



ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2023

Dear Parents,

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all soon at our forthcoming parents' evening. We hope that you will be pleased with your child's progress and the learning opportunities they have been offered. As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, just let us know so that we can keep doing our best for you.

Best wishes

Fiona Shields & the Orchard Team

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

To acknowledge Children's Mental Health Week 2023 (6-12 Feb) pupils took part in a variety of activities to fit in with this year's theme of 'Let's Connect'.

Pupils were helped to understand that when we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. When our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health.

The week ended with a fun 'Dress to Express' non-uniform theme.

SPORTING NEWS - SPRING TERM A

Well done to the children who participated in the Key Steps 1 and 2 gymnastics competition against 6 other schools at Iveshead School. The girls showed poise, control and style as they competed. A great effort all round.



Congratulations also, to our winning golf team! Pupils had a great time competing against eight other schools at the Charnwood Golf Centre.



Finally, our Cross Country Squad ran brilliantly at the recent event at Charnwood.

PTA FILM NIGHT

Thank you for supporting this event. The children had a super time, as always.

THE RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

All of our classes braved a very cold and windy week to undertake the 2023 RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Pupils had a great time completing the survey.



AUTHOR VISIT & SEA TURTLE FUNDRAISER

KS1 had a super 'Awesome Oceans' day with Katherine Wheatley from Bumblegreen Books.

As well as hearing all about ocean life and the impact of plastic pollution, pupils learnt about two very special Sea Turtles, Hope and Donatello - through story.

They even found time to raise funds for Atoll Marine Conservation based in the Maldives through their special 'wear blue' non-uniform event!



THANK YOU - AVAILABLE CARD

Huge thanks to Available Car who have funded our subscription to 'Amazing People Schools' - a cross-curricular online learning resource that supports the development of key character strengths through interactive storytelling and resources about people who changed our world from Shakespeare to Tubman, Kahlo to Da Vinci.

COMIC RELIEF FUNDRAISING EVENT

On Friday 17th March, to raise funds for Comic Relief, children are invited to 'Dress Themselves Silly'. They 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.

SCHOOL LOCKDOWN

Next half term, we will need to practice our lock down procedure. This is what we would do in the event of an intruder to the site or if we needed the children to come indoors due to adverse weather or chemicals outside.

We have carefully considered the procedure and how best to explain it to the children. The children will not be alarmed or given reason to worry but will be told what to do if they hear a different 'alarm' to the usual fire alarm. Just as we practice the fire drill but do not expect a real fire, so we need to practice the lockdown procedure. The advice is that the procedures should not be shared on-line for security reasons.

We acknowledge that the likelihood of anything happening at Orchard is very low but have a duty of care to the children. If you have concerns, please speak to Mrs Shields.

SAFER INTERNET DAY

Safer Internet Day was celebrated globally on the 7th February 2023 with the theme: 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'. At Orchard, we used the day to spark a conversation about the safe and responsible use of technology and how we should respond to online issues.

Parents may find the following websites useful:
www.saferinternet.org.uk
www.saferinternet.org
www.childnet.com
www.nspcc.org.uk

WORLD BOOK DAY

Whilst pupils will be taking part in a range of book inspired activities, there are no plans for fancy dress this year. A World Book Day letter is being sent separately.

DIARY DATES

Friday 17th February: School closes

Monday 27th February: School opens

Thursday 2nd March: World Book Day

Wk. bg. 13th March: British Science Week

Thursday 16th March: PTA Mothers' Day Tea

Friday 17th March: Comic Relief Fundraiser

Friday 24th March: PTA Spring Disco

Tues 28th & Wed 29th March: Y3 Residential Visit

Tuesday 28th February: EYFS & KS1 Author Visit

Friday 31st March: School closes

Monday 17th April: School opens

Monday 24th April: LKS2 Author Visit

Monday 1st May: Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May: Bank Holiday (King's Coronation)

Tuesday 9th-Friday 12th May: Y6 SATS week

WB 15th May: KS1 SATS Week

Friday 26th May: School closes

Monday 5th June: School opens

Thursday 15th June: Sports Day

Friday 23rd June: Annual Reports sent out

Friday 30th June: Whole school transition morning & PTA Summer disco

Wednesday 12th July: School closes

REMINDERS

Book Bags - Please can we remind parents that children in KS1 and Lower Key Stage 2 should only be bringing Book Bags into school, not large rucksacks. We don't have enough room for large bags in the cloakrooms.

Labelling clothing - We have many unclaimed items in Lost Property that can't be reunited with owners due to a lack of name. Therefore please could you check that your child's jumper/cardigan and coat are labelled.

Prime Drinks - We would rather pupils didn't bring Prime drinks or re-filled Prime bottles into school to prevent any further issues arising. Thank you.

Jewellery & PE - Please could earrings either be removed or taped on PE days. A polite reminder that tiny 'hot pant' shorts are not part of our PE uniform. Thank you.