



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2021

Dear Parents,

It has been a fantastic half-term, even given the hugely challenging circumstances we still find ourselves in. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that pupils are supported to do their personal best and achieve the high standards that we set for achievement, behaviour and presentation of work. I can't thank them enough. Pupils have also been working with an exceptionally high level of effort, determination and enthusiasm. It's been immensely rewarding to see so many pupils taking such pride in their work, and in their school. Thank you so much for your support, co-operation and positive feedback this half-term.

Warmest regards

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Thank you so much to parents/carers who donated items for our Food Bank. Your generosity is much appreciated. Thanks also to our Y5/6 School Council members for organising our one stop shop!



### STAFFING NEWS

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Marcer (LSA) and Mrs Brothwell-White (TA) to the Orchard Team. We hope that they will be very happy working with us.

### KS1 CAPOEIRA WORKSHOP

Thank you to Progressive Sports for leading a Capoeira session with each of our Key Stage 1 classes. We combined this Brazilian martial arts form with our Superheroes topic, so that pupils could create their very own superhero role-plays, drawing on self-defence, acrobatics, dance and music. They were very convincing!

### FLU VACCINATIONS - Friday 12th November

Leicestershire School Nursing Team will be administering the flu immunisation on Friday 12th November to all pupils from EYFS to Y6 whose parents have given consent. A letter was circulated on 4th October.

### THE BIG ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY

On October 4th, pupils across the school joined in the 'Big Anti-Bullying Assembly', sponsored by The Diana Award and Nationwide Building Society.

Via a virtual assembly, pupils were reminded about the need for mutual respect in our school and communities. Together, we pledged to put an end to bullying, to celebrate diversity and to create communities of kindness.

### RED APPLES & GREEN APPLES

Well done to all of our newest pupils in EYFS. Not only are they showing excellent independence in the mornings, but they have settled into their lovely new classes. 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' and Dough Disco are proving to be big hits, as is the outdoor learning environment.

### MACMILLAN FUNDRAISER

Thank you so much to the parents/carers who donated cakes, and/or provided their children with money, for our Macmillan cake sale.

We raised £360.80 for this wonderful charity. Absolutely brilliant - thank you.



## **SCHOOL DINNERS**

Could I politely remind parents that meals **must** be booked on Eduspot 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. Office staff should not have to book meals in for children on a Monday morning as they have other responsibilities.

## **PUPIL LEADERSHIP COUNCILS**

House Captains have been elected! Congratulations to the following pupils: Grace & Olivia (McLeans); Lilly & Ellie (Wheatcroft); Finley & Lola (Redgate) and Heidi & Ksawery (Coppice).

As well as helping to organise House Competitions, these pupils will also be collecting the House Points Cup, awarded during Friday's Achievement Assembly (once whole school assemblies resume).

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.

## **SPORTING NEWS**

Congratulations to the Y5/6 pupils who represented the school in the recent 'Active Start' workshop at Charnwood College. We are exceptionally proud of the children for their super attitudes and excellent efforts.

Very well done also to the Y5 /6 football teams who represented the school in two recent tournaments. Our squads experienced a range of successes with the mixed squad making the semi finals, and our girls' team actually winning the whole tournament. All pupils played with great team spirit.

Our squads who took part in the Cross Country event at Prestwold also showed incredible determination and we are exceptionally proud of the children for their super attitudes and excellent efforts. Congratulations to Harry who came third out of over 140 children!

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

## **PTA FILM NIGHT**

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

## **PARENT CONSULTATIONS**

I very much hope that you find the conversation with your child's class teacher useful, and that you are pleased with the progress your child has made so far this term.

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. We are always keen to do our best for you.

## **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.

## **PTA HALLOWEEN DRESSING UP DAY**

We won't be able to run our Halloween disco again this year. Therefore, for a £1 donation (bucket collection at drop-off), on Friday 29th October, children are invited to come to school in a Halloween themed outfit to raise funds for the PTA.

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. Thank you!

## **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 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.

Your support at home makes such a difference.

## KEY STAGE 2 - OUTDOOR SHOES REQUEST

We still have a small number of children in KS2 who do not have a change of footwear for lunchtime play on the field. These shoes should be different to both their everyday school shoes *and* the trainers worn for outdoor PE. They will get very muddy! Please ensure property is labelled.

## 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 whilst many do, staff are not expected to monitor or respond to messages out of their normal working hours (e.g. late evenings, weekends and published school holidays).

## KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

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

Please visit the website to see Knowledge Organisers for each class.

## 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. 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.

## 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.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

### REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

In preparation for Remembrance Day, we will be holding a special 'discovery day' on Friday 5th November where pupils will take part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance.

### 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.

### ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, pupils will be taking part in a number of anti-bullying activities during a special 'kindness' day on **Friday 19th November**.

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

### ADVANCED NOTICE: CHILDREN IN NEED - NON UNIFORM DAY

The BBC Children in Need appeal has been confirmed as **Friday 12th November**. For a donation of 50p School Council members are inviting pupils to wear non-uniform: onesies/pyjamas/dressing gowns. Pupils are also welcome to bring in a bear/cuddly toy to honour Pudsey! **Pupils in Class 1 who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day.**

To reduce the handling of cash donations, Mrs Shields and Mrs Daft will have buckets for pupils to put their money into when they arrive at school. No change will be able to be given.

### 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.