



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Parents,

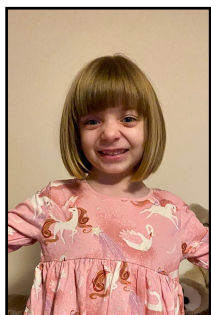
In this ongoing time of challenge for us all, I would like to reassure you that the staff at Orchard are doing everything they can to maintain as much normality as possible for your children whilst balancing issues of health and safety. Whilst much of school life has felt very familiar, it is important to recognise that several things are far from 'routine' and require a significant amount of commitment and respect to make them work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible children for the way in which they have embraced change and worked with us to ensure that the school can continue to operate in a meaningful and safe way. The staff at Orchard also continue to go above and beyond to ensure that our pupils can remain in school and can get the best possible experience despite the new ways of working. They continue to amaze me with their commitment and togetherness during difficult times. This extends not only to office staff, teachers and TAs/LSAs, but also support staff who cater for our pupils at lunchtime, clean the school and maintain the full functioning of the site.

Warmest regards - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

WELL DONE CHARLEY!

We are exceptionally proud of Charley in Class 1 for her incredible fundraising achievements.

Charley had 9 inches cut off her hair and donated it to the Little Princess Trust who make real hair wigs for children who have lost their own hair due to medical issues.



She also raised £600 for a special charity who were a huge support to the family during Charley's own illness, Me & Dee.

Me & Dee provide holidays and respite for families where either the children or parents are receiving long term medical treatment. Sadly due to the pandemic they have lost the majority of their fund raising which makes Charley's act of kindness seem even more poignant.

Charley, you're an absolute superstar!

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL COMPETITION WINNER

We're pleased to announce that Orchard Community Primary School has had a winning entry in Leicestershire County Council's Name the Recycling Lorries competition.

They received 300+ entries from schools across North West Leicestershire. After careful judging, Alfie's entry '**Bindiana Jones**' was one of their winning names! The winning name will be printed on the cab door of one of LCC's recycling lorries.

Alfie also submitted an entry for '**Clean Elizabeth II**'- whilst the judges thought this was less appropriate for one of their recycling lorries, they thought this was a brilliant name for one of their road sweeper vehicles. Therefore 'Clean Elizabeth II' is now out and about keeping our streets clean and tidy!

Well done Alfie!

HALLOWEEN THEME DAY

A spookily good day was had by all!



REMINDER: ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2020: UNITED AGAINST BULLYING

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, pupils will be taking part in a number of anti-bullying/kindness activities during a special theme day on **Friday 20th November**.

To join in with the National Anti-bullying Alliance campaign, **pupils are asked to wear their 'Odd Socks'** in order to express themselves and celebrate their individuality!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS SALE - Friday 11th December

To raise funds for the School Council, our enterprising Y5 and Y6 pupils will be making a number of Christmas and winter themed crafts to sell to class bubbles on **Friday 11th December**.

All items will be priced at 50p each; therefore pupils are invited to bring in up to £1 on the day if they would like to take part.

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Mrs Daft will be organising her annual chocolate raffle, made up of items donated by the staff.

Tickets, which cost 50p each, will be going on sale from **Monday 30th November** with the final draw being held in a remote assembly on **Friday 18th December**.

Over the three weeks, Mrs Daft will visit classes in the morning to sell tickets:

EYFS & KS1 - Mondays & Wednesdays

KS2 - Tuesdays & Thursdays

Children can bring money in to buy tickets on their specific days.

REMINDER: SCHOOL FOOD BANK

Pupils are invited to wear non-uniform on **Thursday 19th November** in return for donating food items for the Orchard Food Bank.

Thank you so much to those parents who have already offered support via their work place, either through the donation of items by certain well-known food companies (!), or through the gifting of supermarket vouchers.

REMINDER: SCHOOL DINNERS

A polite reminder that school dinners need to be booked by Sunday evening as numbers are forwarded to the kitchen first thing on Monday morning. Thank you.

CHILDREN IN NEED

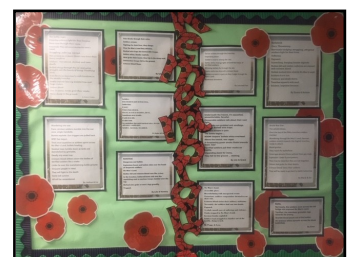
A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our 'Spots & Stripes' day for the BBC's Children In Need appeal on Friday 13th November.

PTA FUNDRAISER - Christmas Card Design

A reminder that designs for the PTA fundraiser need to be returned to the school office by **Monday 16th November** please.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

To acknowledge Remembrance Day, pupils took part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all those pupils and parents who purchased poppy related products from the Royal British Legion collection.

We raised a total of £275. Thank you!

SANTA DASH

Weather permitting, pupils will be completing a 1 mile Santa Dash on **Monday 7th December**.

