



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2019

Dear Parents,

It might only be a four week half-term, but we're still going to be packing a lot of learning in! Pupils in all classes will be starting new topics, and Year 2 and Year 6 pupils will of course be taking their SATS. We have been especially proud of these children for showing such determination, commitment and perseverance in the run up to their respective test weeks. The last week of term will be a special 'House Competitions Week' - a separate letter has been issued re: this event.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Tickets for the chocolate raffle sold 'eggstremely' well and a total of £220 was raised for school funds.

We had over 70 winners this year! Wards Skips very kindly donated 30 Easter Eggs acquired through Thorntons - the generosity of both companies was very much appreciated. The remainder were donated by staff.



Thank you to Mrs Daft of organising this 'eggcellent' fundraiser.

VIKING INVASION!

As part of their 'Vicious Viking' Celebration Day, pupils in Classes 4,5 and 6 were put to the test to see if any of them would make worthy Viking Warriors!

Dressed as Vikings themselves, pupils tested out some weapons and armour, made Viking jewellery, baked a Viking loaf, made dragons and learnt ALOT of facts about the Vikings. They even had time to fit in a Viking banquet. It was a great day and a super end to the Spring Term. Thanks to the staff for making this outcome event so much fun.

WELCOME

We have been delighted to welcome a number of new pupils to the school. We hope that you will be very happy at Orchard.

THE BIKEABILITY 'L' PLATES ARE OFF!

Congratulations to those pupils in Year 5 who successfully passed their Level 1 and 2 Bikeability training in April.

We were very proud of their achievements, and especially pleased that the trainers made reference to their superb behaviour and listening skills! In fact, they told us that they were some of the best children they'd ever worked with!



Well done Y5.

AEROPARK VISIT

To round off their 'Adventure is Out There' topic, pupils in Key Stage 1 visited Donington's Aeropark to study the preserved planes of yesteryear and watch the modern airliners of today taking-off and landing at the passenger and cargo airport.



They had a wonderful time exploring the planes 'up-close' (the Bristol Hercules proved very popular!)



Pupils even got to sit in a cock pit and try out some of the navigation equipment! Brilliant.

SCHOOL GROUNDS RE-VAMP

Thank you to those staff, parents and grandparents who gave up their Saturday to tidy up the school grounds. The makeover included a lot of sweeping of leaves (!), weeding and general repair work. We can't thank the volunteers enough - their hard work was really appreciated and the grounds are looking so much better.

Pupils are now going to be helping out by planting herbs, flowers and shrubs, clearing the hedgerows of any litter, and making sure that our birds are well fed. Mrs Stevenson and after school club are also going to be involved in developing the polytunnel area by the bungalow.

If you would like to be involved in helping out with any gardening activities please see Mrs Shields.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU!

We are exceptionally grateful to the Winvic Construction Team currently based in Castle Donington for their very generous donation to the school of both their time and resources ... putting up sheds, building a new fence, donating gravel for the gardening area, providing 'mini-builders' construction equipment for pupils in EYFS... the list is endless.

When we mentioned that we were keen to enhance our school grounds provision, without hesitation, Winvic agreed to help us with this work. Without their support, we couldn't possibly have managed to have completed many jobs from the project so quickly. Huge thanks to them. We would also like to extend our thanks to 'Wards' for donating a skip to the school to enable us to clear a lot of our garden waste.

STAFFING UPDATE

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed a number of new staff in readiness for the next academic year. Joining our extended EYFS unit, and teaching alongside Mrs Stuart, will be Mr Owen, an experienced Reception class teacher who is a keen Rugby player and gardener.

Teaching Y5/6 next year will be Miss Brown, who has strengths in Maths, Art and Music.

SPORTING NEWS

Congratulations to pupils who participated in the mini-tennis tournament at Charnwood School. Their conduct and performances were superb.

DIARY DATES

Monday 13th to Thursday 16th May - KS2 SATS

Week bg. 20th May - House Competitions Week

Friday 24th May - SCHOOL CLOSES

Monday 27th to Friday 31st May - HALF TERM

Monday 3rd June - SCHOOL OPENS

Thursday 20th June - Sports Day (KS2 a.m./KS1 p.m.)

Friday 5th July - Whole school transition morning

Monday 8th July - Parents' Evening

Thursday 11th - Awards Assemblies KS1a.m./KS2 p.m

Friday 12th July - Leavers' Assembly; SCHOOL CLOSES

SCHOOL NURSE DATES:

9th May 8.30-9.30; 11th June 2.30-3.30, 4th July 8.30-9.30

SPORTS LEADERS

Our Sports Leaders are doing a superb job and have really impressed staff with their responsible attitudes over the last two terms. The job of a Sports Leader requires pupils to act as a 'Playground Pal' to play a leadership role at break and lunch times; organising play activities for our younger pupils and ensuring that all children are being kind and considerate towards one another.

Their in-school training allows them to think about and prepare for their leadership role, helps to boost their confidence in working with others, and enables them to understand how to be an effective leader of others through the development of skills relating to organisation and communication.

The younger children benefit too by having older pupils lead their games, and help to solve problems if any should arise. We're very proud of our young leaders - well done!

Y2 MAY POLE DANCING

In readiness for the Bank Holiday Medieval Market, pupils learnt a May pole dance to perform in the village. Thanks to Daryl for leading the session.

5 STAR FOOD HYGIENE RATING AWARD

Congratulations to our super kitchen staff for achieving a 5 Star Food hygiene rating in their recent Food Standards Agency inspection. The inspector was exceptionally impressed with the high levels of professionalism demonstrated by the staff and the quality of food delivered in the school kitchen.