



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2019

Dear Parents,

I have been Headteacher at Orchard for almost a whole academic year now and would like to thank everyone who has supported me in this role. It is a huge privilege to lead the school and to strive to provide only the very best for our lovely children. I am truly excited about the future of Orchard and am very much looking forward to further developments next year. Thank you to all of the staff in particular, who have worked incredibly hard this year, embracing change positively to ensure that we go from strength to strength.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

HOUSE COMPETITIONS WEEK

We don't like to do 'low key' so we thought we'd end a rather hectic half-term with an even more hectic (first ever) House Competitions Week!

All pupils took part in a variety of sporting and topic themed activities, earning points for their team (Coppice, McLeans, Wheatcroft & Redgate). The 'Ultimate Scavenger Hunt' proved to be a huge success with Coppice gaining a whopping 38 302 points! Thank you so much for all of your hard work in supporting this activity - we had some amazing items!

In school, other competitions included: Problem Solving (won by Wheatcroft House); Blindfold Penalty Shoot-Out (won by McLeans); Football, Dodgeball and Orienteering; Mini-Olympic Games; an Art Competition; Outdoor Learning Challenges ...



I'm delighted to announce that Coppice won our 2019 House Competitions Event with 45, 741 points; McLeans came in second place, followed by Wheatcroft and Redgate.

Very well done to all pupils for their excellent attitudes throughout the week.

SUPERHERO ME DAY

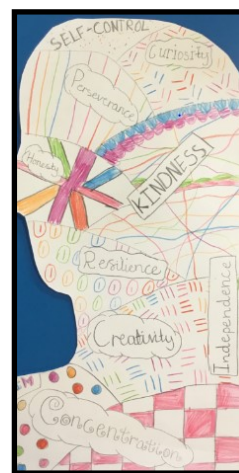
Pow! Wham! Super Hero Me Learning Day was ... well, super!



Dressed as superhero learners, pupils enthusiastically took part in a range of carousel activities to enable them to explore 'character' and the important qualities that make a 'Super Learner!'

Pupils were involved in a variety of activities that were designed to enhance their confidence, sense of achievement and understanding of some of the values that underpin successful learning.

Pupils also worked on a number of collaborative tasks which supported teamwork and consideration for others.



We very much hope that those parents who joined us at school, and attended the Character Education Information Session, had an informative afternoon. Thank you to Mr Patching for leading the day.

MEDIEVAL MARKET MAY POLE DANCING

Thank you to Mrs Daft who supervised the children taking part in the May Pole dancing event at Donington's Medieval Market. As usual, our children did the school proud.

THANK YOU!

We are exceptionally grateful to Redrow Houses for their very generous donation to the school of a hedgehog house, which was received by members of the School Council.



We would also like to say 'Thank You' to Miller Homes, who donated the defibrillator, and met with School Council to formally present it in May. All staff have now been trained in the use of the defibrillator. A parents' training session is being organised for the near future.

STAFFING UPDATE

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed yet more new staff in readiness for the next academic year. Working as SENCO on Monday/Tuesday, and Mr Patching's job-share partner in Class 4 on Thursday/Friday, is Miss Webster. Miss Webster is currently a Deputy Head, and will therefore bring a huge amount of leadership experience to her role.

Teaching in Y1/2 will be Miss Farrar, who has already wowed Mr Patching and myself with her fabulous teaching and high levels of creativity.

Congratulations to Mrs Stuart who is expecting her second child in November. She will be working with Mrs McGravie and Mr Owen in the Foundation Stage until she goes on maternity leave in October.

Information regarding classroom organisation for next year will be enclosed with your child's annual report.

SPORTING NEWS

Congratulations to pupils who participated in the Y5/6 Cricket Championships. Their conduct and performances were superb, with the team winning a Silver Medal.

Thank you very much to Mrs Godsell and the parents who supported or transported the children.

