



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2019

Dear Parents,

It's been a super busy half-term, with lots of visitors, and plenty of creativity in the curriculum! Pupils are working with an exceptionally high level of effort, determination and enthusiasm. 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

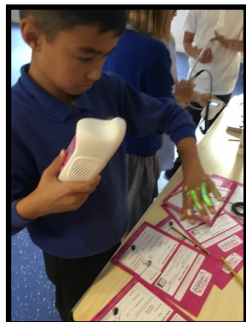
CURRICULUM NEWS - KS2

Our Y5 and 6 pupils have set the bar exceptionally high in terms of their behaviour and attitude and are already proving to be excellent role-models for our younger pupils.

They have been fully immersed in their new topic, 'Keeping Healthy', performing a dissection on a pig's heart as part of their Inspiration Day, followed by a superb 'Medical Maverick's' workshop where, amongst other things, they were able to use an ultra-sound machine to see inside their body and record and print an ECG from their heart.

Y3 and 4 also took part in a Medical Maverick's session as part of their 'Marvellous Me' topic. Taking fake blood from a fake arm proved to be particularly popular, as did trying key hole surgery on a training device used by surgeons. They are now very busy learning the bones of a skeleton and getting to grips with muscles!

There's a super video of some of the activities, which can be viewed on the website.



SCHOOL DINNERS - NEW MENU LAUNCHED

In response to parental feedback, and after several meetings with Leicestershire Traded Services about improving our school meals provision, we are delighted to inform you that we will be moving to a two choice menu, with a 'light bite' option.

We have also asked to be able to personalise our menu more, so that we offer meals to pupils that have proven to be the most popular at Orchard. The new menu will be available after half-term.

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.

Unfortunately, due to the new system, we will not be able to take 'on the day' meal requests and therefore pre-ordering is absolutely essential. Please ensure that your son/daughter knows if they have ordered the 'main choice' or the 'light bite' choice.

Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 18th December.

STAFFING NEWS

As you will be aware, Mrs Stuart will be taking maternity leave in a couple of weeks. However, she will not be returning to Orchard after Easter, as she is relocating to Norfolk. We wish her every happiness, and would like to thank her for all of her hard work and dedication to the school. She will be very much missed.

SUPERHEROES TO THE RESCUE!

Our Superheroes topic is proving to be very popular with our KS1 children, who have been learning all about 'character' and their special skills and talents. They've also been listening to a range of brilliant stories including Supertato! They had a fabulous Inspiration Day, dressing up as their favourite superhero and tracking down the rather badly behaved Professor Slime who had decided to try to take over the school!

Don't forget to check out Class Dojo to see photos of the fantastic activities taking place in each class.



HAPPY LUNCHTIMES

We were delighted to be able to welcome Steve Harris to the school at the start of September to undertake some training with a number of staff on how to further improve lunchtime provision.

He had some fantastic ideas which we will be putting into action immediately. New equipment has been purchased, and pupils are enjoying a wide variety of games and activities in the different zones. Which are keeping them very busy. The button stacking challenge is proving to be particularly popular!

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 School Council members, we were able to raise £500 for this wonderful charity, a huge increase on last year's total of £232. Absolutely incredible - thank you.



SPECIAL VISITORS

Pupils in KS1 were treated to a fantastic afternoon learning about the incredible work done by the Ambulance Service. Mr Woolley spoke to pupils all about his role as a Paramedic and invited them into his ambulance to have a look at the life saving equipment on board. He was joined by First Responder, Kate Harding.



We were also delighted to welcome PC Walker and PC Benson from Leicestershire Police Constabulary who visited Orchard to educate the children in Classes 1, 2 and 3 about the work of the police. After the talk, the children had the opportunity to ask the officers some questions, and were shown the types of equipment the officers carry.

Pupils also had the opportunity to try on items of police uniform, sit in a marked police car, activate the blue lights and sound the siren.

All of the children had a super afternoon. The visit proved to be a fun way for the children to interact with the police and enabled some very important messages about the valuable work of the police to be shared.

Finally, thanks to Mrs Baker who came into school to teach the pupils about basic First Aid, including CPR, and how to phone 999 in an emergency.

The children had a fantastic session and learned some very important life skills. They especially enjoyed wrapping Mrs Horsfall up in bandages!



WRAPPING UP WARM

The weather is turning so could all children please bring in a suitable coat for the colder/wetter months. Please make sure the coat is labelled with your child's name. Thank you.

PUPIL LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Recent elections have resulted in Lily being voted President of the School Council, and Mitchell Vice President. School Council members have also been elected and are due to have their first meeting this week.

Additionally, House Captains have been elected. Congratulations to the following pupils: Rosie and Jakob (McLeans); Didac and Mackenzie (Wheatcroft); Ameleand Connor (Redgate) and Kieran and Evie (Coppice). As well as helping to organise House Competitions, these pupils will also be collecting the House Points Cup, awarded during Friday's Achievement Assembly.

Librarians, Digital Leaders, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Sports Ambassadors will be selected this week.

FLU IMMUNISATIONS - Tuesday 19th November

Leicestershire School Nursing Team will be administering the flu immunisation to all pupils from EYFS to Y6 who have been given parent consent. (An email was circulated 21/10/19).

INSET DAY FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER

A reminder to parents that school closes to pupils on Thursday 10th October. School opens after the half-term on Monday 21st October.

HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

Hot Chocolate Friday is once again, up and running, with each class teacher nominating 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!

