



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2024

Dear Parents,

Thanks to everyone (parents/carers and staff) for their involvement in both the recent parents' consultations as well as our Y6 SATS information meeting. It was lovely to see so many families - we really hope that you are pleased with your child's progress this year.

Best wishes - Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

OUTCOME EVENTS

Y3&4 had a super Outcome Event, learning all about how a professional photographer works with a visit by one of Orchard's parents. They also loved watching performances of their shadow puppet plays.



We were very proud of pupils in Classes 8, 9 & 10, for presenting to others across the school, some fascinating facts from their Water World Learning Adventure. Pupils demonstrated great independence as they put their presentations together.



Some beautiful artwork in KS1 inspired by the artist Ted Harrison...

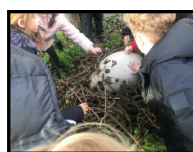


... AND amazing DT work.



INSPIRATION DAYS

KS1 - A giant egg mysteriously appeared in the woodland area. Curious KS1 pupils tracked down CCTV footage showing a giant T-Rex sneaking onto the school grounds. Pupils will be working as palaeontologists in order to learn all about dinosaurs. They started their investigations by examining some of the clues left by the T-Rex ...



Lower Key Stage 2 pupils had a wonderful Inspiration Day learning all about electricity and magnetism.



UKS2 - Y5 & Y6 están aprendiendo todo sobre México! They explored traditions associated with the Day of the Dead Festival as part of their Inspiration Day.



KITCHEN TEAM - 5 STAR RATING!

We're very proud of our amazing kitchen team for receiving a 5 Star Food & Hygiene rating. The Relish taster session also proved to be a huge success. Thanks to them for all of their hard work.



READING WEEK & WORLD BOOK DAY

Another fantastic World Book Day was had by all...

Pupils also appeared to thoroughly enjoy the special activities put on throughout 'Reading Week', which included Buddy Reading, Book Swap Shop and Shelfie Quizzes!



Pupils in KS2 especially liked participating in the Book Trust's 'Great Big Footy Quiz' - a live event where we competed against other schools to answer questions about books AND football. What's not to love?

Thank you parents for all of your support with this week, from coming into school for 'ERT' to sending in Extreme Reading entries. It was lovely to make books and enjoying stories, a real focus.

ENRICHMENT NEWS ...

Thank you to Active Sports for running a KS1 Martial Arts day last term and a KS2 Street Dance day in March.



It was great to have Percussion Group perform in assembly last term. Thanks to Sam from Pulse Beat for running this club.

We also welcomed guests from Leicestershire County Cricket Club into school to run a cricket workshop with our KS2 classes.



Well done to the pupils who took part in the recent Tag Rugby Festival. We were very proud of their positive attitudes and team spirit.

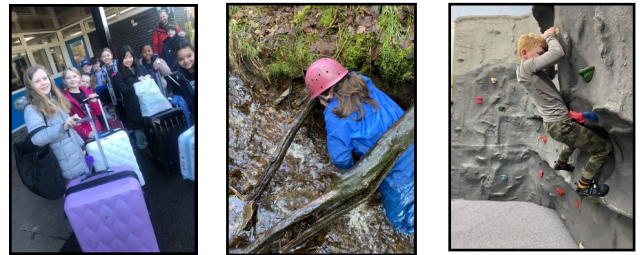
REMINDER: Y6 SATS WEEK

A reminder that Y6 pupils will be sitting their SATS from Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May 2024.

PTA MOTHER'S DAY TEA

Thank you to the PTA for organising this event, and to all of the parents/carers/special adults, that supported.

Y5 RESIDENTIAL TO WHITEHALL



The children had a great time and certainly flexed their 'Character Muscles'. Thanks so much to the staff who accompanied the children to Whitehall and made the residential such a success. Thanks also to those staff who covered colleagues back in school.

