Dear Parents,

Christmas Fair
Thank you to Judith Pearmain, Stephanie Marks, the PTA committee and all the parent volunteers for organising a very successful fair. Thank you to the staff too for supporting this. It was a lovely event with so many families and children saying how much they enjoyed it. An absolutely amazing figure of £7,645 was raised which is a real credit to the team and demonstrates the fantastic support you give to our school. As a result of your continued efforts, additional laptops have just arrived in school so that we can increase the access children have to computers for coding, research, creating presentations, phonics and maths programmes and word processing. As you know, we have also been able to provide a great boost to our maths curriculum this year by being able to buy many new resources. We will now be able to improve classroom resources even further. Thank you very much for your support. It makes such a difference!

Poppy Appeal
Thank you very much for your kind donations to the Poppy Appeal. You raised £128.60 – well done!

Children in Need Appeal
Thank you very much for your generous donations for the ‘Children in Need’ day. You raised £482.57. Well done and thank you very much!

Rentstart Elmbridge Homeless Charity
The children recently had an assembly about ‘Rentstart’. Elmbridge Rentstart is a charity that helps homeless or vulnerably housed people with a connection to either Elmbridge or Runnymede boroughs. The aim is not only to help secure private rental housing, but also to support their clients to move on in life and get back into work, training or education. Rentstart has a small staff team of seven, enabling them to form strong connections with the people they support, and tailor provision to meet their needs. Every year Rentstart provides advice to around 300 local people, and go on to house and support around 130 people in our local community.

Christmas Assemblies
Children from all classes will be participating in our whole school Christmas assemblies. Dates, times and venues are as follows. We ask that you attend one of the dates for your child(ren) only to avoid too much congestion in the school hall. We are not able to accommodate younger siblings, so invite you to bring younger brothers or sisters to the dress rehearsals. We will be collecting for the ‘Rentstart’ Elmbridge Homeless Charity after the assemblies.

This year our Reception children classes will have their assemblies at school on **Tuesday 12th December at 9.45 a.m.** and **Wednesday 13th December at 9.45 a.m.** The dress rehearsal will be on **Friday 8th December at 9.45 a.m.**

**Year One** children will have their Christmas assemblies on **Thursday 14th December at 9.45 a.m.** and **Friday 15th December at 9.45 a.m.** in the school hall. Their dress rehearsal will be held on **Monday 11th December at 10.45 a.m.** for parents with younger siblings.

**Year Two** children will have their Christmas assembly on **Wednesday 13th December at 2.00 p.m.** (please note earlier start time) and dress rehearsal on **Monday 11th December at 11.00 a.m. (please note later start time)**. Both assemblies will be held at St. Mary’s Church in Molesey. Parents with younger siblings are asked to bring them to the dress rehearsal.

Grandparents are also welcome to come to the dress rehearsals.
We request politely that no personal cameras are used to take photographs or film during the children’s performances. This is because there are many families in each year group who have requested that their children’s photographs do not appear on websites or social media and we must respect this. We also hope that this will enable you to enjoy watching your children even more without the worry of filming. Thank you very much for your support and co-operation, it is really appreciated.

Punctuality
Thank you very much for supporting us and ensuring your children are here promptly for the beginning of the school day at 8.55 a.m. Doors open at 8.45 a.m. and close at 8.55 a.m.

Christmas parties
These take place on Tuesday 19th December. Please send your child to school wearing their party clothes and with sensible shoes and a coat. Please remember that the children will still have playtimes and that they need to be able to manage their party clothes themselves (e.g. going to the toilet). Party food will be served at lunchtime in place of the usual school lunches.

Evening meetings
As a small number of parents have indicated that they cannot attend daytime meetings, evening meetings will take place in the Spring term to help your child with reading, writing and maths. The reading and writing talk will take place on Wednesday 17th January at 7 p.m. and the maths talk will take place on Wednesday 7th February. Both will take place at school. Please complete the form at the end of the newsletter if you would like to attend.

Governors update, Katie Donaldson Vice Chair of Governors
As governors of The Orchard School, we’re incredibly proud of the school’s ethos and drive, promoting ‘Talk’ as a vital part of the children’s learning journey.

