



Dear Parents / Carers,

Well Christmas has definitely started here at the Orchard.

The office is decorated and advent calendars are being opened. Costumes are being brought in and Christmas songs are filling the corridors as the children practice for their special assemblies next week. The children have taken great delight in telling me what their Christmas elves have been up to at home for the last couple of mornings.



Very naughty elves!



All ticket requests for the Christmas assemblies should have been sent in to school by today and tickets will be distributed at the beginning of next week.

The children have been able to share lots of their learning with me this week and I have been able to go in to lessons and see it in action. There has been a fantastic writing focus.

Year 1 have been learning some very tricky words this week: 'deciduous' and 'coniferous' and thinking about why the leaves on some trees change colour. They have also been learning about the structure of a story and 'problems' that the characters have and how they are resolved.

Year 2 have been writing diary entries, taking on the role of characters and writing as if they were them. They have been sharing their thoughts and feelings about different events. They have also been learning about 'times' (multiplication) and making those really important links that will enable them to speed up their mental calculations.

Our Reception children have been writing about a character called Blue Penguin from the book Blue Penguin by Petr Horacek. The beautiful illustrations and touching story about friendship and belonging have allowed the children to explore character feelings and they have written about them thoughtfully. **Lastly, a quick reminder that on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January we have an INSET day and children will return to school on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

Wishing you a happy weekend,

Mrs Cary

## Kindness Awards

Here are our super-duper kindness award winners this week. They have all been spotted by their teachers for that little extra bit of kindness that they have shared this week – well done!

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Leo D	Maple	Bastie	Beech	Monty
Elm	Freddie M	Rowan	Theo	Oak	Alfred
Holly	Jessamine	Willow	Daisy	Sycamore	Luca
		Pine	Siddiq		



**Kindness is lighting someone else's torch with your own inner flame!**



If the children would like to send **Christmas cards** to their friends across the school then we have our Christmas card delivery service in school starting next week.

Envelopes must clearly state the child's **first name, last name and class** as we have lots of children with the same first name and we want to make sure it gets to the right person

**First post: Tuesday 6th Dec**  
**Last post: Wednesday 14th Dec**



# Christmas Choir Events

We have been invited to sing at  
2 more community Christmas events.

St Peter's Christmas Fair Youth and Community Hub, Ray Road  
on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December @ 11:20am

Bridge Road Winter Wander on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December @ 4:30pm

We would love for you all to come and watch and also support these festive events.

Guaranteed to get you well and truly in the Christmassy mood!

**There will be live reindeer at Winter Wander.**

Please see the attached flyer with more details.



## Dates for the Diary

**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

PTA: Christmas Tree Pick Up



**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

Christmas Jumper Day  
(Christmas lunch)



**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

PTA: Christmas Wreath Making



**Christmas Assemblies**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

Reception @ 9:30am  
Year 2 @ 2pm

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

Year 1 @ 9:30am  
Reception @ 2pm

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

Year 2 @ 9:30am  
Year 1 @ 2pm

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

Year group Christmas Parties

(and there just might be a special someone visiting The Orchard!)



**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Autumn Term Finishes @ 1:45pm

2023  
*happy new year*

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

INSET day

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Children return to school

## Voluntary Contributions

Over recent years the generosity of parents through parent donations has helped us provide a wide range of opportunities and activities for all Orchard children to broaden and enrich their education. From the classroom equipment to dinosaur visit and dance workshops.

With the increasing pressure on state school funding, parental contributions are vital.

Parent Donations make a significant difference to our school and all children at the Orchard. Parent Donations could help us fund additional learning resources, to support drama, sport and music for example.

### Making a contribution

This is a great way to help your child's education. The suggested contribution is £20 per term or £60 per year. If any families are able to support us at a higher or lower level, all contributions are appreciated equally and the benefits are vast. The School is also able to take full advantage of the Inland Revenue's Gift Aid Scheme, to enhance the value of donations from parents. We are able to reclaim the basic rate of Tax, where applicable, and we can increase the value of donations by 25%. We would encourage you to Gift Aid if possible, by completing the attached GiftAid form, as the additional 25% makes a significant difference to the school at no extra cost to yourself. We are extremely proud of our school community and grateful for parents' continued support. We are always looking at creative ways to use the funds we do receive as effectively as possible.

### Artist of the Week is:

This reggae/pop band has been around for almost 45 years. The ethnic make-up of the band's original line-up was diverse, with musicians of English, Welsh, Irish, Jamaican, Scottish, and Yemeni parentage. They recently performed at the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games. As well as their own original hits they have done some wonderful cover versions of songs by Elvis, Neil Diamond and Sonny & Cher, putting their own unique sound to them.

