



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2020

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.

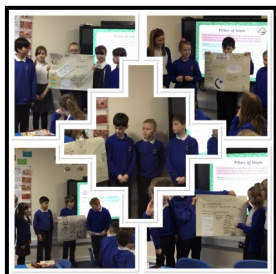
Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

WORLD RELIGION DAY

We are very big on tolerance, harmony and respect at Orchard and so wanted to celebrate World Religion Day on 17th January in style!

Through a variety of activities, pupils were encouraged to acknowledge the similarities that different beliefs have, and to explore some of the key beliefs and practices associated with either Judaism, Hinduism or Islam.



CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Between 3rd-7th February, pupils will be taking part in a number of activities to promote Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Find your Brave.



Pupils have already learnt about how life is all about taking small brave steps every day, and that bravery could be about sharing worries and asking for help when you need it, trying something new or making the right choices and have shared a story called 'Ruby's Worry' in assembly. Mr Patching will be leading a special assembly focusing on some of the character muscles we refer to in school linked to courage and growth mindset, and Miss Webster will be reading a book in assembly called 'My Strong Mind'.

We now have a new page on the website all about the school's well-being and mental health provision. For useful parents' resources visit:

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/parents-and-carers/

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 Creative Curriculum. As always however, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, just let us know. We're always here to help.

SPORTING NEWS - SPRING TERM A

Well done to the pupils who took part in the recent gymnastics and swimming competitions at Iveshead School. Our gymnasts performed their complex routines brilliantly, and Mrs Godsell and I were exceptionally impressed by their high level of skill. (Thanks also to Miss Brown for the French braiding!) Our swimming team also performed brilliantly, coming second, narrowly missing out on first place by one point!

STAFFING UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome a new school cook to the Orchard Team, Mrs Sarah Sandars. She has already been working with Mrs Valentine and Ms Foster since January on some amazing improvements in the school kitchen, including freshly baked pink beetroot bread and lemon cake. The pupils are loving the changes and we would encourage all children to give the new dishes a try!

I am also very pleased to announce that Miss Wrench will be remaining with the Orchard Team from August 2020.

SPORTS RELIEF - Friday 13th March 2020

On Friday 13th March, to raise funds for Sports Relief, children are invited to 'dress as their favourite sportsperson'. (Failing that, wear sports kit/leisure gear!) We would kindly ask that a donation of £1 is brought into school to support this national charity event. Thank you.

BEHAVIOUR & ATTITUDES

Pupils are continuing to adopt good attitudes towards school and learning. The STARS acronym for our school values is working well although it's always good to have a reminder: S—Success T—Tolerance A—Ambition R—Resilience S—Self-Belief

We are also linking our school values to the fundamental British Values: democracy, rule of law, mutual respect, tolerance of different cultures and religions and individual liberty. We are embedding 'character education' during lessons and through collective worship.

LOCKDOWN

This half term, we will need to practice our lock down procedure. This is what we would do in the event of an intruder to the site or if we needed the children to come indoors due to adverse weather or chemicals outside.

We have carefully considered the procedure and how best to explain it to the children. The children will not be alarmed or given reason to worry but will be told what to do if they hear a different 'alarm' to the usual fire alarm. Just as we practice the fire drill but do not expect a real fire, so we need to practice the lockdown procedure. The advice is that the procedures should not be shared on-line for security reasons.

We acknowledge that the likelihood of anything happening at Orchard is very low but have a duty of care to the children. If you have concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher or to Mrs Shields (she is available as much as possible at the start and end of the day or you can make an appointment via the school office).

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day was celebrated globally on the 4th February 2020 with the theme: Together for a better internet. At Orchard, we used it as a great opportunity to spark a conversation about the safe and responsible use of technology, and to inspire pupils to create a better internet for the future. We hope that the parents who attended the e-safety workshop in the evening found the information useful.

DIARY DATES

Monday 10th February - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 11th February - Fire Safety Talk for Y1 & Y5

Wednesday 12th February - Parents' Evening 5.00-7.00pm

Friday 14th February - School closes

17th - 21st February Half-Term

Monday 24th February - School opens

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day (dressing up for EYFS & Key Stage 1 pupils)

Thursday 12th March - Shakespeare Day (themed day for KS2 - more info to follow)

Friday 13th March - Sports Relief fundraiser

Wednesday 18th March - PTA Mothers' Day Tea

Friday 27th March - Spellathon & PTA Spring Disco

Monday 30th & 31st March - Y3 Beaumanor Residential

Friday 3rd April - School closes

Monday 20th April- School opens

Monday 4th May onwards - Y2 SATS

Friday 8th May - Bank Holiday

Mon 11th-Thurs 14th May - Y6 SATS

18th-21st May - House Competitions Week

Thursday 21st May - School Closes

Friday 22nd May - INSET DAY

Monday 1st June - School opens

Week beginning 8th June - Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Y4 Multiplication Check

Thursday 18th June - Sports Day (KS2 a.m./KS1 p.m.)

Friday 3rd July - Whole School Transition Day

Monday 6th July - Volunteers 'Thank You' Cream Tea (p.m.)

Wednesday 8th July - Talent Show (p.m.)

Thursday 9th July - Awards Assemblies (KS1 a.m./KS2 p.m.)

Tuesday 14th July - Y6 Leavers' Assembly/School Closes

THE RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH & ECO CLUB

Mrs McGravie braved a very cold and wet afternoon, along with various groups of pupils, to undertake the 2020 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. They had a great time completing the survey.

Thanks also to our ECO Club for litter picking every week. They are working really hard to ensure that our school grounds look good. They will soon be involved in helping Mr Owen, Mrs Shields and Mr Maguire to re-vamp the woodland area. Watch this space!