



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2018

Dear Parents,

It is the end of a very busy and exciting half-term, which has seen pupils produce some super work, particularly in relation to History, Science and Geography. Thank you so much for supporting your child's learning at home - especially with some of the super model making in upper Key Stage 2 - it makes such a difference. Thanks also to all of the staff who have worked exceptionally hard to ensure that pupils have had exciting, positive and productive learning experiences since August.

I hope you and your family have a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

AN AWESOME DAY OF LEARNING

To remind pupils of the importance we place on developing 'character', the school ran a special Character Education Discovery Day towards the end of November.

Working in mixed aged groups, pupils took part in a range of activities to develop their skills and personal attributes across several fantastic learning zones including:

The Hut of Happiness (Happiness & Positive Attitude)

The Cabin of Creativity (Creativity, Imagination & Reflection)

The Den of Determination (Determination, Grit & Perseverance)

Classrooms of Listening & Concentration

The Hut of Happiness in Mrs Godsell's classroom for example was a chance for pupils to develop a positive attitude, to laugh and have fun! Activities included a props photo booth and an art activity involving The Pig of Happiness!

The Cabin of Creativity enabled pupils to create 'Character Binoculars' to spot important traits such as teamwork, problem-solving and perseverance.

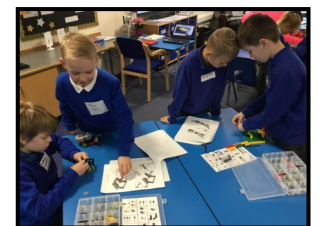


There were several Dens of Determination where pupils tackled a number of tasks based on developing problem solving, perseverance and determination. The tower building activity in Mr Cooper's classroom proved to be particularly challenging!



Many classrooms required pupils to concentrate - remembering a pathway across a 10x10 giant grid in the studio was a real brain teaser, as was walking blindfolded across a wooden bench.

The Bricks for Kidz Lego workshop proved to be a massive hit as well! There was lots of teamwork, collaboration and creative thinking in evidence. The moving models that pupils made were fantastic.



What was wonderful to hear were pupils using the language of character; explaining to staff for example how they were going to persevere and stay positive!

With such good character traits becoming embedded in our pupils, they are truly on the road to academic and personal success – well done kids!

SCHOOL CHOIR

We were exceptionally proud of the School Choir, who visited the Church Hall last week to sing to some very special ladies and gentlemen, including Laura, who was 100 years old. As well as singing some modern songs, pupils ended with a real favourite, 'We'll Meet Again'.

DEFIBRILATOR

I am pleased to inform you that the defibrillator and outside storage box has been ordered and will be delivered to school in the New Year. Thank you to all those parents who contributed money to the fund.

AUTHOR VISIT

We were delighted to welcome local author Rachel Greaves into assembly to perform some of her exciting new children's stories using puppets and props.

Rachel is well known for writing and illustrating a series of books about an Airedale Terrier called Ruffle and his adventures on a steam railway.

Pupils very much enjoyed the performance and the opportunity to talk to Rachel about her work. Some pupils also purchased signed copies of the books afterwards - a unique and special memento of Rachel's visit.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BANK COLLECTION

If you would like to donate any items to the local branch of the Long Eaton & Sawley Christmas Food-bank Collection, please send them into the school office during December.

REMINDER: NON-UNIFORM DAYS

- **TOMBOLA ITEM TRADE OFF!!**

In return for bringing in a donation for the PA Family Night (a 'bottle', chocolate, biscuits, a filled sweetie cup) pupils will be allowed to wear non-uniform on Monday 10th December.

- **SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

Friday 14th December (50P donation to wear non-uniform). Get those snazzy jumpers ready!

SPORTING NEWS

We are so proud of all the children who have taken part in the recent tri-golf tournaments.

Both the Y3/4 and Y5/6 teams came in first place! Moreover our pupils' behaviour was exemplary and they took part with wonderful team spirit. The teams will now go forward to represent Charnwood in the School Games Final.

We're also very proud of our Year 4 girls for coming 3rd in the County Cross Country event at Prestwold.



