



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2025

Dear Parents,

It continues to be a hugely successful Autumn Term at Orchard. As well as running 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

STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Miss Tisdell who got married during half-term. She will now be Mrs Wood-Brown. We are also delighted to announce that Miss Farrar and her partner have had a healthy baby boy, Arthur-Jude.

HALLOWEEN THEME DAY

A spookily good day was had by all! Thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraising event. We made just over £131 which will go towards further enrichment activities.

REMEMBRANCE DAY & ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

To acknowledge Armistice Day, pupils took part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance. Thank you to all those pupils and parents who purchased poppy related products from the Royal British Legion collection.

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

We would like 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.



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 developing their talents in the Arts world. Choir is sounding brilliant with Mrs Wood teaching pupils carols in readiness for a couple of special events coming up in December. Sam Higgins' Percussion Club and Rock Band is proving to be very popular; we're delighted that so many individuals have taken up instrument lessons this year.

HELLO YELLOW - YOUNG MINDS WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY FUNDRAISER

We made just over £214. Thank you for helping us to raise vital funds and show young people they're not alone.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2025

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, pupils took part in a number of activities with kindness as the main theme. As well as wearing their odd socks to express themselves and celebrate their individuality, pupils were also treated to a special assembly led by Mrs Wood and the ABA Team (Anti-bullying Ambassadors.)

BOOK FAIR—WOW! THANK YOU...

Thank you to all of our families who supported the Book Fair. We sold £1333,42 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.

CHRISTMAS 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 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 16th 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 8th December** with the final draw being held on **Friday 19th December**.

DIARY DATES

- Friday 14th Nov - Children in Need
 - Thurs 4th December - PTA Festive Film Night
 - Mon 8th December - Santa Dash
 - Tues 9th December - KS1 Carol Concert
 - Wed 10th December - EYFS Nativity
 - Thurs 11th December - LKS2 Carol Concert
 - Thurs 11th Dec ember - UKS2 Christmas Enterprise Scheme
 - Friday 12th December—Whole School Pantomime
 - 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
 - Wednesday 28th January— Reception + Year 6 Height and Weight
 - 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

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

ICE-CREAM SALE - Friday 12th December

Pupils will be treated to a pantomime on the afternoon of Friday 12th December. As a treat, we will be selling ice-creams for £1. Parents can order and pay for 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 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.

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