



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2024

Dear Parents,

School continues to be a very busy and exciting place to be this term. We have welcomed lots of visitors into school and have had a number of school trips and outings to local community events. As always, thank you to the staff for their hard work in organising these events. They have truly gone above and beyond in recent months. Well done to pupils for their positive attitudes to learning—they are certainly ready for a break! I hope you and your family have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

KS1 TAMWORTH CASTLE VISIT

Pupils in Year 1 and 2 had a wonderful time at Tamworth Castle. Using a selection of replica historical items, the children helped prepare the dining table for the Lord and Lady of the castle and explored the differences between rich and poor, then and now, continuity and change.

As well as learning about the Castle as a defensive structure, they also learnt about who would have lived at the Castle and what it took to be a squire/knight in the medieval times.

CHILDREN IN NEED

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



SPACE CENTRE

Pupils from classes 7,8 and 9 had a super visit to the National Space Centre. As well as visiting the planetarium they also enjoyed lots of hands on learning during their exploration of the exhibits inside the centre.

TRENT COLLEGE CHRISTMAS TREE COMPETITION

The winners of the Trent College STEM Christmas tree challenge were presented with their certificates in a special assembly.

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.

PE UNIFORM

A polite reminder that PE uniform consists of navy blue jogging bottoms and a navy blue sweatshirt, with or without the school logo. A small number of pupils are wearing leggings, sports branded tops or T-shirts rather than the standard 'kit'. Whilst we appreciate there may be the need for a one-off uniform deviation, these items should not be regularly worn for school please.

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.

SPORTING NEWS

Our boys performed admirably in pretty awful weather conditions at the County Champs football at Evington.

We were very proud of their team spirit.



AIR AMBULANCE ASSEMBLY

Thank you to everyone for supporting this event, we raised £158.48. We had a great assembly from Vicki, who spoke to the children about the vital work that the Air Ambulance do.



REMINDER: CHRISTMAS CRAFTS SALE - Thursday 12th 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 12th December**. Items will be priced from 50p to £1 each; pupils are invited to bring in 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 17th December. **There will be a choice of a Traditional Turkey Roast, Vegetable Tart or Pigs in Blankets Hot Dog. Children not having a school 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.)

REMINDER: CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

We will be running our annual chocolate raffle again this year. We have already had a lot of donations from local businesses such is its popularity! Tickets, which cost 50p each, will be on sale for two weeks from **Monday 2nd December** with the final draw being held on **Monday 16th December**.

Tickets can be purchased on Eduspot/School Money for 50p each or £2.50 per strip. If you wish to use cash, please call in at the office either at the beginning or end of the day. Workhouse Gym & One Connectivity have kindly donated a selection box to every child in school.

DIARY DATES

- Monday 9th December - Santa Dash
- Tuesday 10th December - KS1 Carol Concert
- Wednesday 11th December - EYFS Nativity
- Thursday 12th December - LKS2 Carol Concert
- Thursday 12th December UKS2 Christmas Enterprise Scheme
- Monday 16th Choir: Carols in the Community 5.00-6.30pm
- Tuesday 17th - Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas Dinner)
- Christmas Parties (afternoons bar EYFS): Mon 16th KS1
Wed 18th LKS2 Thurs 19th UKS2 Fri 20th a.m. EYFS
- Thursday 19th December—Progress Checks out
- Fri 20th Dec - Theatre 2-3pm & Ice Cream Sale
- Friday 20th December - School closes
- Monday 6th January - School opens
- Monday 13th January-Y2 visit to the Sea Life Centre, Birmingham

REMINDER: CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES/EVENTS

All events will take place in school:

- EYFS Nativity Wednesday 11th December 2-3pm
- KS1 Carol Concert Tuesday 10th December 9.15-10.15am & 2-3pm
- Y3&4 'Celebration of Christmas' event Thursday 12th December 9.15-10.15am & 2-3pm

REMINDER: ICE-CREAM SALE - Friday 20th December

Pupils will be treated to a pantomime performed by the Aesop's Theatre Group on the afternoon of Friday 20th December. As a treat, we will be selling ice-creams for £1.

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.

REMINDER: SANTA DASH

Weather permitting, pupils will be completing a 1 mile Santa Dash on **Monday 9th 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'.**

REMINDER: PROGRESS CHECKS

Progress checks will be sent out via pupil post on **Thursday 19th 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 7.15 - 7.30 am via the school text messaging service. There are a number of other ways you can find out if we've had to close the school or part of it:

- School website & Class Dojo
- On local radio (Radio Leicester (104.9FM) Leicester Sound (105.4FM) Capital FM)