On another positive note, pupils in classes 2,3,4 and 5 experienced the joy that is Glow in the Dark Dodgeball a few weeks ago.

As well as having a super sporting experience, the coach described our children as the most well behaved he's ever worked with. Brilliant!

OPS RADIO IS UP AND RUNNING!

The newly refurbished radio room was christened with a wonderful interview with Jonathan Meres, author of the 'World of Norm' books.

The OPS Radio Team researched some super questions to ask their special visitor, and the interview went brilliantly. We are very much looking forward to seeing which other celebrities will grace the studio this year!

REMINDER: SCHOOL CLOSURE

If the school is closed due to adverse weather conditions, parents will be informed via text and the school's website, no later than 7.45am.

Please also listen to BBC Radio Leicester (104.9FM) or GEM 106 who will broadcast a list of school closures.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ...

CHRISTMAS PARTIES (AFTERNOONS)

EYFS & KS1: Wednesday 19th December
Classes 4,5 & 6: Thursday 20th December
Classes 7,8 & 9: Friday 21st December
Pupils may bring in party clothes to change into.

PA FAMILY NIGHT - Friday 14th December 6.00-8.00pm. A letter has been circulated regarding booking tickets. A polite reminder that this is a family event, with parents required to supervise their children - it's not a drop off disco.

KEY STAGE 1 NATIVITY PERFORMANCE - Matinee Wednesday 12th December; Morning and Matinee Thursday 13th December. A letter has been circulated regarding booking tickets.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH SERVICE - Monday 17th December St. Edwards 10.30am. Parents/carers welcome.

WHOLE SCHOOL PANTOMIME TO DERBY - Tuesday 18th December (packed lunch required).

CASTLE DONINGTON CHRISTMAS CHEER - Friday 7th December. Members of the school choir will be singing in the village. A letter has been circulated to pupils.

SPRING TERM A - CLUBS

After Christmas, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in the following lunchtime clubs run by school staff:

Monday: Homework Club (KS2) & Chatterbox Club (KS1)
Tuesday: Mindfulness Club; Gardening Club
Wednesday: Noisy Boys' Choir (KS2); KS2 Yoga
Thursday: Lego Club; KS1 Reading Club
Friday: Show Choir (KS2)

Premier Sport and WM Sports will also be running a number of after school and lunchtime sports clubs. Please book online:

Monday: Hockey Y3-6 Premier
Tuesday: Dodgeball Y4-6 Wayne
Wednesday: Gymnastics Y1-6 Premier
Thursday: Dance Y1-6 Premier
Friday: Multi-sports EYFS-Y3 Premier
Friday: Cross-Country (Wayne) & Lego Model Club (Bricks for Kidz - Book online. Limited to 20 places).

DIARY DATES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Monday 7th January - SCHOOL OPENS

Tuesday 8th January - Y5 Swimming starts (specific group not all Y5 children)

Tuesday 5th February - Safer Internet Day

Monday 11th February - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm

Wednesday 13th February - Parents' Evening 5.00-7.00pm

Friday 15th February - SCHOOL CLOSES

Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February HALF TERM

Monday 25th February - SCHOOL OPENS

Wednesday 27th February - Theatre Visit: The Jungle Book

Week beginning 4th March - Literacy Week

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day (Dressing Up)

Wednesday 13th March & Thursday 14th March - Y3 Residential

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief fundraiser

Thursday 21st March - World Poetry Day

Tuesday 26th March - Y5 visit to Nottingham Trent University (Outdoor Learning/Science)

Friday 12th April - SCHOOL CLOSES

Monday 15th - Friday 26th EASTER BREAK

Monday 29th April - SCHOOL OPENS

ARCHERY TASTER SESSION

Pupils in Class 3 had a wonderful archery taster session with Danny from Premier Sport to enhance the work undertaken in their Creative Curriculum topic 'Once Upon A Time'. They did Robin Hood proud!

FLU VACCINATIONS

Flu vaccinations will be taking place on Wednesday 12th December for pupils in Y1-6 where permission has been given via a form that was circulated at the start of the academic year.

Please contact the school office if you did not receive a form and wish to have your child vaccinated.