



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2024

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, including the Fire Rescue Service and Birds on the Hand. We've been especially pleased to have broadened our range of visitors and clubs this term. 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

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.



HALLOWEEN THEME DAY

A spookily good day was had by all! Thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraising event. We made £156.54, 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, at least 3 times a week.

PARKING ON ZIG-ZAG LINES

Please could I politely request that parents do not drop their children off on the zig-zag lines. Parking on zig-zag lines outside schools is dangerous for children and other road users as it blocks the view for pedestrians and approaching traffic. Thank you for your understanding.

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.

Benaberry Club pupils have been getting crafty in a club run by one of our parents. Huge thanks to her for the amazing activities and super resources that have been introduced to our children.



If you feel you could run a club for us, don't hesitate to get in touch!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024

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.)

REMINDER: PTA Festive Film Night Thursday 5th December

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**. All items will be priced from 50p each; pupils are invited to bring in 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 17th 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 uniform.)

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 going on sale for two weeks from **Monday 2nd December** with the final draw being held on **Monday 16th December**.

Tickets will be on sale on Eduspot, if you wish to pay cash please pop by the school office.

DIARY DATES

- Tues 26th Nov - UKS2 Visit to the National Space Centre
- Wednesday 4th December - Rock Band/Drum performance 2.45pm concert with parents
- Thursday 5th December - PTA Festive Film Night
- 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 December - Choir: Carols in the Community 5.00-6.30pm
- Tuesday 17th December - Christmas Jumper Day (Christmas Dinner)
- Christmas Parties (afternoons bar EYFS): Mon 16th KS1 Wed 18th LKS2 Thurs 19th UKS2 Fri 20th a.m. EYFS
- Fri 20th December - Theatre 2-3pm & Ice Cream Sale
- School closes Friday 20th December & progress checks out

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

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.

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 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'.**

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 7.30 -7.45am. 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 & Class Dojo
- On local radio (Radio Leicester (104.9FM) Leicester Sound (105.4FM) Capital FM