

# The Orchard Newsletter

## Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope your week has been as productive as ours. There have been lots of things going on at the Orchard that makes every day an exciting and interesting one – for me as well as for the other staff and of course our children.



We immersed ourselves in Chinese New Year celebrations this week and it was lovely for the children to receive words of affirmation from each other in their special red envelopes provided by the PTA. Many thanks to Bella's and Joanna's mums for coming in to our assembly this week and teaching us about Chinese New Year. I was also very proud of Bella, Joanna, James and Elara for being brave enough to come to the front of the assembly and sing a Chinese New Year Song to all of the other children in the school. Our school choir also sang and they seem to be going from strength to strength. Well done!

This week, Year 1 have been busy learning about Antarctica. They have been learning about its frozen landscape as well as creating some amazing icy pastel pictures and penguin collages. In their RE lesson, they learnt about the Ten Commandments and devised their own rules for helping us all to live a happy life. They really did have some great ideas!



Reception children have learnt a dinosaur poem called 'Roar!'. They identified the rhyming words, added actions to it and used fantastic prosody to make it sound really effective.

In RSHE they talked about the difference between secrets and surprises and that good secrets are happy surprises that people eventually find out about but bad secrets make us feel sad or worried inside. We also discussed what to do if someone tries to make us keep a bad secret.

Year 2 children have been twisting and turning their multiplication tables around this week. I even quizzed some of the children that came to visit me for Headteacher Lottery and they were very fluent with their 2-, 5- and 10- times tables. They have also been rebuilding London after the Great Fire and have been planning out what they would have done if they had lived in that time. It was a great way to show off varied time starters such as 'Next', 'After that' and 'Then' showing lovely cohesion in their writing.

This week we also introduced our 'Maths Magician' of the day. Teachers will be looking out for children who have been really working well in maths lessons. This may be for a variety of reasons such as effort and determination, reasoning skills, problem solving, fluency of number skills, using different representations, diving deeper and taking on challenges.



Well done to everyone for all your fantastic learning this week.  
Have a great weekend!

Mrs Cary

## PLANNED STRIKES

If your child is in Year 1 and 2, please do not send them in to school on **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February** due to the planned strike action.

Reception classes will remain open.

Breakfast club and After-school club will only remain available for Reception pupils.

Pupils who usually attend French club and Playball at 3pm may still attend.

Thank you for understanding , support and co-operation.



## Kindness Awards



Thank you to these very lovely human beings!

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Arthur	Maple	Teddy	Beech	Sophia
Elm	Phoebe	Rowan	Henry	Oak	Annabelle
Holly	Tadgh	Willow	Lana	Sycamore	Georgia
		Pine	Dylan		

*"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."*

**John Holmes**

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



## Coming up.....Children's Mental Health Week 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And 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.



**Let's Connect** is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week - and beyond.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways. We will be doing a variety of activities over the week to help promote positive mental health in our children and will be giving them ideas that they can use beyond the classroom.

Please see the attached resource for parents.

You may also want to watch the video clip at the following link to learn more about the theme.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/news-and-blogs/2022/october/place2be-announces-theme-for-children-s-mental-health-week-2023/>



One thing I had hoped we might be able to get rid of during the lockdowns and global pandemic was head lice.

Sadly, that is not the case and it is something that we all need to be aware of in our young children as it is so very easy to pass them on from one child to another.

Regular checks and combing through hair effectively is a good way to combat them.



We are very fortunate to be able to offer a promotional deal through a company called Nitty Gritty. They will offer any Orchard parent who buys their head lice solution and defence spray one of their award-winning nit-free combs completely free.

A demonstration of how to remove headlice and eggs can be found at the following link:

<https://www.nittygritty.co.uk/site/watchourvideo.asp>

Please see the attached information leaflet in the email alongside this newsletter.

## Coffee Morning

You are invited to attend a Coffee Morning here at The Orchard with our Family Support Worker, Teresa Doe.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

9am in the school hall

This will be a great opportunity for parents to connect, share experiences and get to know each other, as well as meet Teresa who does so many great things to support families across our school.



All Welcome!

## Artist of the Week: Ludwig Van Beethoven



Born in the 1770 in Bonn, Germany, Beethoven would go on to become one of the most influential composers, writing dozens of symphonies, concertos, piano sonatas and string quartets.



Many of these were composed while his hearing was deteriorating and eventually he became totally deaf.

He studied with Haydn, an Austrian composer who also taught Mozart.

One of my favourite pieces of music written by Beethoven is the Moonlight Sonata.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbTVZMJ9Z2I>

It was written for the woman he first fell in love with, but sadly he wasn't allowed to marry her because he was considered a 'commoner'.

# Dates for the Diary

(Please note that we will rearrange activities where we can if they are affected by strike action.)

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023**

Teacher strike



**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February**  
Children's Mental Health Week



**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Safer Internet Day



**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

Parents Evenings

(more details to follow later in the term)



**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

Parent Coffee Morning

with our Family Support Worker, Teresa Doe

All invited @ 9am



**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

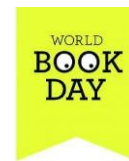
Whole School

Drama Workshops



**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

World Book Day



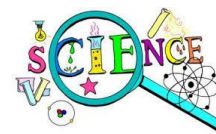
**w/c Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Book Fair



**w/c Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Science Week



**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Year 1 and 2 Circus Skills workshop



**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Red Nose Day



**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Easter Disco

