



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Parents,

It continues to a hugely successfully Autumn Term at Orchard. Your children have been fabulous. All of the staff have been exceptionally impressed with their positive attitudes, their superb behaviour and the level of pride they have taken in their work. 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've all been so pleased to be able to welcome visitors back into school again, and to get pupils out on school trips. It's great to have a sense of normality back again after a couple of years of disruption,.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### KS1 VISIT TO BOLSOVER CASTLE

To launch their new Learning Adventure 'Once Upon A Time', KS1 had a super day at Bolsover Castle exploring everything from the parapets on the wall-walk, its towers and the vaults in the basement. They had a fabulous day!

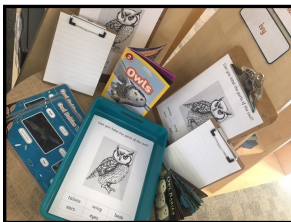


### ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR TRAINING EVENT

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors had a great time at The Diana Award training session. They've got lots of ideas for their first campaign on 'Respect'.



### OWL BABIES!



This half-term's theme in EYFS has been inspired by the story 'Owl Babies'. Thank you to 'Birds on the Hand' for helping with their Inspiration Day!

### BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all of our families who supported the Book Fair. We sold over £1000 of books which resulted in the school receiving £600 back in commission!!! This is absolutely amazing! Mr Cooper has therefore been able to choose lots of new books for pupils across the whole school which will be finding their way onto bookshelves shortly.

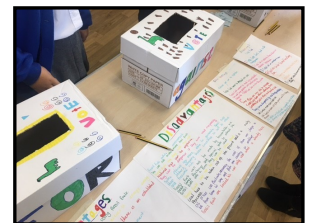
### MUSIC MARK



We are delighted to have again been recognised as a Music Mark School in celebration of our commitment to providing high-quality music education for all of our children.

### LKS2 ROCKS EXHIBITION

Year 5 had great fun visiting Lower Key Stage 2's interactive exhibition all about rocks and soil. There was a vote on the use of fossil fuel, Top Trump cards, a fold mountain demonstration and a soil shaker experiment amongst the many hands-on exhibits!



## SPORTING NEWS

A fantastic festival of football saw the Orchard Boys' Team produce some excellent performances against strong competition. We were pipped to the post to finals night but were very impressed with the boys' energy, enthusiasm and teamwork.



On another positive note, pupils from Y3-6 have represented the school brilliantly at the Leicestershire School's Cross Country Championships at Prestwold. There are several meetings in total, with competitions for both individuals and teams. In October's competition, seven out of sixteen of our children came in the top 10 finishers, with two of our pupils awarded silver medals.



Thank you to Mr Patching, Mrs Astle and the parents who have supported all of these events.

Finally, very well done to the Sports Ambassadors who represented the school at the Charnwood Sports Leader Training Day. They will now be kept busy running lots of activities at lunchtimes with pupils in KS1 and Y3/4.

## LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Pupils have loved learning how to use British sign language in a club run by Miss Walters.



Choir is also sounding very good with Mrs Wood teaching pupils songs from the hit musical 'The Sound of Music'!

Mr Owen's 'Outdoor Experts' have been busy looking after the environment and as usual, Lego Club is proving to be very popular.



To help Y5/6 pupils, Mrs Cotterill is running a homework club, and Mrs Sheldon, a book club.

Radio Club are going to be very busy! Over the next few weeks they are going to be learning to use the microphones and mixing desk; creating a playlist of audio and music tracks; creating sweepers and introductions and working in different radio roles such as presenter, producer and technicians ready for their live shows!

## REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

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

## ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

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



## HALLOWEEN THEME DAY

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

## HARVEST



As part of our special harvest celebrations, Y1 produced some lovely Autumnal landscapes.



Pupils also participated in lots of gardening activities.

## DONINGTON DYNAMO SESSIONS

Orchard's football stars had a special afternoon sports session with Mr Cauldwell, learning to emulate the skills of elite players like Lionel Messi and Andrea Pirlo!

Lights! Camera! Action! Thank you to Mr Patching for leading a fantastic session for our budding film techs, with pupils creating their own films to promote the character education work that we do at Orchard.



## FOOD BANK

Thank you to all of the families who donated items for our Food Bank. School Council members have stocked the shelves and our one stop shop is available for anyone who needs it. Just pop in or give the office a ring,.



## CHILDREN IN NEED

A reminder that our Children in Need Day is on Friday 18th November. The theme is 'Dress Brightly' for a 50p donation. Pupils who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day.

