



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2020

Dear Parents,

It has been a fantastic half-term, even given the hugely challenging circumstances we all find ourselves in. Staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that pupils are supported to do their personal best and achieve the high standards that we set for achievement, behaviour and presentation of work. I can't thank them enough. Pupils have also been working with an exceptionally high level of effort, determination and enthusiasm. It's been immensely rewarding to see so many pupils taking such pride in their work, and in their school. Thank you so much for your support, co-operation and positive feedback this half-term.

Warmest regards

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

CREATIVE CURRICULUM TOPICS

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.

Following their 'Astronaut Training Day', pupils have been fully immersed in their first topic of the year, 'To Infinity and Beyond', producing some excellent written work inspired by the book 'Phoenix' as well as art work in the style of Peter Thorpe. As well as researching the Solar System, pupils have also been exploring 'forces'. They'll be applying their understanding next week in a special DT project where they will be launching their very own 'egg-oanut'!



In 'Earth Rocks', pupils in Y3 and 4 have been studying geology. They have particularly enjoyed finding out about fossils and about how mountains are formed. They're going to be producing a 'Tomorrow's World' programme next week to show off all they've learnt.

Key Stage 1 have been at the Seaside this half-term, and have loved making lighthouses and writing stories inspired by 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. They also completed some lovely seascapes, and are enjoying researching Grace Darling.



THE BIG ANTI-BULLYING ASSEMBLY

On September 28th, pupils across the school joined in the 'Big Anti-Bullying Assembly', sponsored by The Diana Award and Nationwide Building Society.

Via a virtual assembly, pupils were reminded about the need for mutual respect in our school and communities. Together, we pledged to put an end to bullying, to celebrate diversity and to create communities of kindness.

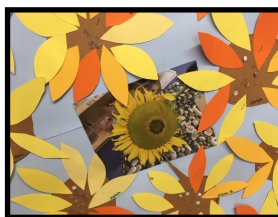
THANK YOU!

We just wanted to say a massive 'thank you' to our super kitchen team for all of their hard work since school opened fully in September. The fish and chip lunch service was absolutely fantastic.

In addition, they have helped out so much with ensuring that pack ups are provided each and every day. We can't wait to start serving hot meals again after half-term.



RED APPLES & GREEN APPLES



Well done to all of our newest pupils in EYFS. Not only are they showing excellent independence in the mornings, but they have settled into their lovely 'new' classroom brilliantly! 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' and Dough Disco are proving to be big hits, as is the outdoor learning environment. They love being active!

SCHOOL COUNCIL & HOUSE CAPTAIN ELECTION RESULTS

After some superb public speaking in their video 'hustings' by our Y6 'candidates', pupils from Y2 onwards have elected their new School Council President.

All pupils impressed us with their confidence and pledges, but it was Austyn who was elected President, followed by Daisy who will be the Vice-President. However, as all of the children were so brilliant, Mrs Shields and Mrs Parker, who will be leading the work of the School Council again this year, have decided to recruit them all to help out in various key roles this year.

House Captains have also been elected. Congratulations to the following pupils: Samuel and Kaitlyn (McLeans); Olivia and Oscar (Wheatcroft); Ellie and Manoa (Redgate) and Keifer and Georgina (Coppice)

House Competition team points are now up for grabs. Whilst the winning House Captains won't be able to lift the trophy in Friday's whole school celebration assembly, we're still going to be valuing teamwork and co-operation.

CHARACTER EDUCATION

To help pupils settle back into school, and ensure that they feel secure and happy, we have had a huge push on strengthening 'character'.



Children use play to connect, to process and to make sense of their world and so the activities we've undertaken have been 'hands on', creative and fun. We've been particularly focusing on the following character muscles: concentration, resilience, listening, self-control, co-operation and friendship.

SCHOOL DINNERS

A separate email has been sent out regarding our hot meals service - a copy is available on the website.

Could I politely remind parents that meals must be booked on Eduspot by 7pm Sunday evening for the week in advance. Bookings for the entire half-term can also be completed. Absolutely no late bookings can be taken - any meal orders placed after 7pm will not show up on our system.

We also have some parents who regularly aren't booking meals resulting in office staff having to make enquiries with them. Due to time constraints, staff can't continue to do this. Therefore parents are urged to make bookings as per the system to ensure that their child has a meal at lunchtime. Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

HARVEST

We were obviously unable to celebrate Harvest at the Methodist Church this year. However, in school, pupils took part in some special class assemblies: 'All about Harvest' for KS1 pupils and 'Harvest around the world' for KS2.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

I very much hope that you find the conversation with your child's class teacher useful, and that you are pleased with the progress your child has made so far this term.

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. We are always keen to do our best for you.

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.

SCHOOL PHOTOS - Tuesday 13th October

Pupils will have their individual photograph taken on Tuesday 13th October. All COVID-19 safety measures will be observed. As such, there will be no sibling/family photographs this year. There is no obligation to purchase photos - proof copies will be sent out to parents at the end of the month.

INSET DAY MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER

A reminder to parents that school closes on **Friday 16th October**.

School opens for pupils after the half-term on **Tuesday 27th October** (Monday 26th is a training day for staff).

FLU VACCINATIONS - Friday 20th November

Leicestershire 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.

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.

KEY STAGE 2 - OUTDOOR SHOES REQUEST

We still have a small number of children in KS2 who do not have a change of footwear for lunchtime play on the field.

These shoes should be different to both their everyday school shoes *and* the trainers worn for outdoor PE. They will get very muddy! Trainers, old shoes/boots, wellies will be fine. Please ensure property is labelled.

Thank you for your anticipated support - it helps to prevent mud and grass getting trampled into carpets.

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 whilst many do, staff are not expected to monitor or respond to messages out of their normal working hours (e.g. late evenings, weekends and published school holidays).

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 learnt by the end of a topic. It also acts as a tool to support children in retaining and retrieving knowledge for life-long learning.

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

ADVANCED NOTICE: CHILDREN IN NEED - NON UNIFORM DAY

The BBC Children in Need appeal has been confirmed as **Friday 13th November**. For a donation of 50p School Council members are inviting pupils to wear non-uniform with a 'spots and stripes' theme.

To reduce the handling of cash donations, Mrs Shields and Mrs Daft will have buckets for pupils to put their money into when they arrive at school. No change will be able to be given.

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.

HOMEWORK MENUS: A MASSIVE THANK YOU!

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

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.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

In preparation for Remembrance Day, we will be holding a special 'discovery day' on Friday 6th November where pupils will take part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

We need to adjust our support for the Royal British Legion this year. With volunteers unable to make poppies, they will instead be providing us with a box of products to sell at our online shop. Products range from 50p to £1. You will be able to order and pay for items via Eduspot—our School Money system. Office staff will then distribute items to pupils. A text will be sent out once products are available.

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!