



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2023

Dear Parents,

Thanks to everyone (parents/carers and staff) for their involvement in both the recent parents' evenings as well as our Y2/6 SATS information meetings. It was also lovely to see so many parents/carers in school to take part in an end of day story session on World Book Day – a super chance to read alongside your child at school and share some of their favourite books. Your children continue to do you proud.

Have a super Easter everyone - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

INSPIRATION DAYS

The Vikings invaded Orchard as LKS2 took part in a very lively Inspiration Day, which included the use of our Now Press Play Headsets.



'Adventure is Out There' for KS1. Pupils had great fun exploring the school grounds through a variety of orienteering activities! Searching for 25 'flags' with numbers/letters on, pupils had to use the clues to work out anagrams for different methods of transport. Later on, they used QR codes and researched famous explorers on the iPads.

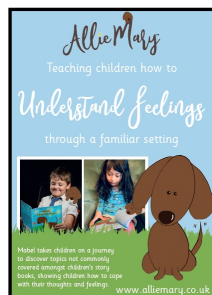
BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 10th-19th March

This year's theme was 'Connections'. Pupils participated in a range of activities, either throughout the week, or blocked into a whole day where they explored the theme.

Thank you to Mr Caldwell for an exciting Science assembly to launch the week.

AUTHOR VISIT

It was lovely to have author Allie-Mary and her dog, Mable, visit EYFS and KS1 to share her wonderful books with us.



WORLD BOOK DAY

There were lots of great activities to celebrate World Book Day including the Masked Reader, Book Bingo and the BBC's 'Teach Live' session. What a great way to support children in developing their love of books and creating a positive attitude towards reading. Thank you to Mr Cooper for organising events in school.

CLUBS

Our new KS1 Animal Care Club is proving to be a big hit!



Radio Club have been busy writing material for their new show which is being recorded next week. It will include news reports, feature items and book reviews all then edited and put together by Y5/6 technicians!

Sign Language Club have been recapping the signs they learnt in the Autumn (the alphabet, fingerspelling and greetings), and are now learning colours, numbers and some simple conversations! It is a great way for the children to develop their communication skills.

In Origami club Year 5 and 6 children have been practicing folding techniques and learning to make animals and flowers. The children are also strengthening their character muscles; concentration, listening, independence, and resilience.



CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Tickets for the Easter raffle will be available to purchase in school from **Monday 20th March**.

A member of staff will visit classrooms to sell the tickets at 50p each. Children can bring money in to buy tickets on their specific days:

EYFS & KS1 - Mondays & Wednesdays

KS2 - Tuesdays & Thursdays

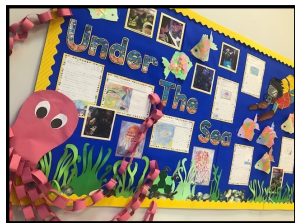
The raffle will be drawn on Friday 31st March (last day of term).

REMINDER: Y6 SATS WEEK (Tuesday 9th May – Friday 12th May 2023)

Year 6 will be taking their SATS tests throughout the week. Full attendance in the morning sessions will be very important please. Children are preparing for these important tests currently. Your help and support with any revision tasks sent home is greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL IS LOOKING LOVELY ...

Thank you so much to the staff for taking such pride in showing off the children's work.



COMIC RELIEF

Thanks for your support with our 'dress yourself silly' fundraising day. There were some absolutely ingenious ideas.

SAFGUARDING

As a reminder, if you have any concerns about a child's welfare or safety, please contact one of the school's Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Shields, Mrs Daft, Mr Patching or Mr Cooper.

STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Westfield will be leaving Orchard at the end of this half-term. We wish her well for the future.

SAVE THE CHILDREN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Thank you for supporting this fundraiser - we raised £297.60 for the Save the Children Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal.

LOCKDOWN

Pupils had lots of positive feedback regarding how much they had enjoyed practicing our lockdown procedure and being 'silent ninjas'. We were exceptionally proud of how brilliant they were in making the drill a huge success.

REMINDER: YEAR 2 SATS TESTS

Pupils in Year 2 will be sitting their SATS tests week beginning 15th May.

PTA - SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to the PTA for providing the refreshments for Film Night and for organising the Mother's Day event. A reminder that the PTA Spring Disco will be taking place on Friday 24th March.

