



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2021

Dear Parents,

It continues to a hugely successfully Autumn Term at Orchard. Despite huge challenges still in relation to juggling Covid issues, the school is, to all intents and purposes, operating as it was pre-March 2020. We have been delighted to be able to send classes out on school trips, have educational visitors back in to school, run clubs across a range of phases, have lunch in the hall ... It feels as though we have come back together again. Your children have been incredible, and I have been exceptionally impressed with their positive attitudes, their superb behaviour and the level of pride they have taken in their work. I have been especially pleased with how pupils are conducting themselves at lunchtime - thank you to our Sports Ambassadors and MDS team for making this part of the day so much fun. Staff, as always, have been absolutely outstanding in their commitment to the smooth running of the school, their level of care and their determination to deliver outstanding learning experiences and wider curriculum opportunities for our children. We very much hope that from the new year, we will be able to invite parents and volunteers back into school but in the meantime, thank you as always for your partnership.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

WE'VE BEEN OUT, OUT!

It was an absolute joy to see Classes 8, 9 and 10 go on a trip to Beaumanor Hall as part of their World War Two Learning Adventure - the first visit out in a long, long time.



Did you know that during World War II, Beaumanor Hall was instrumental in the effort to break the German Enigma code? No, neither did we, so it was no wonder that pupils in Upper Key Stage 2 had a fantastic Inspiration Day as they were transported back as evacuees to WW2.

As well as learning all about rationing and experiencing life in an air raid shelter, pupils also got the chance to decode secret messages, rather like the ones solved at Bletchley Park.

'The best day ever!' is how one pupil described the visit!

SCIENCE EXHIBITION

Wow! Wow! Wow! Classes 8, 9 and 10 created a science museum for their outcome event, devoting a section of its museum to the workings of the human body. Having displayed their own information boards, models and set up a variety of activities, the museum was then visited by the rest of the school!

Pupils were treated to a huge range of stalls, including one teaching them about the use of futurist materials such as nanoprobe to another which would help them appreciate the inner workings of the heart and the impacts on the body of healthy and unhealthy lifestyles. There was even some healthy snack bar taste testing and public voting system to find the one consumers liked best, to a stall about positive mental health. It was a fab afternoon!



SPORTING NEWS

Pupils from Y3-6 have represented the school brilliantly at the Leicestershire School's Cross Country Championships at Prestwold. There are three meetings in total, with competitions for both individuals and teams. We're feeling very positive! Thank you to Mr Patching and the parents and staff who have supported all of these events, especially as the weather during the first two meets was awful!

On another positive note, pupils in classes 1-10 experienced the joy that is Glow in the Dark Dodgeball! As well as having a super sporting experience, the coach described our children as 'a joy to work with'.

FABULOUS PHARAOHS

A long lost tomb is discovered on the side of a mountain in the Valley of the Kings. The discovery is reported to the Cairo Museum of Antiquities who dispatch a team of archaeologists to investigate the discovery, open the tomb, and catalogue what's inside....



Classes 5, 6 & 7 used their imaginations within an Ancient Egyptian Archaeologist 'mantle' (role play) where they travelled back in time to explore tombs and tunnels (it's amazing what you can turn the classroom into!), dug up Egyptian artefacts and explored pyramid construction through the use of tooth-picks! It was a super Inspiration Day and the children are very much looking forward to the rest of the Learning Adventure ... especially the embalmed tomatoes!

WE'VE BEEN OUT, OUT TOO!

Pupils in Key Stage 1 have been exploring the village as 'Donington Detectives'! They had a very interesting visit to the new housing development, and met with some of the contractors near the site to explore how houses are built, and the materials that are used in building construction. They also undertook lots of geography field-work to explore local streets and shops.

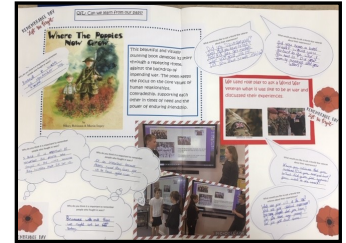


CHILDREN IN NEED

A reminder that our Children in Need Day is on Friday 19th November. The theme is wear your 'PJs or Onesies' for a 50p donation. Pupils in Class 1 who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

To acknowledge Remembrance Day, pupils took part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all those pupils and parents who have purchased poppy related products from the Royal British Legion collection.

THE REFEREE MAN

As part of their WW2 Learning Adventure, pupils will be finding out about the significance of coding and the Enigma Machine. As an introduction to the wonders of technology, pupils in Classes 8, 9 and 10 worked with 'The Referee Man' to explore how technology is used in football.

The children were then challenged to create their own gadgets and inventions that could be used in sport. Sensors in corner flags and the further use of smart watches were popular ideas!

HALLOWEEN THEME DAY

A spookily good day was had by all! Thank you to everyone for supporting this PTA fundraiser.



BOOSTER/INTERVENTION GROUPS

Staff are running a huge number of intervention groups for Maths, English and Well-being during the school day. You will receive a letter home if your child is involved in an early morning intervention to ask that they arrive at school by 8.40am in time for an 8.45am start.

ECO-TEAM & OUTDOOR LEARNING

Mr Owen has been busy inspiring our Eco-Warriors. They are currently undertaking an 'Environmental Review' to see what we can improve in school to save energy and reduce waste. They'll be reporting back to their classmates shortly. Mr Owen has also been inspiring staff in Key Stage 1 to take learning outdoors - Miss Sheldon has re-vamped the Year 1 courtyard area and it looks beautiful.

The Year 1 team have now added lots of new activities and resources to make learning even more exciting, with a purposeful link to current Learning Adventures (topics).

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021: ONE KIND WORLD

National Anti-bullying week 2021 will be taking place from Monday 15th - Friday 19th November and the theme is One Kind Word.

