



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2018

Dear Parents,

It's been a super busy half-term, with lots of visitors, and plenty of creativity in the curriculum! During my 'Learning Walks', I have been very impressed with the high level of effort, determination and enthusiasm displayed by pupils across all classes. It's also encouraging to see so many pupils taking such pride in their work, and in their school. Thank you to those parents who have been supporting with homework and reading at home. It is very much appreciated.

Warmest regards

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

ROALD DAHL DAY



We had an absolutely wonderful time during our special Roald Dahl Day.

As well as two special assemblies, pupils (and parents!) had great fun taking part in a number of very exciting activities which included making George's Marvellous Medicine, creating chocolate factories using real confectionary and making a collaged giant peach complete with characters.

There were also some super writing opportunities, with Class 8 and 9 pupils writing a poster for pupils warning them how to spot a witch, and Class 6 writing all about The Twits.

It was a fantastic day... even the staff had a giggle dressing up! Thank you for your support with costumes, and to those parents who attended during the morning – we hope you enjoyed your time with us.

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will take place week commencing 8th October. Pupils can purchase books after school; books will also be available to purchase during parents' evening.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

This year, Orchard has made some changes to the way school is organised by appointing young ambassadors to represent various leadership councils. Recent elections have resulted in Harrison being voted President of the School Council, and Millie Vice President.

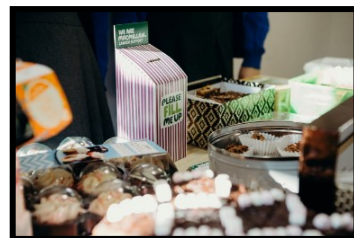
House Captains have also been elected. Congratulations to the following pupils: Adam and Erika (McLeans); Drew and Katie (Wheatcroft); Frankie and Lois (Redgate) and Sam and Scarlett (Coppice).

We have now started a weekly presentation of the House Points Cup to the team accumulating the most House Points (1 House Point = 10 Dojo Points).

Congratulations to Coppice House who were our first ever winners!

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Thank you so much to the parents/visitors who attended our Macmillan Coffee Morning. We also very much appreciated the help from those who donated cakes or sent their children in with money to spend.



Thanks to the very persuasive sales techniques of some of our fantastic Y6 pupils, we were able to raise £232.30 for this wonderful charity.

SPORTING NEWS

Congratulations to the Y5/6 pupils who represented the school in the recent Area Sports Football Tournament. Both teams experienced huge success. We were delighted to have one team qualify for the play-offs, eventually being awarded 3rd place out of the 22 schools that took part.

Moreover, our second team came 7th and was awarded the 'Spirit of the Games' award for outstanding sportsmanship. We are exceptionally proud of the children for their super attitudes and excellent efforts.

We were also thrilled with the determination and enthusiasm displayed by our Triathlon team who took part in the Brownlee (as in Alistair and Jonny) Triathlon event at Charnwood College. As well as swimming 50m in the pool, and cycling approximately 800m, pupils then finished the event with a 300m run.

Every child received a t-shirt to wear during the event as well as a medal and goody bag when they crossed the finish line. The children had a fantastic time and returned to school full of excitement.

Pupils from Y3-6 have also represented the school brilliantly at the Leicestershire School's Cross Country Championships at Prestwold. There are three meetings in total, with competitions for both individuals and teams. We're feeling very positive!

Thank you to Mrs Godsell and the parents and staff who have supported all of these events.



ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Has your child received an award for music, sport, dance, horse riding etc. outside of school that they would like to share? Then please encourage them to bring their certificates, trophies or medals to Friday's awards assembly so that we can celebrate their achievement. We'll also add them to our special 'Proud Cloud' board in the main corridor.

HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

As part of our Character Education work, we have launched a brand new initiative in school - Hot (well, warm!) Chocolate Friday'.

The idea of Hot Chocolate Friday is for each class teacher to nominate a child from their class who has gone 'over and above' in terms of demonstrating our school values during the week to share a drink and a chat together, with Mrs Shields.

It's an opportunity to spend time with members of the school who get on quietly but don't always get the recognition they deserve. What better way to end the working week than with your hands around a mug of warm, comforting chocolate, especially on a cool Autumn day!

'IN-SCHOOL' REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

In preparation for Remembrance Day, we will be holding a special 'discovery day' on **Friday 9th November** where pupils will take part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance.

To mark the minute's silence, we would like to create a 'human poppy' on the field and would request that all pupils in **Classes 8 and 9 wear black** for the day (the centre of the poppy), and **pupils in all of the other classes wear a red top/outfit** (the petals).

PA NEWS

Thank you so much to the PA who have been selling ice-pops after school on a Friday. Thanks also for running the 20p sale, and organising the Christmas Crafts session after school.

The pennies are already beginning to mount up so it's fantastic to know that the pupils will be benefitting from the PA's fundraising efforts. If you are able to help out with any events, then please contact members via the PA Facebook page.