At The Orchard, as you will know, underpinning all teaching and learning initiatives has been an ongoing commitment to speaking and listening opportunities, the provision of a rich language environment and excellent relationships between adults and children which demonstrate and support effective language use.

This term, our governor learning walk sought to explore how ‘Talk for Mastery’, a key school priority for this year, is increasingly embedded in school life.

Talk for Mastery is a key factor in establishing a culture that is rich in Growth Mindset. Indeed in mathematics we sought to experience the impact of language in securing the belief that ability is not fixed and in developing fluency, reasoning and deepening understanding.

We were able to visit all three year groups engaged in maths activities and lessons and were impressed by the impact of ‘giving mathematics a language’. We witnessed teaching and planning which involved children defining what helps them learn best, teachers giving children time by waiting, listening and questioning, the use of consistent and well-chosen mathematical vocabulary, used with precision, praise for effort, feedback on progress and talk about goals and next steps.

From the children we saw great collaboration, inspired talk about their own learning, reflection on mistakes and what comes next, and being able to speak about what they need to do and why. We saw great confidence and independence in talk about how they solved maths problems and through repetition and reinforcement of key phrases of why they achieved their answers not just what those answers were.

May the Governing Body take the opportunity to warmly wish you and your families a wonderful holiday over the Christmas period. At parents’ evenings, social events and the Christmas Fair, we have enjoyed meeting you and hearing about your child’s experience of school life.

Year Two visit to St. Lawrence
All Year Two pupils have been invited to attend a Christmas production of “The Magical Christmas Puzzle” by the Year 4 pupils at St. Lawrence School during the afternoon of Monday 11th December.
Gas works in Molesey
We have received an e-mail from Southern Gas Networks concerning plans to replace gas mains along Walton Road, with work starting on 2nd January 2018 and completion at the end of March. This will involve use of multi-way traffic lights and temporary road closure at some junctions (Dennis Road, Park Road and Kent Road) at different stages of the project.

There is a drop in session to find out more at Molesey Football Club, 412 Walton Road, West Molesey KT8 2JG on Tuesday 12th December between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Christmas Post Box
The children may bring their Christmas cards for other children and staff from Friday 8th December. Our Christmas post box will be in the main entrance area. Please ensure all cards are clearly labelled with the recipient’s name and class. Thank you.

After School Club Assistant
There is a vacancy for an after school club assistant (3 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.). If you are interested, please ask for further details at the office. Many thanks.

Playball
We have been asked by Playball to remind parents to pick up promptly at the end of each session. Thank you.

Spring Term dates 2018
I enclose our spring term dates below.

Christmas Date Reminders
Father Christmas visiting The Orchard Tuesday 19th December
Class Christmas parties (children to wear party clothes to school) Tuesday 19th December (no hot dinners will be served – children will eat their party food at lunchtime)
Last Day of Term Thursday 21st December – School closes at 1.45 p.m
Children return to school Thursday 4th January 2018

Please see above for Christmas assembly dates

Happy Christmas! Thank you for all your support for the school during this term. Have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday.

C. RUSBY

DATES FOR SPRING TERM 2018
Thursday 4th January Children return to school
Friday 9th February Break up for half term at 3 p.m. H A L F   T E R M
Monday 19th February Children return to school
Monday 19th March Parents Consultation Evenings 4pm - 7.00 pm
Wednesday 21st March Parents Consultation Evenings 4pm - 7.30 pm
Thursday 29th March Last day of term - finish at 1.45 pm E A S T E R   H O L I D A Y S
Monday 16th April Children return to school
How to help your child – Reading and Writing (Reception and Year One Parents)

I am interested in attending the meeting on **Wednesday 17th January at 7.00 p.m.**

Child’s name .............................................. Class ..............................................

Parent/Carer’s name .................................................................

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How to help your child – Maths (Reception, Year One and Two parents)

I am interested in attending the meeting on **Wednesday 7th February 7.00 p.m.**

Child’s name .............................................. Class ..............................................

Parent/Carer’s name .................................................................

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