To join in with the National Anti-bullying Alliance campaign, pupils are invited to wear their 'Odd Socks' in order to express themselves and celebrate their uniqueness on the first day of anti-bullying week (Monday 15th November).

Pupils will then be taking part in a number of anti-bullying activities during a special 'Friendship Friday' theme day on **Friday 19th November**.

MATHS UPDATE

Children all have Times Table Rock Stars (TTRS) login details and should be using this programme regularly at home, to support their maths learning. Teachers are able to see who is logging in and those children who do this regularly will be rewarded with Dojo points and enhanced progress in maths.

TTRS is beneficial for embedding basic mathematical concepts and regular practice will make a huge difference to children's confidence and fluency in number. Please encourage your child to login at home, least 3 times a week.

REMINDER: ACADEMY CONVERSION CONSULTATION

The deadline for completing the questionnaire is Friday 19th November.

REMINDER: FESTIVE FILM NIGHT (Thurs 2nd Dec)

The deadline for booking a place is Wednesday 24th November.

SEVERE WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE

We sincerely hope we don't have to close the school this winter as a result of bad weather. It's not a decision we take lightly. School closure is always a last resort but sometimes it's unavoidable due to low staff numbers and compromises to pupil safety.

You will be informed of the decision to close school between 7.30 -7.45 am. There are a number of ways you can find out if we've had to close the school or part of it:

- School text messaging service
- On the website
- On local radio (Radio Leicester (104.9FM) Leicester Sound (105.4FM) Capital FM)

DONATIONS WANTED PLEASE

Do you have any Lego, Playmobil or Duplo that your children no longer plays with, and would be willing to donate to the school please? We'd be very grateful as construction activities during wet play are proving to be very popular!

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Mrs Daft will be organising her annual chocolate raffle, made up of items donated by the staff and local businesses.

Tickets, which cost 50p each, will be going on sale from **Monday 29th November** with the final draw being held in a remote assembly on **Friday 17th December**.

Over the three weeks, Mrs Daft will visit classes in the morning to sell tickets:

EYFS & KS1 - Mondays & Wednesdays
KS2 - Tuesdays & Thursdays

Children can bring money in to buy tickets on their specific days.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a huge amount of found clothing/personal items, in the Lost Property basket which aren't labelled. Please could you ensure that names are written on coat and jumper tags especially please, so that items can be quickly and easily returned to their owners, particularly at the end of break and lunch time. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS SALE - Thursday 9th December

To raise funds for the School Council, our enterprising Y5 and Y6 pupils will be making a number of Christmas and winter themed crafts to sell to class bubbles on **Thursday 9th December**. All items will be priced at 50p each; therefore pupils are invited to bring in up to £1 on the day if they would like to take part.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND 'JUMPER' DAY

All pupils will have their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 14th December. **There will be no other hot meal option served on this day so pupils not having Christmas dinner will need to bring in a packed lunch.**

We're inviting the children to wear a 'festive' jumper / ordinary jumper to school on their Christmas Dinner day. They are also welcome to bring in festive hats/headgear. (Pupils should wear their Christmas jumper with their usual school uniform).

DIARY DATES

ODD SOCKS DAY: Monday 15th November

CHILDREN IN NEED: Friday 19th November

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE: Tickets on sale from 29th November with the draw held on Friday 17th December. (50p per ticket).

FESTIVE FILM NIGHT: Thursday 2nd December

WELL-BEING SESSIONS: Friday 3rd (Key Stage 2)

SANTA DASH - Monday 6th December (Wear a hat!)

HOBGOBLIN THEATRE GROUP IN SCHOOL: Performance of Curse of the Mummy plus drama workshops - Friday 10th December

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE: Thursday 9th December (50p -£1)

CHRISTMAS DINNER & JUMPER DAY: Tuesday 14th December

CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

Monday 13th December - Classes 1, 2, 3 & 4 (KS1)

Tuesday 14th December - EYFS

Wednesday 15th December - Classes 5, 6 & 7 (LKS2)

Friday 17th December - Classes 8, 9 & 10 (UKS2)

HOBGOBLIN THEATRE GROUP IN SCHOOL: Performance of King Arthur Thursday 16th December for Y2-6

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Sadly, due to our categorisation of Stage 1 on the county's Covid Management Outbreak Plan, we still feel that it is unwise to invite hundreds of parents and grandparents into school for the EYFS and KS1 Christmas Performances again this year. Quite simply, given the significant number of Covid cases at Orchard last half-term, we don't want to risk further transmission of the virus, which then results in families having to miss seeing loved ones over the Christmas period due to isolation and illness.

I am extremely sorry that we can't put on live performances - however, all classes will once again send out filmed Christmas celebrations to share with parents. Thank you for your anticipated understanding. It was a very difficult decision to make and I apologise for any disappointment this may cause.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Pupils will be back to having party games in their phase groups this year. Yay! They are invited to bring in a change of clothes for the afternoon. Parties will take place on the following dates:

Monday 13th December - Classes 1, 2, 3 & 4 (KS1)

Tuesday 14th December - EYFS

Wednesday 15th December - Classes 5, 6 & 7 (LKS2)

Friday 17th December - Classes 8, 9 & 10 (UKS2)

SANTA DASH

Weather permitting, pupils will be completing a 1 mile Santa Dash on **Monday 6th December**.

The 'run' (jog or walk) is an activity set by the North Charnwood Sports group which Orchard is a part of. We thought it would be fun to take part! **Children are invited to wear a Santa hat/Christmas Hat/Bobble Hat for their 'fun run'.**

PROGRESS CHECKS

Progress checks will be sent out via pupil post on **Friday 17th December**. These brief reports provide on-going information about your child's achievements against end of year targets, 'Age Related Expectations', their progress and learning attitudes.