FORTHCOMING NON-UNIFORM EVENTS

Thursday 14th March: Dress up with a number theme to celebrate the International Day of Maths - no expensive costuming necessary. A sports shirt or top with a number/cut out number on is fine. No cost.

Friday 15th March: Comic Relief - 'Dress Yourself Silly'. Pupils can wear whatever they want, backwards, inside out, clashing colours, odd socks ... anything goes.

We would kindly ask that a donation of 50p is brought into school to support this national charity event. Adults will have buckets available at morning drop off. Thank you.

PAPERWORK RELATING TO MEDICAL OR SEND REFERRALS

School staff are experiencing a noticeable increase in requests for the completion of multi-agency paperwork, including forms from medical practitioners and private dyslexia assessors.

Whilst we are always happy to support parents with this task, because the paperwork usually requires some very in-depth reporting, please could we request that staff are given a window of at least 3 working days as a minimum to complete it. In general, however, as much notice as possible would be appreciated. Thank you.

ONLINE SAFETY/BEHAVIOUR ISSUES

At Orchard we strive to maintain an excellent reputation for pupil behaviour both in school and also out of school hours. This includes online issues which may arise.

As a school, we will look into any incidents of anti-social online behaviour that we are made aware of as it is important to ensure that issues do not affect the school day.

However, the school only has a limited level of jurisdiction for out-of-school behaviour and in such circumstances, we would work alongside parents/carers to ensure you play a lead role in resolving such behaviour.

The school also reserve the right to involve other agencies to support their stance on out-of-school behaviour issues (for example, the police).

We would certainly be in immediate contact with such agencies if any aspect of safeguarding for a child/ren was being compromised by their out-of-school or online behaviour.

It is important for parents/carers to note that the school can assist with out-of-school behaviour issues but cannot be held responsible or accountable for resolving them.

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that parents can promote at home, as well as ensuring that social media accounts are closely monitored.

CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

Tickets for the Easter raffle are now available to purchase via School Money - 50p per ticket. Office staff will allocate paper tickets to pupils in time for the raffle, which will be drawn on Thursday 21st March.



PROGRESS CHECK REPORTS

Progress Check Reports for the Spring Term will be sent out on **Friday 22nd March**. We hope that you will find these reports about attainment, behaviour and attendance useful and informative.

DOGS

A gentle reminder that dogs are not permitted on the school grounds.

DIARY DATES FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2024

International Day of Maths - Thursday 14th March:
Timestableathon & TTRS Dressing Up Day (NB: World Maths Day March 23rd)

Fri 15th March - PTA Spring Disco

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief Fundraiser

Mon 18th & Tues 19th March - Y3 Beaumanor Residential

Friday 22nd March - School closes

Monday 8th April - School opens

Friday 26th April - House Spellathon (change of date)

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday

Y6 SATS Week Monday 13th - Thursday 16th May

Friday 24th May - School closes

Friday 7th June - Y5/6 Enterprise Scheme

Wednesday 12th June - EYFS trip to Carsington Water

Thursday 13th June - Sports Day (KS2 a.m./KS1 p.m.)

Friday 14th June - PTA Father's Day Breakfast

Friday 21st June - Annual Reports sent out

Wednesday 3rd July - Parents' Evening

Friday 5th July - PTA Summer Disco

Tuesday 9th July - Y6 Leavers' Assembly for parents & school closes

CHILD PROTECTION

At Orchard Primary School we try to keep in close contact with everyone by communicating regularly. As our important partners, we feel the need to share things with you which relate to your children.

However, please be aware that should a situation arise whereby a child discloses information to us, or we suspect that the child may be subject to neglect, emotional, physical or sexual abuse, our duty lies with protecting the child.

By law, we are instructed to follow procedures set down by the Local Authority and DFE, which may require DSLs needing to inform Social Services or the police.

If you ever have any concerns about the safety of a child at Orchard, the school's designated Safeguarding leads are: Fiona Shields; John Patching and Rachel Daft