



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2023

Dear Parents,

It continues to be a hugely successful Autumn Term at Orchard. The staff remain exceptionally impressed with pupils' positive attitudes, their respectful behaviour and the level of pride they are taking in their work. Staff, as always, have been absolutely outstanding in their determination to deliver exciting learning experiences and wider curriculum opportunities for our children. We've been especially pleased to be able to continue to broaden our range of visitors and clubs. As always, thank you for your ongoing support, especially with homework and reading. It makes such a difference.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### 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.



### WW2 DAY AT BEAUMANOR

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.

### 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 Archaeologist 'mantle' (role play) where they travelled back in time to explore Ancient Egypt. Thank you to the Hobgoblin Theatre Company for running the drama workshops and putting on a super performance of 'The Curse of the Mummy'.

### SPORTING NEWS

A fantastic festival of football saw the Orchard Y5/6 Boys' Team produce some excellent performances against strong competition, winning the final on penalties. We were very impressed with the boys' energy, enthusiasm and teamwork.



Very well done to the Sports Ambassadors who represented the school at the Charnwood Sports Leader Training Day. They will continue to run activities at lunchtimes with pupils in KS1 and Y3/4.

### HALLOWEEN THEME DAY

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



### FOOD BANK

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

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

As well as our fantastic after-school sports clubs, run by staff in our Sports Leadership Team, pupils have also been very busy at lunchtime developing their talents and learning new skills.

Children in KS2 are loving learning how to use British sign language in a club run by Miss Walters.

Choir is sounding brilliant with Mrs Wood teaching pupils carols in readiness for a couple of special events coming up in December.

Mr Owen's 'Outdoor Experts' have been busy looking after the environment and last half-term, Mrs McGraivie's Art Club produced some fantastic paintings and drawings.

Thursday's Percussion Club is proving to be very popular, and we're delighted that so many individuals have taken up instrument lessons this year.

If you feel you could run a club for us, don't hesitate to get in touch!

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2023

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 17th November. To join in with the National Anti-bullying Alliance campaign, pupils are invited to wear their 'Odd Socks' on Friday in order to express themselves and celebrate their individuality!

## RELISH

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding our new lunch provider - Relish. We're so glad that pupils are enjoying the new menus and the fantastic food on offer. Thanks to our wonderful kitchen team for all of their hard work.



## BOOK FAIR

Thank you to all of our families who supported the Book Fair. We sold £657 of books which resulted in the school receiving hundreds of pounds back in commission. Mr Cooper will therefore be able to choose lots of new books for pupils across the whole school which will be finding their way onto bookshelves shortly.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY & ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

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

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

## PTA & PARENTAL SUPPORT - THANK YOU!

Thank you for helping the PTA to raise lots of money for new resources ... some super outdoor play equipment for EYFS, new benches for KS1 and KS2, i-pad cases, immersive experience headsets, 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.

## 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. Please encourage your child to login at home, least 3 times a week.

## CHILDREN IN NEED

A reminder that our Children in Need Day is on Friday 17th November. The theme is 'Wear your PJs/ Onesie for a 50p donation. Pupils who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day.

## KS1 SATS

The DfE has announced that assessments at the end of KS1 are non-statutory from the academic year 2023 to 2024. The reception baseline assessment will replace the end of KS1 assessments as the baseline for cohort level primary progress measures.

Whilst the government will be producing optional test material, there is no requirement to use these, or report results to parents or local authorities.

As such, pupils in Year 2 at Orchard, will no longer sit 'official' SATS tests - they will complete termly test papers (NTS) in Reading and Maths, in line with pupils in Y1,3,4 & 5.

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTS SALE - Thursday 7th December

To raise funds for the School Council, Y5/Y6 pupils will be making a number of Christmas and winter themed crafts and food items to sell to all pupils on **Thursday 7th December**. All items will be priced at 50p each; pupils are invited to bring in money on the day if they would like to take part.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER AND 'JUMPER' DAY

All pupils will have their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 19th 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 / any 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.)

## 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 for two weeks from **Monday 11th December** with the final draw being held on **Friday 22nd December**.

Over the two weeks, tickets will be on sale on the following days:

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

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

## DIARY DATES

- Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day. W/B Mon13th - Fri 17th Nov
- Friday 17th Nov Children in Need
- Thurs 7th Dec UKS2 Christmas Enterprise Scheme & PTA Film Night
- Monday 11th Dec - Santa Dash
- EYFS Nativity – Tues 13th December
- Wednesday 13th Dec - KS1 Carol Concert (Y1&2)
- Thursday 14th December - LKS2 Carol concert (Y3&4)
- Fri 15th Dec – Hobgoblin Theatre Group 2-3pm & Ice Cream Sale
- Monday 18th December - Carols in the Community 5-6.30pm (Choir)
- Tuesday 19th December - Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
- Christmas Parties (afternoons bar EYFS): Mon 19th LKS2 Wed 20th KS1 Thurs a.m. 21st EYFS Fri 22nd UKS2
- School closes Friday 22nd December & Progress Checks Out
- School opens Monday 8th January

## CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES/EVENTS

All events will take place in school:

- EYFS Nativity Tuesday 12th December 2-3pm
- KS1 Carol Concert Wednesday 13th December 9.15-10.15am & 2-3pm (more info to follow)
- Classes 5,6 & 7 'Celebration of Christmas' event Thursday 14th December 6-7pm (more info to follow)

## ICE-CREAM SALE - Friday 15th December

Pupils will be treated to a pantomime performed by the Hobgoblin Theatre Group on the afternoon of 15.12.23. As a treat, we will be selling ice-creams for £1.

## 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 11th 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 22nd 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)