



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2025

Dear Parents,

School has been a lively and exciting place to be this term. We've enjoyed welcoming many visitors and taking part in a variety of trips and local community events. A huge thank-you goes to our staff for their incredible effort in organising these activities—they have truly gone above and beyond in recent months. Well done also to our pupils for their enthusiasm and positive attitude towards learning; they've certainly earned a well-deserved break!

Wishing you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### STAFFING UPDATE

After 13 years working as a TA at Orchard, Miss Hull will be leaving this month due to personal circumstances. She'll be very much missed - her hard work has been much appreciated.

### AUTUMNAL ADVENTURES AT FOREST SCHOOL

This term, our Forest School sessions have been bursting with autumnal magic! The children have loved exploring the changing woodland—crunching through leaves, spotting fungi, and discovering how nature prepares for the colder months ahead.

We've been learning new outdoor skills too, from building shelters and creating natural art with conkers, sticks, and colourful leaves, to practising teamwork and problem-solving in our woodland games.

Forest School continues to nurture curiosity, confidence, and a deep respect for the natural world. A huge thank you to our staff who help make these sessions so special.

Here's to more muddy boots, rosy cheeks, and woodland wonders as the seasons continue!

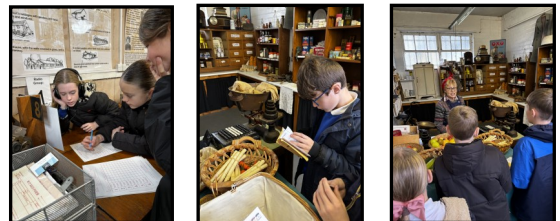


### CHOIR VISIT TO THE LOCAL CARE HOME

Choir were a credit to the school and sang beautifully. Thank you to Mrs Wood for running this club.

### WW2 DAY AT BEAUMANOR

Y5&6 had a fantastic WW2 day at Beaumanor Hall. 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.



### CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone who joined in with our 'Shine Children in Need fundraising day.

### LOST PROPERTY

We have a huge amount of found clothing/personal items in the Lost Property basket located in the disabled toilet. Parents are therefore invited to check the Lost Property tub for themselves at drop off/ collection times. We can't stress enough the importance of labelling your child's belongings.

### REMINDER: We are no longer using Class Dojo.

For urgent messages: please phone the school office to ensure a timely response.

For general messages: we would ask that you email the school office who will forward your email correspondence to the relevant staff. We ask that parents/carers bear in mind that an immediate response cannot be expected due to teaching commitments, but staff will endeavour to reply to your enquiry within 48 hours (working days only).

## R

### EMINDER: ENTERPRISE SCHEME - Thursday 11th 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 11th December**. All items will be priced from 50p—£1 each; pupils are invited to bring money on the day if they would like to take part.

### REMINDER: CHRISTMAS DINNER AND 'JUMPER' DAY

All pupils will have their Christmas dinner on Tuesday 16th December, there is a 3 choice menu or alternatively children can bring in a home pack 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.)

### REMINDER: CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Tickets, which cost 50p each, are going on sale for two weeks from **Monday 8th December** with the final draw being held on **Friday 19th December**.

#### DIARY DATES

- Mon 8th Dec - Santa Dash
- Tues 9th Dec- KS1 Carol Concert
- Wed 10th Dec - EYFS Nativity
- Thurs 11th Dec- LKS2 Carol Concert
- Thurs 11th Dec - UKS2 Christmas Enterprise Scheme
- Mon 15th Dec Choir: Carols in the Community 5-6.30pm
- Tues 16th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas Dinner)
- Christmas Parties (afternoons bar EYFS): Mon 15th KS1, Wed 17th LKS2, Thurs 18th UKS2 , Fri 19th a.m. EYFS.
- School closes Friday 19th December
- Monday 5th January - School opens
- Tuesday 13th January - choir at Young Voices, Birmingham
- Thursday 29th January - PTA Film Night
- 9th - 13th February- Children's Mental Health Week
- Monday 9th February 3.30-6.30 Parents' Evening
- Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
- Thursday 12th February - Parents' Evening 4-6pm
- Friday 13th February - School closes

### REMINDER: CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES/EVENTS

All events will take place in school:

- EYFS Nativity Wednesday 10th December 2-3pm
- KS1 Carol Concert Tuesday 9th December 9.15-10.15am & 2-3pm
- Y3&4 'Celebration of Christmas' event Thursday 11th December 9.15-10.15am & 2-3pm

### REMINDER: Pantomime - Friday 12th December

Pupils will be treated to a pantomime on the afternoon of Friday 12th December. Where they will receive their pre ordered ice cream/dairy free alternative.

### REMINDER: 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 8th 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 18th 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.

### REMINDER: SEVERE WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE

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 and social media
- On local radio (Radio Leicester (104.9FM) Leicester Sound (105.4FM) Capital FM