INSET DAY FRIDAY 12TH OCTOBER

A reminder to parents that school closes to pupils on Thursday 11th October.

School opens after the half-term on Monday 22nd October.

HEALTHY LUNCHBOXES

We would like every parent to feel supported in providing nutritious packed lunches. 'Loveable Lunchboxes', provides parents with information on creating healthy and enticing lunchboxes for their children.

Visit their website for some great information on nutrition, lunchbox ideas, and healthy eating tips for children.

www.nutritionist-resource.org.uk/loveable-lunchboxes

We would also like to politely remind parents that we are a nut-free school - chocolate spread sandwiches therefore pose a risk to pupils with allergies and we would kindly request that these are not sent in lunchboxes. Thank you for your understanding.

MESSAGING VIA CLASS DOJO OR EMAIL

All school staff will be happy to respond to messages sent in by parents within 2 working days.

However, please be mindful that staff are not expected to monitor or respond to messages out of their normal working hours (including weekends and published school holidays).

CHILDREN IN NEED - NON UNIFORM DAY FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

The BBC Children in Need appeal has been confirmed as Friday 16th November. For a donation of 50p, School Council members are inviting pupils to wear non-uniform with a 'colour crazy' theme.

To help raise additional funds, there will also be a 'filling a picture of Pudsey with coins' competition run by our School Council President and Vice President, as well as a 'top secret' fundraising activity. We are asking for a 50p donation for each of these additional activities.

HOMEWORK: A MASSIVE THANK YOU!

Taking pride in completing homework says a lot about a learner's attitude.

This half-term, some pupils have absolutely blown us away with the quality of their homework tasks.

Thank you so much to all those parents who have ensured that their child's homework is completed to a high standard and handed in on time. Thank you also to those parents who regularly hear their children read and sign the diary.

Your support at home makes such a difference.

PA FACEBOOK PAGE

A polite reminder that the PA Facebook page has been set up specifically to advertise and communicate PA fundraising events only.

In recent weeks, it has become a general forum for all things linked to school - uniform, school trips, sporting activities etc.

Information regarding the above is readily available on the school website, or will already have been communicated to parents via letter/email or text.

However, if you have any queries regarding activities happening in school, please contact the school office staff who will be happy to help you.

PE KIT & LOST PROPERTY

All children need to have a full PE kit in school. Ideally we would like pupils in the standard black pumps. However, as it is difficult for older pupils to buy these in bigger sizes, the rules can be a little more flexible for pupils in KS2. For children in classes 4-9 therefore, we are allowing pupils to wear trainers for outdoor PE, but ask that they have an additional pair of indoor sports shoes for PE in the hall or studio, the latter ideally black, so that mud and grass are not brought into school.

Could we also remind parents to ensure that all school uniform is named - we have an increasing number of items in lost property.

Lost Property for KS1 is in the foyer behind the brown doors, just off the KS1 playground. Lost Property for KS2 is located in the disabled toilet cubicle. Thank you.

REMINDER: SCHOOL PHOTOS - TUES 9TH OCTOBER

Pupils will have the opportunity to have their photograph taken during the morning. Christmas pressie to nana and grandad sorted!

COLLECTING PUPILS FROM SCHOOL

Staff have spoken to our older pupils who walk round to the Key Stage 1 playground about the importance of coming back into school if the person who usually collects them isn't there.

Pupils have also been reminded that if they walk home by themselves, and no one is at home because of traffic delays, that they should come back to school. If you could also talk to your child about what to do re: the above scenarios, then that would be great. Thank you.

PARENTS' EVENINGS

Monday 8th October Parents' Evening (3.30-6.00pm)

Thursday 11th October - Parents' Evening (5.00-7.00pm)

Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that all pupils are supported to do their personal best and achieve the high standards that we set for achievement, behaviour and presentation of work.

I therefore very much hope that when you attend your forthcoming parents' evening appointment, you are pleased with the progress your child has made so far this term, and impressed with the quality of their work.

In relation to children's work, we are trialling a new feedback and marking policy - you will therefore see fewer written comments in books as the emphasis is on verbal feedback and 'conferencing' with pupils in groups or 1:1 during lesson time.

If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher in the first instance, or myself if the matter cannot be resolved.

I would however, politely remind parents to phone ahead to schedule a visit where more in depth discussion may be required.

BOOKING SCHOOL DINNERS

Could I remind parents that school dinners **must** be booked no later than Sunday night for the week in advance. Dinners can also be booked in a block, currently all the way up to the end of the Autumn Term.

Christmas Lunch will take place on 11th December.

CHINESE TAKE-AWAY CARTON REQUEST

If you have any of the plastic Chinese take-away cartons going spare, please could you send them into school for Mrs Stevenson to use for cooking classes. Thank you.