DONINGTON DYNAMO GIFTED AND TALENTED ART WORKSHOP

Very well done to the pupils who took part in a Dynamos Art Workshop with Mrs Shields. After studying the artwork of American artist Jim Dine, pupils created their own heart inspired masterpieces. They did a fantastic job replicating this style of Pop Art. Their artwork will be displayed shortly.

BOOK FAIR

The Book Fair will take place week commencing 7th October. Pupils can purchase books after school; books will also be available to purchase during parents' evening.

WANTED: RELIEF MIDDAY SUPERVISOR

We are looking to recruit a relief Midday Supervisor who could be called upon in the event of any staff shortage at lunchtime. If you would be interested, please contact the school office for an application form.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

For those parents/carers and grandparents who were able to join us at the Methodist Church on Friday, we really hope that you enjoyed our special Harvest Assembly.

I'm sure that you will agree that our pupils did a super job and that the singing was lovely.

Thank you also, to those parents who helped us to walk the children into the village – your support was much appreciated.

SPORTING NEWS

Congratulations to the Y5 and 6 boys' and girls' teams who represented the school in the recent Charnwood Football Tournaments. Our six squads experienced a range of successes, including a number of 3rd places, and played with good team spirit. We are exceptionally proud of the children for their super attitudes and excellent efforts.

Well done also to those pupils who represented the school at Prestwold Cross Country.

Thank you to Mrs Godsell and the parents who supported with both events.



REMINDER: School Photographs Tuesday 8th October

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).

ADVANCED NOTICE: CHILDREN IN NEED - NON UNIFORM DAY

The BBC Children in Need appeal has been confirmed as Friday 15th November. For a donation of 50p, School Council members are inviting pupils to wear non-uniform with a 'spots and stripes' theme.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS

A Knowledge Organiser is a go-to document for a topic/unit of work: each one identifies the key information that children need to have learned by the end of a topic. It also acts as a tool to support children in retaining and retrieving knowledge for life-long learning.

We have developed our own Knowledge Organisers to support the delivery of the curriculum, with each one starting with knowledge children should already know from previous learning.

Each organiser also has a number of quiz like activities that are undertaken in class to help children recall the knowledge and a list of technical vocabulary with definitions.

Please visit the website to see Knowledge Organisers for each class.

REMINDER: FAMILY PHOTO DAY

We are taking bookings for the family photo day on Saturday 9th November. Notices have already been circulated via Dojo and Facebook but please feel free to contact the office for further information.

ACCESS INTO SCHOOL AFTER 3.20PM

Please note that for security reasons, pupils must not come back into school unaccompanied after 3.20pm.

If your child needs to collect a 'forgotten' item from their classroom, parents/carers are asked to report to the school office, where a member of staff will direct you to the relevant part of the building.

LOST PROPERTY

Please Could we 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.

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.

HOMEWORK MENUS: 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. Feedback from pupils has been that they love the new Homework Menus as there is so much choice. Staff are very much looking forward to collecting in Homework Books during the last week of term!

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

Your support at home makes such a difference.

MUSIC AWARD

We are delighted to have once again 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 offer lessons during school hours for guitar or piano. Sessions start at £10. If you would like to know more, please contact Midland Music Service based in Melbourne, Derbyshire Tel: 01332 314055

REMINDER: PARENTS' EVENINGS - Monday 7th & Thursday 10th October

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.

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.

KEY STAGE 2 - SPARE OUTDOOR SHOES REQUEST!

To avoid an increase in potential accidents on the Key Stage 2 playground due to 'overcrowding', we endeavour to use the field throughout the whole year, weather permitting.

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), Chatterbox Club (KS1)
Tuesday: Storytime Club (KS1), Book Club (KS2), Multi-Sports
Wednesday: Mindfulness Club, Comic Club & Reading Club
Thursday: Pilates & ECO Club
Friday: Media Club & Multi-Sports

There is also Choir running after school on Tuesdays, and a number of after school sports clubs which can be booked online.

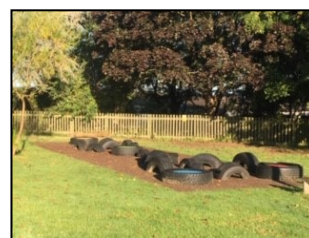
FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Thank you so much to parents/carers who donated items for the Sawley and Long Eaton Food Bank as part of our Harvest collection. Your generosity is much appreciated.



PTA NEWS

Thank you so much to the PTA for funding a new tyre park on the school field. Pupils absolutely love it! Thanks also for funding new sports kit for teams entering out of school competitions. The footballers and cross country athletes looked fantastic!



Through sales of ice-pops and Film Night places, the pennies are already beginning to mount up so it's fantastic to know that the pupils will be benefitting from the PTA's fundraising efforts. If you are able to help out with any events, then please contact members via the PA Facebook page.

CHANGE OF DATES

EYFS Nativity - Tuesday 17th December 1.30pm

Bank Holiday - Due to the VE Bank holiday on Friday 8th May, the Bank Holiday on 4th May has changed and therefore pupils will now be in school.

CLUBS - AUTUMN TERM 2

Monday—KS2 Football
Tuesday—KS1 Football
Tuesday—Choir
Wednesday—KS2 Tri-Golf
Thursday—Y2-Y6 Sports Hall Athletics
Friday—KS1 Multi-Sports
Friday—KS2 Cross Country

Clubs can be booked online via School Money from next week.