



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2022

Dear Parents,

It's been a super busy half-term, with lots of visitors, and plenty of creativity in the curriculum! During my 'Learning Walks', I have been very impressed with the high level of effort, determination and enthusiasm displayed by pupils across all classes. It's also encouraging to see so many pupils taking such pride in their work, and in their school. Thank you to those parents who have been supporting with homework and reading at home. It is very much appreciated.

Warmest regards

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

ROCK KIDZ IN THE HOUSE!

Rock Kidz 'On Tour' visited school to give pupils the opportunity to learn important life lessons in a fun way through their high energy rock-star workshops. It was loud, it was lively, it was great!

Well done to Mr Patching and Mr Caldwell for their winning rock-star routines!



CHARACTER EDUCATION DAY

To remind pupils of the importance we place on developing 'character', pupils took part in a special Character Education Discovery Day which included working on a range of activities to develop their character muscles and personal attributes.



SPORTS COACHING - OUR NEW PE SCHEME

We have purchased a fantastic new 'Horizon' PE scheme! Pupils got the chance to try it out with a specialist sports coach from David Ross Education Trust.



NATIONAL STONE CENTRE VISIT

Y3 & Y4 had a great time at their 'Treasure in the Rocks' Day at The National Stone Centre, Wirsikworth. The gem panning proved to be very popular!



CELEBRATING PUPILS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS ...

Great news - last year's Y6 children performed 12.5% higher than the national average in Reading, Writing and Maths (SATs 2022). A full breakdown of pupils' academic achievements from last year can be viewed in the 'School Performance' section of the website.

THE BIG ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY

On October 3rd, 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.

MACMILLAN FUNDRAISER

Thank you so much to the parents/carers who attended our Macmillan coffee morning or very kindly donated cakes. Thanks also to our fabulous Y5/6 School Council members for helping.



BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will take place 10th-13th October. Pupils can purchase books in the studio between 3.15 -3.40pm. (Please make your way to the Studio via the front entrance once you have collected your children at the end of the day).

PTA FILM NIGHT

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

NON - CONTACT BOXING WORKSHOP

Unfortunately, due to last minute sickness, Progressive Sports were unable to provide the non-contact boxing session for each of our Key Stage 2 classes. We are hoping to get this session rearranged as soon as possible with an alternative provider.

FLU VACCINATIONS - Friday 25th November

Leicestershire School Nursing Team will be administering the flu immunisation on Friday 25th November to all pupils from EYFS to Y6 whose parents have given consent.

STAFFING NEWS

As you will be aware, Miss Webster will be taking her maternity leave very shortly, with Miss Farrar set to join her from 11th November. Mrs Shields will be acting SENDCO during this time. Please contact her directly for any queries you may have.

Due to personal circumstances, Governors have agreed to Mrs Shields' application to work a four day week, initially until the end of the Autumn Term. On a Friday therefore, the school will be managed by Mr Patching (Deputy Headteacher), supported by Mr Cooper (Assistant Headteacher).

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Congratulations to Holly who was voted in by pupils as this year's School Council President. She will be ably supported by her Vice-Presidents, Ollie and Kara.

DONINGTON DYNAMO SCIENCE WORKSHOP

Very well done to the pupils who took part in a Donington Dynamos Science Workshop with Miss Hudspith. They had great fun exploring forces through the construction of moving fairground rides.



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 are spending a lot of time booking in meals for children on a Monday morning which is taking them away from being able to complete important admin jobs. Thank you.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

To celebrate National Grandparents Day, pupils brought their grandparents to school for the afternoon on 3rd October! It was great to see lots of visitors back in Orchard once again.

YEAR 5 RECORDERS

Class 8 are loving their recorder lessons with Brendon from Midland Music.



Brendon is also able to offer private piano lessons during school hours on (Tuesday and Wednesday) and guitar lessons (Wednesday). Please contact Midland Music directly: Tel. 01332 314 055.

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 !



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 brilliantly into their new classes. 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' and Dough Disco are proving to be big hits, as is the outdoor learning environment.



PUPIL LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

House Captains have been elected! Congratulations to the following pupils: Marwa & Alexis (McLeans); Sophie & Lily (Wheatcroft); Ava & Dylan (Redgate) and Macey & Isabel (Coppice) who will be helping to organise House Competitions, such as the Spellathon and Sports Day.

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

Saturday 10th September was our annual Cross Country event at Prestwold Hall. Twenty two children from Year 3-6 took part. They were all amazing and an absolute credit to the school. Special congratulations to Finn who came 9th out of 120 children for Year 3. We're back again on Saturday 29th October.

Tuesday 27th September was the Year 5/6 girls' football tournament at Charnwood College. Eleven girls were picked to represent Orchard School. Over two hundred girls took part in Charnwood's biggest girls' football tournament! Orchard girls won their group winning 3 out of 4 games, before going head to head in the quarter finals against St Mary's and winning 4-0. We now have to return back to Charnwood College on 1st November for the semi-finals and hopefully into the finals!!

Our boys' football squad are due to play at a later date.

All of our pupils have shown incredible determination and we are exceptionally proud of our squads for their super attitudes and excellent efforts.



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

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 may get a bit muddy! Please ensure property is labelled.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS - W.B 10th October

We very much hope that you find the conversation with your child's class teacher useful, and that you will be 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 a huge amount of items in lost property. It also takes staff extra time to try to reunite none-labelled property with their owners.

Lost Property is located in the disabled toilet cubicle. Thank you.

HALLOWEEN DRESSING UP DAY

To raise money for School Council projects, pupils have asked (well, begged actually!) to have a Halloween dressing up day. Therefore, for a 50p donation (bucket collection at drop-off), on Friday 28th 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.

Pupils who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day. 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.

GENERAL REMINDERS ...

MESSAGING VIA CLASS DOJO

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. evenings, weekends and published school holidays).

I would also politely ask that Dojo messages are limited to 'essential' messages please - for example, upper KS2 pupils should be reminded to look for a lost jumper themselves, rather than this becoming a task for staff.

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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

ARMISTICE DAY ACTIVITIES

To acknowledge Armistice Day, we will be holding a special 'discovery afternoon' on Friday 11th 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 2022

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 **Monday 14th 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 18th November**. For a donation of 50p School Council members are inviting pupils to wear non-uniform with a 'Shine Bright' theme. (Bright, colourful clothing). 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.**

There will be buckets for pupils to put their money into when they arrive at school.

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.