ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2026

Dear Parents,

It continues to be a hugely successful Autumn Term at Orchard. As well as running several special theme days this month, we have also been delighted to welcome a number of visitors into school to enhance the children's learning. 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

BOOK FAIR—WOW! THANK YOU…

Thank you to all of our families who supported the Book Fair. We sold £1302.12 of books which has resulted in the school receiving £733 back in commission. We will therefore be choosing lots of new books for pupils across the whole school which will be finding their way onto bookshelves shortly.

HALLOWEEN THEME DAY

A spookily good day was had by all! Thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraising event. We made just over £200 which will go towards further enrichment activities.

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 on 11th November.

Thank you to all those pupils and parents who have already purchased poppy related products from the Royal British Legion collection. These items are still available until 11th November.

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

We are continuing to have a huge push on pupils learning multiplication facts, especially in Year 4 and 6. 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.

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.

FOREST SCHOOL UPDATE

Our Forest School sessions continue to provide wonderful opportunities for children to explore, discover and learn in the great outdoors. From investigating the natural environment to developing teamwork, resilience and independence, children are building confidence and learning valuable skills through hands-on experiences. We are so proud of the enthusiasm and sense of adventure our children bring to every session.





ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2026

For 2026, the Anti-Bullying Alliance's theme is "Break the Silence", running from Monday 16 to Friday 20 November, with **Odd Socks Day on 16 November.**

As well as a special afternoon exploring this term's character value of compassion, pupils will explore the this year's anti-bullying theme through two special assemblies which encourages children to speak up, listen to others and take action together.

ROAD SAFETY WEEK1 - 5 to 21 November 2026

This month, we will be recognising Road Safety Week and reminding our children about the importance of staying safe on and around our roads. Through discussions and assemblies, pupils will be learning about safe places to cross, the importance of stopping, looking and listening, and how to stay alert near traffic. We are particularly reminding pupils about the need to wear helmets when cycling. We encourage all families to reinforce these important messages when walking, cycling or travelling to and from school. Together, we can help keep everyone safe!

CHRISTMAS ENTERPRISE SCHEME - Thursday 10th Dec

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 10th December.** All items will be priced from 50p each; pupils are invited to bring 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 15th 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/PE uniform.)

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

We will be running our annual chocolate raffle again this year. Tickets, which cost 50p each, will be going on sale for two weeks from **Monday 7th December** with the final draw being held on **Thursday 17th December.**

DIARY DATES

Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day - Monday, Nov 16th to Friday, Nov 20th. (Odd Socks – 16th)

Friday 13th Nov - Children in Need

Wed 2nd December - Y2 Scootability & Y6 Gearing You UP workshops

Thurs 3rd December - Y2 Tamworth Castle visit & PTA Festive Film Night

Fri 4th December—Y1 Tamworth Castle visit

Mon 7th December - Santa Dash

Tues 8th December - KS1 Carol Concert

Wed 9th December - EYFS Nativity

Thurs 10th December - LKS2 Carol Concert

Thurs 10th December - UKS2 Christmas Enterprise Scheme

Friday 11th December - Online pantomime & Ice Cream Sale

Mon 15th December Choir: Carols in the Community 5-6.30pm

Tues 15th December - Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas Dinner)

Christmas Parties (afternoons bar EYFS): Mon 14th KS1 Wed 16th LKS2 Thurs 17th UKS2 Fri 18th a.m. EYFS

Friday 18th December - School closes

Monday 4th January - School opens

Friday 22nd January - KS1 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

WB 1st - 7th February Children's Mental Health Week

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES/EVENTS

All events will take place in school:

- EYFS Nativity Wednesday 9th December 2.15pm – 3:00pm. Doors open 2.00pm.
- KS1 Carol Concert Tuesday 8th December 9:15am – 10:00am. Doors open 9:00am **OR** 2.15pm – 3:00pm Doors open 2.00pm.
- Y3&4 'Celebration of Christmas' event Thursday 10th December 9.15-10.00am. Doors open 9.00am **OR** 2.15-3pm. Doors open 2.00pm.

ICE-CREAM SALE - Friday 11th December

Pupils will be treated to an online pantomime on the afternoon of Friday 11th December. We will be selling ice-creams for £1. Parents can order these via School Money.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Pupils will have Christmas parties in their phase groups . **Children 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 7th 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 **Thursday 17th December**. These brief reports provide on-going information about your child's achievements against end of year targets, 'Age Related Expectations', their progress, learning attitudes and attendance.

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 by 7.30am at the latest via:

- School text messaging service
- School website and social media