



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2019

Dear Parents,

Many thanks for your support last half-term. We hope that you and your family had a lovely winter break and wish you all the very best for 2019. It has been a super start to the new term at Orchard. Pupils have returned to school happy, engaged and very well-motivated; already I've seen some very high quality work being undertaken. The children's attitudes have been excellent - behaviour has been superb, and there is a real sense of achievement across the school.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance during the Autumn Term was 97.3% overall. I would politely request that parents monitor the number of days their child has off school due to minor ailments such as coughs or colds - sometimes it is easy to forget how the odd day off accumulates. Ideally, we want all pupils to have at least 95-96% attendance each term.

### STAFFING UPDATE

We are delighted to welcome two new midday supervisors, Mrs Marcer and Mrs Worton, who will be taking over from Mrs Wintle who left the school at the end of December to spend more time with her family.

We are also very sad to announce that Miss Millard will be leaving Orchard at the end of the Summer Term. As you may be aware, she is due to get married in August and is locating to Luton to live with her new husband. We thank her for all of her exceptional hard work during her two years with us - she will be sorely missed.

Mrs Shields will continue as acting-SENCO in Mrs Miller's absence.

### SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you for supporting this fundraising event. We raised £150 in total.

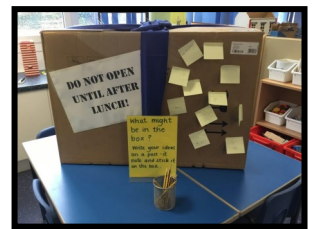
### OUTDOOR SHOES

After going home at the end of last term for a good clean (!), outdoor shoes can come back into school again so that pupils can use the field at break/lunch.

### INSPIRATION DAYS

As you know, we always like the start of our topics to have the 'wow' factor!

To launch their 'Once Upon A Time' topic, Classes 1 and 2 arrived in school to find a mysterious box in their classroom, filled with lost objects from the Fairy Tale World...



They certainly had their curiosity and questioning skills developed. It also inspired some super writing and DT work, with pupils making their own Gingerbread Men and building bridges for the Billy Goats Gruff!

Children in Years 5 and 6 thoroughly enjoyed their Groovy Greeks inspiration day with a superb workshop led by Portals to the Past. There was lots of learning and fun, complete with an Ancient Greek quiz, a mini Olympic Games and an exciting re-enactment involving the Spartan Army! They can't wait to learn more...

Classes 4,5 and 6 time-travelled back to the Stone Age to make some fabulous woolly mammoth models. They also explored the art of cave painting and produced some super chalk pastel artwork. Well done all.



## PARENTS' EVENINGS

Parents' Evenings for the Spring Term will take place on the following dates: Monday 11th February 3.30-6.30pm and Wednesday 13th February 5.00-7.00pm.

A letter will follow in February for you to indicate your preferred appointment times. We will be offering telephone consultations for parents who are unable to attend.

## LOST PROPERTY

Please could you check that all uniform and outdoor coats are labelled with your child's name so that items can be returned to their owners if left around school. Thank you.

## LEARNING TIMES TABLES

We are having a big push in school on learning times tables! By the end of Year 4, children are expected to know their times tables and corresponding division facts up to 12 x 12, as stated in the National Curriculum. They should be able to recall a multiplication or division fact within about five seconds.

In school, we explore times tables so children have a secure understanding of the concept of multiplication and division, and the various patterns and sequences related to each times table. There's also regular practice in each class.

Don't forget that pupils can access Times Table Rock-stars online from home - each child has their own login. Please contact your child's class teacher if you require more information.

## 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.

## BRICKS 4 KIDZ LEGO CLUB

The Lego Workshop is proving to be a huge success, with pupils making some outstanding electronic models. Moreover, their excellent attitudes, enthusiasm and good behaviour has been positively commented on by the club's leader. Well done kids!

## DIARY DATES

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

## ADVANCE DRESSING UP NOTICE

On Thursday 7th March, children will have the opportunity to dress as a character from a book of their choice to celebrate World Book Day.

## PUNCTUALITY

We have a small number of pupils who are persistently arriving at school late. Pupils are expected to be in class by 8.55am for registration—doors open at 8.45am. Pupils who arrive after the close of register will be marked as an unauthorised absence. This places parents at risk of receiving a fine or prosecution.

**SCHOOL NURSE DATES** - Please phone the office to book an appointment

**24.1.19** - 8.30-9.30

**28.2.19** - 8.30-9.30

**18.3.19** - 14.30-15.30