



Dear Parents / Carers,

The children have been in full festive swing this week from card and calendar making, to parties and a very special visitor. It was a joy to see all the Christmas Plays by all our year groups. The costumes, acting, speaking and singing were done so well. The children should feel very proud of themselves. The week culminated in a visit from Father Christmas on Thursday. It seems as though all the children at the Orchard are on his 'Nice List'. I hope it remains that way until the main event!

Thank you to our PTA elves who assisted Santa in various ways from organising, wrapping and ensuring that his present sack was fully stocked with the right number of gifts.

He couldn't have done it without you!

What a way to end the term.

And now, after a wonderful, crazy, fun filled week we are all ready for the Christmas holidays to begin. We are saying goodbye to a couple of people this term: Mrs Annable who has supported in Ash class on Wednesdays and Thursdays and Miss Jackson (Elm Class - more about her later!). We will miss them and hope to see them again soon.

Thank you to all the children, staff and families who helped to make my first term here go as it has. I am really looking forward to all that 2023 will bring.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and the happiest of starts to the new year.

Mrs Cary

This year the School Council has decided that the Orchard will be supporting the charity **Small Steps** based in Richmond as was suggested by one of our Orchard parents.



Small Steps gives children with physical disabilities the opportunity to develop their skills in looking, listening and communicating; as well as sitting, standing and stepping. All things that many of us take for granted.

Thanks to your generosity at our Christmas assemblies this week, we were able to raise **£505.70** to send to them.

Kindness Awards



What a way to end 2022 – here are our fabulous kindness award recipients this week.

Thank you for helping to make The Orchard a joyful place to be.



Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Miles	Maple	William L	Beech	Iris
Elm	Etta	Rowan	Jacob	Oak	Rubi-Rae
Holly	Beatrice	Willow	Chloe B	Sycamore	Leonie
Pine			Chloe C		

"There's room for everyone on the Nice List." - Buddy, Elf

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support in Surrey

Christmas can be a difficult time for some. Below is a link where you can find local sources of support that will be available throughout the festive holidays for children, young people and their families in Surrey.

<https://surreyeducationsservices.surreycc.gov.uk/Article/117443?source=Newsletter&guid=D9CA0201-0C7B-44CB-8EE0-19FBCC16AE92>

An outline of all the other services available in Surrey can be found on a pdf along with this newsletter. I was surprised to learn how much is out there and it would definitely be worth looking through the list to see if there is anything that is particularly relevant to you and your family.

Club 4 Signposting for Surrey

Our hearts go out to the families of four young boys who tragically died after playing on the ice this past week. In light of this tragedy, and in an effort to keep all our children and young people safe, the following has been issued by Surrey Fire & Rescue Service:



Children and young people love to play, it is how they learn and build relationships.

On cold winter days when there is snow there are lots of fun activities to do like: building a snowman, making snow angels, going on snow walks, going on sleigh rides.

As fun as these activities are, it's important that we remind children and young people of the dangers associated with snow and ice.

- To keep away from frozen lakes and bodies of water – the bankside of rivers and lakes maybe slippery and a fall could result in entering the water
- Although a lake or pond may appear completely frozen, there is no way of knowing how thick the ice is, whether it will hold a person's weight, or the depth of water is under the ice.
- Water and Ice is very cold, hypothermia can set in quickly a person falls into the water.



Please remind your children:

- Keep off ice formed on bodies of water – it is temporary and in a state of change
- Stay a safe distance away from the edge of rivers and ponds, so if you do slip over you don't fall onto ice formed on a pond or river.
- Whenever possible, it is best to stick to well-lit journey routes, use a torch at night to help you keep on the path, wear warm clothing and stay away from water.
- Play in groups so if someone does need help it is easier to summon assistance.



Free online courses for parents/carers and families

Free online Family Learning courses starting in January are now available for families to enrol on. We have a wide range of parenting courses, including several new workshops:

- **Building teenager's resilience**
- **Supporting your LGBTQ+ child**
- **Who's in charge? First steps to understanding child to parent violence**

English as an additional language families (EAL) can access courses and workshops to support their child with English and better understand how education works in England.

- **Raising bilingual children**
- **Education in England**
- **English grammar for EAL families KS2**



New workshops available for parents to support their child at home with reading.

- **Supporting your child with reading KS1 & KS2**

To enrol in these **free online courses** to support family life visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/familylearning

Admissions Policy Consultations

Just a reminder that we are currently consulting on our Admissions policy for 2024/25, as are many other schools in the local area.

Please go to our website if you would like further details about this.

<http://www.orchard.surrey.sch.uk/admissions-consultation.html>



In addition to the several I sent out last week, St Paul's Catholic Primary School in Thames Ditton is also consulting.

Please find details of their consultation at the following link:

www.stpauls-thamesditton.surrey.sch.uk

We are very happy to announce that Mr Lavall (Rowen Class) has become a dad for the second time. His wife gave birth to beautiful baby girl yesterday, who they have named Lottie. We are so excited for them.



What an amazing Christmas present for big brother Archie!

Mrs Lavall in Beech class is also a proud 'Nanny Penny' to this little bundle of joy.

Congratulations to the whole Lavall family.



Talking of babies.... we are also saying goodbye to Miss Jackson (Elm Class) who is expecting her first child in a couple of weeks.

We wish her lots of rest and relaxation over the Christmas holidays in preparation for baby's arrival. We can't wait to hear the exciting news when he or she finally arrives.

We will be welcoming Miss Long to The Orchard in January who will be Elm Class' new teacher. She is really looking forward to joining us and getting to know all the children.

Artist of the Week: *Miles Davis*

Miles Davis was an American trumpeter, band leader and composer born in 1926. His full name was Miles Dewey Davis III. His father was a dentist and his mother was a music teacher. By the age of 12, Miles was a huge fan of music. For his 13th birthday he was gifted a trumpet and began playing in local bands. During his career, he developed several different styles of jazz - cool jazz, hard bop, free jazz and fusion.

He was nominated for 32 Grammy awards, winning 8 of them.



Dates for the Diary

2023
happy new year

Tuesday 3rd January 2023

INSET day

Wednesday 4th January 2023

Children return to school

Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th January 2023

Year 2 Fire Safety Talks with
Surrey Fire & Rescue Service



Tuesday 10th January 2023

Reception visited by Sophie the Dinosaur!



Sunday 15th January 2023

Deadline for applications for Reception and Year 3 places - September 2023



Monday 16th January 2023

Consultation for changes to admissions policy ends at 12 noon



Sunday 22nd January 2023

Chinese New Year
PTA: New Year Celebrations