TWITTER ACCOUNT

We'd love to get a few more followers: our school Twitter account is @OrchardPSLeics.

PROGRESS CHECK REPORTS

Progress Check Reports for the Spring Term will be sent out on Friday 31st March. We hope that you will find these reports about attainment, behaviour and attendance useful and informative.

HAPPY LUNCHTIMES

Thank you to Mrs Marcer for leading our Happy Lunchtimes initiatives with KS1. Pupils are having a lovely time participating in a range of varied activities. The 'Reading Shed' is proving to be very popular!



ANIMAL ADOPTION UPDATE!

Following their extraordinary fundraising efforts, some of the money raised by UKS2 has been used to adopt an animal for each class for a whole year:

Class 10 & 8 – Elephant

Class 9 – Rhino

Class 5, 6, 7 – Orangutan (one for each class)

Class 1, 2, 3, 4 – Turtle (one for each class)

EYFS – Panda and Polar Bear (one for each group)

HOUSE SPELLATHON - FRIDAY 31ST MARCH

Pupils will be taking part in a Spellathon on **Friday 31st March**. Mr Cooper has sent out a separate letter regarding this event and each child has been given an appropriate word list.

There's no pressure to get every spelling correct - we're just encouraging the children to learn as many spellings as they personally can manage in order to get points for their House Team. We just want every pupil to have a go. Some of the words will be from lists learnt previously so it's good revision too!

The points will be collected for each House Team and the winners awarded with a special treat or Golden Afternoon.

TIMES TABLE-ATHON/ROCK STAR DRESSING UP DAY

Whilst the children regularly practise rapid recall of times tables up to 12 X 12 in school, we thought it would be great fun to have a Times-Table-A-Thon in House Groups as part of a special 'Times Table Rockstar Day' to be held on **Friday 28th April**.

The children will be taking part in a variety of musical themed activities to get them thinking about how they can use mathematical concepts in a variety of real-life situations.

To make the day even more fun, we're inviting pupils to dress up as 'Rockstars'! No expensive costumes needed - jeans/leggings and a top will be fine. Inflatable guitars are optional!

Each child will be given specific times tables to learn which they will bring home for you to see. Their homework will be based on times tables and there will be lots of activities in school prior to the event to help them practice.

On 28th April, they will have a low-key 'quiz' to see how many questions they can answer correctly. The points will be collected for each House Team and the winners awarded with a special treat or Golden Afternoon.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Class photographs will be taking place on Friday 5th May.

The date for the Y6 Leavers' Assembly has been changed to the last day of term rather than the Friday before. The assembly/UKS2 performance will now take place on the morning of Wednesday 12th July.

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

Please inform staff in the main office of any pupil absence so that a reason for absence can be recorded. Thank you.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 21st March - World Poetry Day & Orchard 'Poetry-Off'

Thursday 23rd March - Hobgoblin Theatre Company in for Y5/6 'Perseus & Medusa'

Friday 24th March: PTA Spring Disco

Tues 28th & Wed 29th March: Y3 Residential Visit

Friday 31st March: Easter Raffle & School closes

Monday 17th April: School opens

Monday 24th April: LKS2 Author Visit

Friday 28th April : Times Tables Rock Stars Day

Monday 1st May: Bank Holiday

Thursday 4th May: King's Coronation Celebration Day

Friday 5th May: Class Photos

Monday 8th May: Bank Holiday

Tuesday 9th-Friday 12th May: Y6 SATS week

WB 15th May: KS1 SATS Week

Friday 26th May: School closes

Monday 5th June: School opens

Tuesday 6th June: Y6 Dental Survey

Thursday 15th June: Sports Day

Friday 16th June: UKS2 Enterprise Day

WB. 19th June: UKS2 Wow Week

Friday 23rd June: Annual Reports sent out

Friday 30th June: Whole school transition morning & PTA Summer disco

Wednesday 5th July: Parents' Evening

Friday 7th July: Character Awards Assemblies

Wednesday 12th July: Leavers' Assembly & School closes

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We will be sending out our annual parents' questionnaire on the first day of term after the Easter break. The link will be posted on Class Dojo.

We see the partnership with parents as crucially important and therefore very much value your opinions and comments regarding your general experiences of the school.

The questions are based on OFSTED's Parent View, with an opportunity to elaborate further for some answers. The deadline for responses is Tuesday 2nd May 2023. Thank you.