



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2023

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/carers 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

Y5 & 6 are 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 for all of KS2, where, amongst other things, pupils were able to use an ultrasound machine to see inside their body and record and print an ECG from their heart.

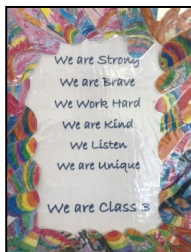


Y3&4's Learning Adventure this half-term is 'Marvellous Me'. Marvellous Art more like!!



CHARACTER EDUCATION DAY

To remind pupils of the importance we place on developing 'character', pupils took part in a special Character Education Discovery Day which included working on a range of activities to develop their character muscles and personal attributes.



ROCK KIDZ IN THE HOUSE!

Rock Kidz 'On Tour' visited school to give pupils the opportunity to learn important life lessons in a fun way through their high energy rock-star workshops. It was loud, it was lively, it was great!



CELEBRATING PUPILS' ACADEMIC SUCCESS ...

Great news - last year's Y2 and Y6 children performed higher than the national average for the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths (SATs 2023), as well as at the Greater Depth standard (KS1). A full breakdown of pupils' academic achievements from last year can be viewed in the 'School Performance' section of the website.

Additionally, Symphony Trust was once again the highest performing Trust in Leicestershire, and is expected to remain in the top 5% of Trusts nationally.

KS1 VISIT TO THE ADVENTURE FARM

Y1&2 children had a super day at the Adventure Farm, where they explored the theme 'Healthy Plants, Healthy People'.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

We celebrated European Day of Languages with a special KS2 French Theme Day on 26th September. C'était une journée fantastique! It was a super way to launch our new French Scheme from Kapow.



GRANDPARENTS DAY

To celebrate National Grandparents Day, pupils brought their grandparents to school for the afternoon on 2nd October! It was great to see so many visitors in school.

PTA FILM NIGHT

Another fantastic film night was had by all! Thank you to the PTA for putting the refreshments together.

OUR NEW EYFS CLASSES

Our wonderful Foundation Stage children have settled very happily into their new routines and are thoroughly enjoying exploring their inside and outdoor classrooms!



HAPPY LUNCHTIMES

Pupils in KS1 have been enjoying a wide variety of 'Happy Lunchtimes' games and activities in the different zones, organised by Mrs Marcer and our Sports Leaders. The obstacle course 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 purchased cakes after school.

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.

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.

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

PUPIL LEADERSHIP COUNCILS

Recent elections have resulted in Amelia being voted President of the School Council, and Charlotte Vice President. School Council members have also been elected and are due to have their first meeting soon.

House Captains have also been elected! Congratulations to the following pupils:

Redgate – Ethan and Amelie
Wheatcroft – Zack and Ellora
McCleans – Samuel R and Sophie
Coppice – Elliot and Isobel S

Librarians, Digital Leaders, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Sports Ambassadors are in the process of being selected and will feature on the website soon, alongside our fantastic School Council.

SPORTING NEWS

Congratulations to the Y5 who represented the school in the recent 'Active Start' workshop at Charnwood College. We are exceptionally proud of the children for their super attitudes and excellent efforts.

Very well done also to the Y5 /6 football teams who represented the school in two recent tournaments, as well as our Golf team. All pupils played with great team spirit.

Thank you to our super Sports Leadership Team - Mrs Astle, Mr Caldwell and Mr Morant for training pupils and running sports clubs, along with Mr Patching for organising these events.

PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE ON PARENTS' EVENING

On parents' evening, we are setting out a range of pre-loved uniform items in the hall for parents/carers to purchase. No set price - there will be a donation box so please just give whatever funds you would like to.

BOOK FAIR: The Book Fair will take place week commencing 9th October. Pupils can purchase books after school; books will also be available to purchase during parents' evening.

LOST PROPERTY: Please could we remind parents to ensure that all school uniform and water bottles are named - we have an increasing number of items in lost property. It also takes staff extra time to try to reunite non-labelled property with their owners. Lost Property is located in the disabled toilet cubicle. Thank you.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS...

REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES

In preparation for Remembrance Day, we will be holding a special 'discovery day' on Friday 10th November where pupils will take part in a variety of special activities based on gratitude, hope and remembrance.

SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNDRAISER: HALLOWEEN DRESSING UP DAY

To raise money for School Council projects, pupils have asked to once again have a Halloween dressing up day. Therefore, for a 50p donation (bucket collection at drop-off), on **Friday 27th October**, children are invited to come to school in a Halloween themed outfit.

Please don't feel the need to purchase expensive costumes. It's basically non-uniform, so children who don't wish to dress in Halloween costumes can simply wear Autumnal/Halloween colours to school – grey, orange, green, red, black etc.

Could we request that pupils leave scary masks and accessories, such as sickles, cauldrons and broomsticks at home. We'd also ask that pupils don't wear face paint and put dye in their hair as these are further added distractions.

Pupils who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day. Staff will have buckets for pupils to put their money into when they arrive at school. No change will be able to be given. Thank you.

ADVANCED NOTICE: CHILDREN IN NEED - NON UNIFORM DAY

The BBC Children in Need appeal has been confirmed as Friday 17th November. For a donation of 50p, School Council members are inviting pupils to wear their pyjamas/onesies/Oodies.

Pupils are also welcome to bring in a bear/cuddly toy to honour Pudsey! **Pupils who would usually wear PE uniform on a Friday should bring their PE kit with them on this day.**

Staff will have buckets for pupils to put their money into when they arrive at school. No change will be able to be given.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION FUNDRAISING

We will once again be supporting the Royal British Legion this year by selling items such as poppy/remembrance themed key rings, snap bands, stationery etc. on our online shop. Products will 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 and the order page is live.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2023

As part of National Anti-Bullying Week, pupils will be taking part in a number of anti-bullying activities during a special 'kindness' day on **Friday 17th 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!

FLU VACCINATIONS: Flu vaccinations will take place on **Monday 6th November** for children whose parents/carers have completed consent forms.

GRANTS & BUSINESS LINKS

We are always looking at ways to generate more income for the school. Therefore, if you have any particular business links, or access to grants, which you think would benefit the school, please speak to Rachel Daft in the school office. Thank you.

PARENTS' EVENINGS - Monday 9th & Thursday 12th 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 so that appointments don't run beyond the 10 minute schedule.

REMINDERS ...

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 DINNERS: 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. No late bookings can be taken - any meal orders placed after 7pm will not show up on our system.

PHOTOGRAPHS: School Photographs **Thursday 5th 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).

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 should be kept in a bag on pegs.

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.

REPORTING YOUR CHILD'S ABSENCE

A request from the office ... if you leave an answer message to report your child's absence, please could you tell us specifically what their illness is rather than 'poorly', this will help us to monitor patterns in tummy bugs, coughs, colds etc. Thank you.

MESSAGES TO THE OFFICE RE: HOME-TIME ARRANGEMENTS

Please could we request that unless you are unavoidably delayed in traffic at the last minute, that messages regarding a change in collection/home-time arrangements are received by the office by 2.45pm. Thank you.

PUNCTUALITY

Please could parents ensure that their children are in school for 8.45am. An increasing number of pupils are arriving at the school gates well after 8.50am which means that they are being marked late for registration. It also means that the office then have to amend lunch registers. Your support with this is very important please as punctuality and attendance is being closely monitored this term.