



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2019

Dear Parents,

It has been a wonderful half-term, and pupils should be very proud of their achievements. I have seen some truly fantastic learning during my classroom visits and can't commend the children's enthusiasm highly enough. Moreover their attitudes have been excellent. Thanks also to all of the staff for their hard work in bringing our Creative Curriculum to life.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### 'KEEPING SAFE' WEEK (4th - 8th February)

To celebrate Safer Internet Day, which is celebrated globally in February each year, pupils took part in a range of activities to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology. In a special assembly, Mr Patching highlighted the positive uses of technology and encouraged pupils to explore the role they play in helping to create a better and safer online community.

PCSO Kev Bradley led a special workshop for all EYFS pupils on the topic of 'Stranger Danger'. The website below offers some useful advice for parents on this subject and is well worth a look:

<https://www.schoolbeat.org/en/parents/know-what-could-affect-your-child/personal-safety/what-you-need-to-know/stranger-danger/>



Pupils in Y1 and Y5 took part in workshops led by an officer from Leicestershire Fire Service to help them to develop their knowledge and understanding of fire safety and to provide them with survival skills in the event of a fire, such as stop, drop and roll. Pupils in Y5 were also taught about the possible consequences of deliberate fire setting and making hoax 999 calls. Some basic road safety points were also incorporated into both presentations.

### PARENTS' EVENINGS

I am very much looking forward to catching up with as many of you as I can at the forthcoming parents' evenings and hope that you will be pleased with the quality and presentation of your child's work, and the learning opportunities they are being offered.

Staff are working very hard with the delivery of our 'new' Creative Curriculum and so far, the feedback from pupils has been exceptionally positive. As always however, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, just let us know. We're always here to help.

When you look through your child's work next week, you will also notice fewer written comments on work due to changes in our Marking Policy, where the emphasis is on verbal feedback in lessons. To view a copy of our new policy, please visit the school's website or ask for a paper copy at the office.

### SPORTING NEWS - SPRING TERM A

A group of Y2 pupils had a super time at the Charnwood Schools Multi-Skills Festival where they had their very first opportunity to take part in an exciting, off site sports festival. The festival focused on pupils doing their personal best, and having fun, whilst working with pupils from other schools.

We were very proud of our Y5/6 squad who came back with medals after participating in the South Charnwood School Sports Partnership Swimming Competition.

Our two gymnastic squads were an absolute credit to the school in the Key Steps Gym Competition supported by British Gymnastics. Their performances were superb and we were exceptionally proud of their determination and spirit.

## ACTIVITY PASSPORT

The Education Secretary has launched a new “passport” of activities for Primary school children to challenge them to go on a nature trail, visit a local landmark or make a treasure map to encourage more family time and help build children’s character and resilience.

Activities are split into year groups and are intended to support parents and schools in introducing children to a wide variety of experiences and fulfilling activities like flying a kite, learning something new about the local area or putting on a performance.

We have put a copy of the Activity Passport on the website (Parents - Working With Parents page). We think it’s well worth a look!

### REMINDER: COMIC RELIEF - Friday 15th March 2019

On Friday 15th March, to raise funds for Comic Relief, children are invited to wear none uniform. We would kindly ask that a donation of £1 is brought into school to support this important event.

School Council would also like to run a cake sale. Donations would be fantastic please. We plan to sell cakes for an additional 50p at break time. Thank you.

## THE BIG BANG FAIR

The Big Bang Fair is taking place from 13-16 March 2019, at the NEC, Birmingham. It is free for families to attend. Tickets can be booked online.

[https://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/?utm\\_source=te&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=TBBF19](https://www.thebigbangfair.co.uk/?utm_source=te&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=TBBF19)

## HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENT BY THE LA

Following a visit by a Local Authority Advisor, I am pleased to inform you that we have successfully completed an external audit to assess the effectiveness of the school’s health and safety management arrangements.

## IMPORTANT LETTERS

You should have received a number of letters detailing all of the events coming up during Literacy Week, your child’s House Spellathon sheet, and a PTA letter about Film Night and Mother’s Day. If you didn’t, please get in touch with the office for additional copies.

## SCHOOL NURSE:

**28.2.19** - 8.30-9.30

**18.3.19** - 14.30-15.30

## DIARY DATES

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

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

## THE RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

Mrs McGravie braved a very cold and wet afternoon, along with various groups of pupils, to undertake the 2019 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. They had a great time completing the survey and have concluded that there are a lot of pigeons living in Castle Donington!

## PROUD CLOUD BOARD

We would love some more pictures to go onto our Proud Cloud board to celebrate pupils’ out of school achievements. Please email pictures, or send paper copies in.

## WORK WITH OTHER SCHOOLS

We were delighted to be able to host a Writing Staff Meeting, where staff from St Edwards and Hemington Primary School were joined us to explore teacher assessment in the subject. We are very much look forward to working with them again in the near future on some other projects, which will also involve shared activities for pupils.

Staff from Orchard have also spent half-days visiting other schools in order to share good practice. They’ve come back with some fantastic new ideas which we’re looking forward to trying out.