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2022

National Anti-bullying week 2022 will be taking place from Monday 14th - Friday 18th November and the theme is 'Reach Out'.

**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 14th November).**

Pupils will then be taking part in a number of anti-bullying activities during the week, ending with a special 'Feel Good Friday' theme day on Friday 18th November. (See letter from Mrs Wood sent previously).

## TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

We would like to have a huge push on pupils learning multiplication facts.

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: FESTIVE FILM NIGHT (Thurs 1st Dec)

The deadline for booking a place is Wednesday 23rd November.

## FIRE SAFETY TALK

Thank you to Leicestershire Fire Service for coming into school to speak to Year 1 and Year 5 about Fire Safety.

## DONATIONS WANTED PLEASE

Do you have any Lego, Playmobil or Duplo that your children no longer play 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.

Tickets, which cost 50p each, will be going on sale from **Monday 5th December** with the final draw being held in a remote assembly on **Friday 16th December**.

Over the two weeks, Mrs Daft will visit classes to sell tickets on the following days:

**EYFS & KS1 - Mondays & Wednesdays**

**KS2 - Tuesdays & Thursdays**

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

## LOST PROPERTY

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.

## PTA & PARENTAL SUPPORT - THANK YOU!

Thank you to the PTA for funding lots of new resources for school ... some super outdoor furniture for the woodland area, immersive experience headsets., a subscription to 'Amazing People', subsidising visitors, trips and theatre groups for the year...

We couldn't manage without both the PTA and the parental support for special events so thank you.

## STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Miss Webster and Mr Cauldwell who have become the proud parents of twin girls, Indie Chloe and Izzy Rachael, born on Friday 28th October. Miss Farrar will be going on maternity leave from 11th November so we look forward to welcoming another Orchard baby soon.

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS SALE - Thursday 8th 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 all pupils on **Thursday 8th December**. All items will be priced at 50p each; therefore pupils are invited to bring in up to £2 on the day if they would like to take part.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER AND 'JUMPER' DAY

All pupils will have their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 13th 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

**Mon 14th to Fri 18th Nov** - Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day (Mon)

**Friday 18th Nov** - Children in Need

**Monday 21st Nov** - Dogs Trust Whole School Assembly & Workshops for Y3-5

**Tuesday 22nd Nov** - UKS2 visit to the National Space Centre

**Wed 23rd Nov** - KS1 Bedtime Stories & parents' reading information session 5-6pm

**Thursday 1st Dec** - Festive Film Night

**Mon 5th Dec** - Santa Dash (Wear a hat!)

**Mon 5th Dec** - Chocolate Raffle tickets go on sale

**Wed 7th Dec 2-3pm** KS1 Carol Concert

**Thurs 8th Dec** - UKS2 Christmas Enterprise Scheme & KS1 medieval dressing up day

**Thurs 8th Dec 6-7pm** Classes 5,6 & 7 'Celebration of Christmas' event

**Tues 13th Dec** - Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day & EYFS Nativity 2-3pm

### Christmas Parties (afternoons bar EYFS):

- Mon 12th Dec LKS2 (classes 5,6,7)
- Wed 14th Dec KS1 (classes 1,2,3,4)
- Thurs 15th Dec EYFS
- Fri 16th Dec UKS2 (classes 8,9,10)

**Thurs 15th Dec** - Hobgoblin Theatre Group (The Greatest Fairy Tale Ever Told) & Ice Cream Sale

**Friday 16th Dec** - School closes & Progress Checks out

## MESSAGES TO THE OFFICE

A gentle reminder please that any parents wishing to collect their child for an appointment during school hours should also send a message to the school office, as well as the class teacher please. Thank you.

## CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES/EVENTS

All events will take place in school:

- EYFS Nativity Tuesday 13th December 2-3pm
- KS1 Carol Concert Wednesday 7th December 2-3pm
- Classes 5,6 & 7 'Celebration of Christmas' event Thursday 8th December 6-7pm (more info to follow)

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Pupils will be back to having party games in their phase groups this year. Yay! **Pupils in Y1-6 are invited to bring in a change of clothes for their party in the afternoon. Pupils in EYFS will stay in their school uniform as their party is in the morning.**

See diary dates for specific days for each class.

## SANTA DASH

Weather permitting, pupils will be completing a 1 mile Santa Dash on **Monday 5th 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 16th 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.

## 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
- School website & Class Dojo
- On local radio (Radio Leicester (104.9FM) Leicester Sound (105.4FM) Capital FM)