TRAINERS

We have had an increasing number of boys wearing trainers rather than dark school shoes. Please could you check your child's footwear therefore as trainers are not part of school uniform. Thank you so much for your understanding.

DIARY DATES

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:

11th June 2.30-3.30, 4th July 8.30-9.30

PTA EVENTS UPDATE

A huge thank you to the school's wonderful PTA group for all of their hard work in the last few months.

The Spring Term Disco was highly praised by some of the children as 'the best disco they'd ever been to' and was enjoyed by all!

Thank you to all of those parents who supported the Indulgence Evening. It was a fantastic event supported by lots of Mums, Grandmas and local residents.



Forthcoming PTA Events:

Summer Fair - Saturday 15th June 12pm-3pm at Orchard School.

The PTA Leaver's Disco (which is open to all Orchard pupils, not just Y6) will take place on Wednesday 10th July. A separate letter has been circulated.

A polite reminder that the PTA Facebook Page is for PTA event information only.

PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We very much welcome your opinions and feedback regarding school performance and would therefore appreciate it if you could take the time to complete the annual parent questionnaire, which will be circulated via email shortly and accessed via a link. It should only take a few minutes to complete. A paper copy can be made available on request.

The deadline for completing the questionnaire is Monday 1st July. Thank you.

CURRICULUM UPDATES

There's a bit of a wildlife theme going on in school at the moment, with pupils in Classes 4,5 and 6 exploring the Rainforest, Class 2 pupils exploring a 'Rumble in the Jungle' and Foundation Stage and Class 1 pupils exploring mini-beasts.



Classes 7,8 and 9 are having 'Fun at the Fairground', with learning activities focusing on forces and electricity.

They have recently been busy designing and costing out their own theme park. In Literacy, they are producing stories, and taking part in a range of drama lessons inspired by the book 'Leon and the Place In Between'.



GOVERNOR VISITS

As part of her monitoring role, Nicola Cutts has visited school on a couple of occasions in the last month to look at delivery of the Arts, as well as RE and PSHE. She was exceptionally impressed with the quality of our curriculum provision.

Richard Neal has also visited school to monitor the school's robust procedures for safeguarding its pupils. He was exceptionally impressed with the high level of attention given to this aspect of school life.

REMINDER: TALENT SHOW

Pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a talent show, to raise funds for School Council. (There is a fee of 50p to enter the contest this year). The Grand Finals are due to take place on Wednesday 10th July, with Auditions starting week beginning 1st July. A separate letter has been emailed with a returnable entry form.

PARKING ON GRANGE DRIVE

It saddens me to report that I am still receiving complaints from our neighbours on Grange Drive about inconsiderate and illegal parking.

Please could I urge parents not to park on the white lines by residents' property, or block driveways. There are plenty of safe parking areas along the streets surrounding the school. Thank you for your anticipated understanding.

BATTERY RECYCLING

We now have a recycling container for old batteries, located off the main foyer. Please feel free to use it.

SPORTS DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Sports Day will take place on Thursday 20th June, weather permitting. Timings are as follows:

KS2 – 9.30–11.30ish. Parents are invited into the school grounds from 9.15am.

KS1 – 1.30-3.00pm. Parents are invited into the school grounds from 1.15pm

The children will be in house teams and colours. Parents are asked to provide a top in their child's house colour but we have coloured bibs in school if you are not able to provide one. (Redgate = Red; Coppice = Blue; McLeans = Green; Wheatcroft = Yellow)

The children will sit on benches and chairs on the far side of the running track and parents are asked to make their way to the chairs nearest the playground. Children should get changed when they come into school - they do not need to arrive at school in PE kit.

TRANSITION MORNING - Friday 5th July

All pupils will get the chance to work with their new teacher and/or class group during our whole school transition morning on Friday 5th July.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of transition regarding your child, please contact your child's 'new' class teacher in the first instance, or myself, so that we can help to alleviate any anxieties or concerns you or your child may have.