate. Well done to all!

### 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.



## ATTENDANCE

Attendance during the Autumn Term was 95.2% overall. We obviously understand that many pupils recorded lower than desired 90% attendance figure last term due to Covid related issues. The overall figure is still good nevertheless, given the challenging circumstances, so thank you for your support.

A polite reminder, if your child is ill, or is off with a Covid related issue, please contact school as soon as possible. 'Safe and Well' checks for pupils who are absent 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 for your understanding.

## 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.

In school, we explore times tables so children have a secure understanding of the concept of multiplication and division, and the various patterns and sequences related to each times table. There's also regular practice in each class.

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

Parking is 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.

Manoeuvring vehicles, especially ones being reversed, are a real danger to the children however and it is very upsetting when near misses are reported. As a school, we constantly try to improve the situation but we need the co-operation of parents and carers in this respect. Thank you for your understanding.

## 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.*

## PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Whilst the staff and I would much rather meet face to face at our forthcoming parent meetings, at the present time, with rising Covid numbers in school already, we don't know what the exact arrangements will need to be.

Whilst we have tentatively set dates and times (see below), these may be subject to change.

Confirmation will be provided towards the end of January. Please bear with us however if we have to again resort to telephone consultations.

As always however, if you have any questions, comments or concerns about the progress your child is making, just let us know. We're always here to help.

### DIARY DATES FOR THE SPRING TERM

28th - 30th January: RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch  
31st January - 4th February: National Story Telling Week  
Tuesday 8th February: Safer Internet Day  
Wednesday 9th (3.30-6.30pm) and Thursday 10th February (5.00-7.00pm): Parent Consultations (TBC)  
Friday 11th February: School Closes  
14th - 18th February: Half Term  
Monday 21st February: School opens to pupils  
Wednesday 23rd February: UKS2 Trip to the Black Country Museum  
Thursday 3rd March : World Book Day  
Friday 11th March – 20th March: British Science Week  
Friday 18th March - Comic Relief  
Friday 8th April - School closes for Easter