

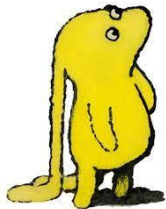
Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to Spring Term 2. I hope you all had a lovely half term. We are now over half way through the school year and the children are just as eager as ever.

We started the week off by Year 1 and Year 2 meeting some returning Orchard children in our assembly. Four pupils from Esher High that used to attend The Orchard are currently working hard to raise funds in order to visit Zambia this summer to support children and schools with some much-needed work out there. More about that later!

It was lovely to have parents in school to meet with the teachers at our Parents' Evenings this week. It is always nice to meet face to face and share with you how your children are doing in school. Teachers are always happy to meet with parents, so if you do need to discuss anything more with your child's class teacher, please let them know and they will make some time to see you. Please remember that the rearranged Parents' Evening for Sycamore and Elm class will take place on Tuesday 28th February.

We were treated to pancakes as part of our lunch on Tuesday to celebrate Shrove Tuesday and learnt a fun song about the craziness of pancake flipping in our singing assemblies.



Year 1 children have been busy in science thinking about objects and the materials they are made from. They will build on this later in the term when they learn about the properties of materials and what we use them for. In English, they were introduced to a little alien called Beegu who looks a little like a three-eyed rabbit with long, floppy ears. (*Beegu* is written by Alexis Deacon) Children have thought about why the alien crash landed on Earth and have been describing what she is like. The book shares a lovely message about accepting others with differences and making them feel welcome.

Year 2 children have been exploring Indian art. They studied some interesting paintings and thought about the different techniques that were used, how it makes them feel and what it made them think of. In maths they have been diving in to all things 'shape'. They have also been learning about grouping and sharing and using their times tables knowledge to help them divide. I have been very impressed by the speed of their fluency.



The Reception classrooms are starting to resemble a greenhouse this week. The children have been growing their own cress and learning about the important things that plants need to grow well. They have been making careful observations about what is happening to the cress seeds and have been recording their findings in a diary. They have also been thinking about their favourite stories and books and how special they are to them. This will lead into them learning about the special books and stories in different faiths, such as the Bible.

Looking forward to another enjoyable week with you all next week.

Please check our 'Dates for your Diary' section carefully as there are a couple of date changes.

Have a lovely weekend.

See you Monday!

Mrs Cary

STRIKE DATE

Please be aware of the possible strike dates coming up in March.

I will be in touch regarding these as soon as I am able.

Thursday 2nd March

Closed classes: Rowan, Maple, Willow, Elm & Holly

Open classes: Oak, Beech, Sycamore & Ash

(World Book Day has been rearranged for Friday 3rd March)

POTENTIAL FUTURE STRIKE DATES

Wednesday 15th March

Thursday 16th March



Dates for the Diary

(Please note: There are several date changes due to the upcoming strike dates.)

Tuesday 28th February 2023
Sublime Science Workshop (Reception)



Tuesday 28th February 2023
Sycamore & Elm Class Parents' Evenings



Wednesday 1st March 2023
Whole School - Drama Workshops



Wednesday 1st March 2023
PTA: Second-hand Clothes Sale



Thursday 2nd March 2023
Strike Day



Friday 3rd March 2023
World Book Day - Pyjama Day



w/c Monday 6th March 2023
Book Fair



Tuesday 7th March 2023
Reception: Ducklings



Monday 10th March 2023
Year 2 – Wisley Trip



Monday 13th March 2023
PTA: Mother's Day Gift Sale



w/c Monday 20th March 2023
Science Week



Friday 17th March 2023
Red Nose Day



Friday 24th March 2023
Year 1 and 2 Circus Skills workshop



Tuesday 28th March 2023
PTA: Easter Disco



Thursday 30th March 2023
PTA: Easter Egg Hunt



Kindness Awards



Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Logan	Maple	Millie	Beech	Jonas
Elm	Willow	Rowan	Bertie	Oak	Charlie
Holly	Ottilie	Willow	Jenson	Sycamore	Frank
		Pine	Odin		

"A part of kindness consists in loving people more than they deserve." - Joseph Joubert

Please find the links below if you are able to donate using our Amazon Wish Lists:



Thank you for all items received.

PTA

The PTA met this week and have lots of lovely things planned to raise money for our school and to help provide some fabulous experiences for the children. All the children will take part in some exciting events funded by our PTA this half term. The Reception children will be having a Sublime Science Workshop (slime will be involved!) on Tuesday and later on in March the Year 1 and Year 2 children will be taking part in a circus skills workshop.

Other PTA News:

The Easter Disco will be in the last week of term. The link to book your ticket for event is here:
https://www.pta-events.com/orchardpta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=58119#.Y_S4zuSnwWN

The PTA has also registered to

Give As You Live



Sadly the Amazon Smile scheme has now ended. Fortunately, there is a new scheme available, gathering over 6,000 retailers (such as Boots, Tesco, John Lewis, Booking.com, eBay, Argos etc). If you make any purchase with one of those retailers through Give as you Live, the retailer makes a donation of 0.5-5% of the purchase price to the Orchard PTA. This is TOTALLY FREE to you and would make a huge difference to the school. Please support us by making purchases with qualifying retailers through Give as you Live. You simply need to register once and select the Orchard School PTA as your chosen charity. Here is the link <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/>

Don't forget you can buy our delightful and practical Orchard teatowels through the PTA shop.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you for the responses to the Parent Questionnaire that I sent out at the beginning of the week. I appreciate all the responses that I have received so far. Please take the time to complete this survey to help us make The Orchard the best it can be. It can be found by clicking on the following link: <https://bit.ly/3IRPizo>

We would be grateful if you could complete the survey by **Friday 3rd March 2023**.



Update on our Mufti-Day Fundraiser for the Turkey/Syria
Earthquake appeal

£3,682 + £750 gift aid = £4432

You guys are awesome!

Thank you

Zambia Fund Raiser

Ex-Orchard pupils, who currently attend Esher High, are raising funds for a special trip to support children in Zambia. They are inviting children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in the local community to attend a special event that they are hosting on

Saturday 18th March
10am at 1st Molesey Scout Hut.
Movie Morning / Football Session
£5



To find out more about this, please see the attached flyer and use the following email to contact the organisers.

ehszambia23@gmail.com

You may also like to watch this video of previous pupils that have taken part in this special trip.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09DTL5GEsok>

Artist of the Week: Ma Rainey

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4DtrZ3ZH3moR34Smo8Dx3B?si=0b85566b19ca4c27>

Ma Rainey was an American Blues Singer. She is known as the Mother of the Blues and won a posthumous lifetime achievement award at the 2023 Grammys a couple of weeks ago.

She was also a fashion icon in her day wearing ostrich plumes, satin gowns, diamond tiaras and gold teeth. Rainey was well known for having very powerful vocals and she recorded her first song in 1923. Over the next 5 years she went on to record over 100 songs.