The 'run' (jog or walk) is an activity set by the North Charnwood Sports group which Orchard is a part of. We thought it would be fun to take part!

Children are invited to wear a Santa hat/Christmas Hat/Bobble Hat for their 'fun run'.

PROGRESS CHECKS

Progress checks will be sent out via pupil post on **Friday 18th December**.

These brief reports provide on-going information about your child's achievements against end of year targets, 'Age Related Expectations', their progress and learning attitudes.

CHRISTMAS DINNER AND 'JUMPER' DAY

Due to COVID restrictions we need to stagger the Christmas dinner service during the final week. As such, class bubbles will eat in the hall/classroom on different days:

Tuesday 15th December - EYFS & Classes 1, 2 & 3

Wednesday 16th December - Classes 4,5 , 6, 7, 8 & 9

There will be no other hot meal option served on Tues/Wed so pupils not having Christmas Dinner will need to bring in a packed lunch.

We're inviting the children to wear a 'festive' jumper / ordinary jumper to school on their Christmas Dinner day. They are also welcome to bring in festive hats/headgear. (Pupils should wear their usual school shoes, trousers, shorts, skirt etc.)

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Pupils will be having party games in their classrooms this year. They are invited to bring in a change of clothes for the afternoon. Parties will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 15th December - Classes 4,5 & 6 (LKS2)

Wednesday 16th December - EYFS

Thursday 17th December - Classes 1,2 & 3 (KS1)

Friday 18th December - Classes 7,8 & 9 (UKS2)

DIARY DATES

PTA CHRISTMAS CARD DEADLINE: Monday 16th November

FOOD BANK DONATION NON-UNIFORM DAY: Thursday 19th November

FLU VACCINATIONS: Friday 20th November

ODD SOCKS ANTI-BULLYING DAY: Friday 20th November

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE: Tickets on sale from 30th November with the draw held on Friday 18th December. (50p per ticket).

SANTA DASH - Monday 7th December (Wear a hat!)

CHRISTMAS CRAFT SALE: Friday 11th December (50p -£1)

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

Tuesday 15th December - EYFS & Classes 1, 2 & 3

Wednesday 16th December - Classes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9

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Friday 18th December - Classes 7,8 & 9 (UKS2)

PROGRESS CHECKS OUT: Friday 18th December

PARKING & DRIVING NEAR SCHOOL

To maintain positive and respectful relationships, I prefer not to confront parents/carers who park inconsiderately, or drive at speed along Grange Drive. I also don't have jurisdiction to ask drivers to move their cars and therefore can only appeal to everyone's better nature in not wishing to see a child involved in a car accident.

Please could all drivers be mindful of this when approaching or leaving school. We also politely request that cars are not parked over residents' driveways, as this again, causes bad feeling within the local community and tarnishes the school's reputation.

SEND INFORMATION WEBSITE PAGE

Parents are able to find the school's updated SEND Information Report and SEND Policy on the SEND website page.

Having achieved her SENDCO Award, Miss Farrar will now be taking on the role of Deputy SENDCO. She will be working very closely with Miss Webster, the school's SENDCO, but will take specific charge of provision in Classes 7, 8 and 9. As always, if you have any questions regarding SEND provision, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Webster or Miss Farrar.

SEVERE WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE

We sincerely hope we don't have to close the school this winter as a result of bad weather. It's not a decision we take lightly. School closure is always a last resort but sometimes it's unavoidable due to low staff numbers and compromises to pupil safety.

You will be informed of the decision to close school between 7.30 -7.45 am. There are a number of ways you can find out if we've had to close the school or part of it:

- School text messaging service
- On the website
- On local radio (Radio Leicester (104.9FM) Leicester Sound (105.4FM) Capital FM)

REMINDER: FLU VACCINATIONS

The School Nursing Team will be administering the flu immunisation on **Friday 20th November** to all pupils from EYFS to Y6 whose parents have given consent.

E-SAFETY

A reminder that our E-Safety Parental Support Booklet, which contains lots of useful information about keeping children safe online, as well as a 'low-down' on some of the most popular websites with youngsters, can be downloaded from the E-safety page on the school website.

It is important for parents to note the following legal minimum age for account holders:

13 years old: Twitter / Facebook / Instagram / Snapchat

16 years old: Whatsapp

Therefore, no pupils at Orchard Primary School should be account holders for any of the above social media sites.

This website is brilliant— www.thinkuknow.co.uk

It has some particularly good resources about live-streaming. Live streaming is becoming one of the most popular online activities for children and young people. Apps such as Musical.ly, Live.me, Periscope and YouNow are all growing in popularity and other well established apps such as Facebook are also adding live streaming functions. #LiveSkills resources from CEOP concentrate on the specific risks children and young people face whilst live streaming.