



# ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2025

Dear Parents,

It's been a very busy few weeks at Orchard, what with sporting success, lots of external visitors sharing their expertise, and a few none-uniform days just to add to the excitement! We hope that your children have enjoyed these special events.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

### BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 7th-16th March

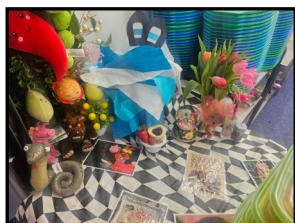
This year's theme was "Change and Adapt". Pupils participated in a range of activities, either throughout the week, or blocked into a whole day where they explored the theme.

Thank you to Miss Hudspith for organising an exciting Science day led by Zoe from AS Creatives, which included an assembly and then a workshop for each class.



### THANK YOU

Our kitchen team always work hard to make lunch time special, but in the last few weeks, they've really pulled out all the stops. Huge thanks to them for their dedication.



### COMIC RELIEF

Thanks for your support with our 'dress yourself silly' fundraising day. There were some absolutely ingenious ideas. We raised £160 - thanks so much!

### ATOLL MARINE CENTRE LIVESTREAM & FUNDRAISER

Well done to KS1 for raising over £90 for the Atoll Marine Centre in the Maldives via their 'wear blue' dressing up day. Pupils had a great experience watching the sea turtles and speaking to a marine biologist via a live link. Truly inspiring!

### AEROPARK VISIT

'Adventure is Out There' for KS1. Pupils had a great time at the local aeropark, and lots more fun exploring the school grounds through a variety of orienteering activities!



### YEAR 3 RESIDENTIAL TO BEAUMANOR

Well done to our fab Y3's for using their Character Muscles so well as they embraced some new challenges on their residential visit to Beaumanor. Thanks also to the staff for giving up their family time. (And for repeatedly getting up in the night to check that the girls had finally gone to sleep!)



### RSE & EVERYONE'S WELCOME

During the Summer Term, we will be delivering lessons from our Kapow Relationships and Sex Education scheme, as well as the 'Everyone's Welcome' programme. After the Easter break, the updated RSE scheme of work will be uploaded to the Curriculum section of the school's website should you wish to view it.

## SPORTING NEWS

Six games, 27 goals and non conceded against us! We're so proud of our netball squad. Another trophy for the Cabinet and the third year of winning.

Our hockey teams have also been incredible this term. Team 1 won a silver medal in the hockey finals and team two came 5th out of 12. Well done!

Additionally, we are having huge success in the County Cross Country League.

Huge thanks to the staff in our Sports Leadership Team for training the children and accompanying them to competitions. Your hard work is really appreciated.



## ENRICHMENT NEWS ...

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

We also welcomed guests from Leicestershire County Council into school to run a recycling assembly for all pupils, as well as two Environmental Crime workshops with our Y5 children.

Well done to the pupils who took part in the Diana Award Anti-Bullying Training Day. We were very proud of their excellent participation.

Y3 & 4 had a great day exploring all things Stone Age via workshops led by 'The Specialists'.

## REMINDER: Y6 SATS WEEK

**A reminder that Y6 pupils will be sitting their SATS from Monday 12th - Thursday 15th May 2025. Full morning attendance is requested during this time please.**

## WORLD BOOK DAY

Pupils enjoyed a number of special activities put on throughout the day, including Buddy Reading and the Secret Book Swap Shop. 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!

## DIARY DATES

Friday 28th March - PTA Mothers' Day Tea  
Friday 4th April - PTA Spring Disco  
Friday 11th April - School closes  
Monday 28th April: School opens  
Friday 2nd May: House Spellathon  
Monday 5th May: Bank Holiday  
Thursday 8th May: Class Photos  
WB 12th May: KS2 SATS Week  
Thursday 22nd May: Sports Day  
Friday 23rd May: UKS2 Enterprise Day & school closes  
Monday 2nd June: School opens  
Wednesday 11th June: EYFS Trip to Rosliston Forestry Centre  
Friday 13th June: PTA Fathers' Day Breakfast  
Wednesday 18th June: UKS2 trip to Alton Towers (TBC)  
Thursday 19th June: Annual Reports sent out  
Friday 20th June: PTA Summer Fair 3.15-5.00pm  
Thursday 26th June: Whole school transition morning  
Wednesday 2nd July: Parents' Evening  
Friday 4th July: PTA Summer Disco  
Monday 7th July: Y6 Leavers' Assembly  
Tuesday 8th July: SATS results published & school closes

## HOUSE COMPETITIONS

It has been getting very competitive here at Orchard with two recent House events—the Timestableathon and the Anti-Bullying Poetry 'rap' Battle! Well done to McCleans for winning the maths event. The KS1 poetry winners were Redgate and the KS2 poetry winners were Wheatcroft.

Pupils will also be taking part in a Spellathon on Friday 2nd May. Information regarding this event will be circulated in a separate letter shortly.

There's no pressure to get every spelling correct - we're just encouraging the children to learn as many spellings as they personally can manage in order to get points for their House Team. We just want every pupil to have a go. Some of the words will be from lists learnt previously so it's good revision too!

## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

Whilst we very much value your opinions, because the Parent View questionnaire was circulated in January as part of our OFSTED inspection, we have decided not to send out another survey in May. However, there will be an opportunity for parents/carers to contribute suggestions via our 'Bright Ideas' box in the Autumn Term.

## REMINDERS ...

**Punctuality:** We have a number of children who are late to school everyday. These children are missing out on valuable early morning activities, such as phonics or times table practice. A reminder therefore that doors open at 8.35am and close at 8.45am ready for registration.

## PAPERWORK RELATING TO MEDICAL OR SEND REFERRALS

In the last 18 months or so, school staff have experienced 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 5 working days as a minimum to complete it.

In general, however, as much notice as possible would be appreciated. Thank you.

## 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 Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) 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 Lead is Mrs Shields. Deputy Safeguarding Leads are Mrs Daft; Mr Patching & Mrs Caldwell.**

## 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 will be available to purchase via School Money from **Monday 31st March - 50p per ticket**. Office staff will allocate paper tickets to pupils in time for the raffle, which will be drawn on **Friday 11th April**.

## PROGRESS CHECK REPORTS

Progress Check Reports for the Spring Term will be sent out on **Thursday 10th April**. We hope that you will find these reports about attainment, behaviour and attendance useful and informative.