WRAPPING UP WARM

The weather is turning so could all children please bring in a suitable coat for the colder/wetter months. Ideally it should be warm, waterproof and have a hood. Please also make sure the coat is labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING REMINDERS

ACCESS INTO SCHOOL AFTER 3.30PM

Please note that for security reasons, pupils **MUST** not come back into school unaccompanied after 3.25pm.

If your child needs to collect a 'forgotten' item from their classroom, parents are asked to report to the school office, where a member of staff will accompany you through the building. We need to know who is in the building at all times please due to strict fire regulations. Thank you for your understanding.

GETTING MESSAGES TO PUPILS

We have set up a new messaging system in school to ensure that any miscommunication about home-time arrangements can be eradicated. **We would therefore ask parents to contact school before 2.50pm if they need the school office to let their child know about a change of plan.**

This will avoid last minute rush prior to pupils being dismissed at 3.15pm, and means that Mrs Daft, who is on her own in the office during the afternoon, has plenty of time to relay your message. Thank you for your cooperation.

COLLECTION FROM SCHOOL

In the interests of safeguarding, please note that the school must be informed if a different adult is picking your child up from school at home time. If this does not happen your child will not be released until we have contacted you to clarify arrangements.

START OF THE SCHOOL DAY ARRANGEMENTS

If your child arrives at school after the whistle has gone at 8.45, but prior to registration at 8.55, we would ask that they now enter through the wooden double doors by the EYFS playground, where a member of staff will be there to greet them.

Please could we also ask parents not to gather on the path by the mobile in order to enable lines of KS2 children to walk around to their classrooms without obstruction. Thank you.

SCHOOL NURSE

A reminder to parents who have made bookings, that the school nurse will be visiting on 29th October.

DONATIONS WANTED PLEASE

Do you have any Lego, Playmobil or Duplo that your children no longer plays with, and would be willing to donate to the school please? We'd be very grateful as construction activities during wet play are proving to be very popular!

KEY STAGE 2 - SPARE OUTDOOR SHOES REQUEST!

To avoid an increase in potential accidents on the Key Stage 2 playground due to 'overcrowding', we would like to try to use the field throughout the whole year, weather permitting, especially during the winter months.

So that pupils do not trample mud and grass into school, pupils who would like to play on the field at breaktimes and lunchtimes will be asked to change into 'outdoor shoes' that will be kept in storage boxes in the outdoor classroom. These shoes should be different to both their everyday school shoes *and* the trainers worn for outdoor PE. They will get muddy! Trainers, old baseball /Converse boots, old shoes, wellies will be fine. Please ensure property is labelled.

LUNCHTIME CLUBS - October to December

After half-term, pupils will have the opportunity to participate in the following lunchtime clubs run by school staff:

Monday: Homework Club (KS2)
Tuesday: Mindfulness Club; Gardening Club
Wednesday: Noisy Boys' Choir (KS2); KS2 Yoga
Thursday: Lego Club
Friday: Show Choir (KS2); KS2 Nurture Group

There will also be a KS2 Girls' Football Club starting on a Monday lunchtime, led by a member of the Castle Donington ladies squad, and ex-coach of Kegworth Imps.

Premier Sport will also be running a number of after school and lunchtime sports clubs. Details will be circulated to parents shortly.

REMINDER: FAMILY PHOTO DAY

We are still taking bookings for the family photo day on Saturday 10th November. A notice has already been circulated but please feel free to contact the office for further information.

IMPORTANT PRIVACY NOTICE: CLASS DOJO— PARENTAL RESPONSE URGENTLY REQUIRED

Upon looking through the GDPR consent forms, we have had a high proportion of parents no longer giving permission for their child's picture to appear on Class Dojo.

Whilst we want to respect parents' wishes, we would like to clarify that Class Dojo is a private form of communication between home and school, within a closed group. Only class groups can see their own 'class' photographs and nothing published goes beyond the community of school.

Class Dojo enables staff to showcase pupils' learning and allows pupils to also publish their own work. Therefore we would really like to continue to be able to use this program in this way.

However, this will simply not be possible if staff have to 'stage' photos to avoid taking pictures of pupils who have not been given consent.

We do not use Twitter.

For parents who have returned forms not giving consent for Class Dojo:

IF YOU STILL DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR YOUR CHILD'S PHOTOGRAPH TO BE PUBLISHED ON CLASS DOJO, PLEASE CONFIRM THIS BY CONTACTING THE SCHOOL OFFICE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER.

If we do not hear from you, we will assume that having been reassured that the program is private for class groups only, you are now happy for your child's photograph to be used.

Apologies for any confusion this may have created. New data protection regulations have made life very difficult for schools!

MUSIC AWARD

We are delighted to have been awarded Leicestershire Music Hub's Music Mark in recognition of the value we place on music and our commitment to providing high quality music education for our pupils.

If your child is interested in learning to play a musical instrument, we still have a number of places for guitar or piano. Sessions start at £10. If you would like to know more, please contact the school office who can forward you an information leaflet.