

Dear Parents / Carers

A cold but busy week here at The Orchard. Apologies for my newsletter being so late. It felt like we were thrown back in time to the dark ages towards the end of this week with our internet being down. I have had to head home to send this newsletter to you. It is amazing how reliant we have all become to being connected to the world wide web. It didn't deter us in our learning though and we still managed to get lots done this week.

Reception children started the week discovering some very strange footprints left throughout the Reception area. It indicated that the school had been visited by a dinosaur over the weekend. Later in the week the children became palaeontologists as they dug for fossils and met two very cute baby dinosaurs. The children have created some wonderful dinosaur 'Wanted' posters, including lovely pictures and fantastic writing describing what the dinosaur looks like.



Year 1 children were thinking about special books in RE – this will lead on to their learning about special writings in the Jewish faith known as the Torah which they will be learning about next week. They have also been writing about Sunny the Meerkat's adventures and writing letters home to his family. The children have created some striking art showing the contrast between hot and cold colours as well.

Year 2 children have been very fiery this week. They were visited by Surrey Fire and Rescue Service and were given some great safety advice. Please see the additional information sheets about their learning that have come from the Fire and Rescue Service. They have also written some detailed chronological reports about the events of that infamous night that started in Pudding Lane back in 1666.



Well done on all your fabulous learning this week.

I would like to say a special thank you to Camille (Emile and Arthur's Mum in Willow Class). She has worked tirelessly this past year as chair of our PTA but is now stepping down. Her commitment and enthusiasm has been so gratefully received throughout this past year. The wonderful events experienced by the children, staff and families at the Orchard have been largely due to her vision and drive. Thank you, Camille!

Thank you ❤️

Another big thank you to Rachel (Alfie and Emilia's mum – Beech & Ash) and Kath (Bea's mum – Rowan) who are taking on the role of co-chairs. Please support them and join us for a PTA meeting on 31st January at The Poyntz. The PTA newsletter is also attached to this Parentmail.

Have a wonderful weekend. See you on Monday.

Mrs Cary

Dates for the Diary

Monday 15th January

Deadline for applications for Reception and Year 3 places -
September 2024



Thursday 25th January

Second hand uniform sale



Wednesday 31st January

PTA Meeting @ The Poyntz
(please note change of venue)



Thursday 1st and Friday 2nd February

Year 1 Bake Sale



Monday 5th to Sunday 11th February

Children's Mental Health Week



Tuesday 6th February

Safer Internet Day



Thursday 9th February +

PTA: Chinese New Year celebrations
Chinese lantern sale



Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Half term



Tuesday 27th and Thursday 29th February

Parents Evenings
(more details to follow later next term)



Tuesday 1st March

PTA: Leap-a-thon



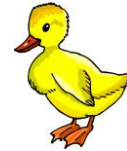
Tuesday 5th March

PTA: Mothers' Day
'Willy Wonka' Chocolate Bar Sale
Shhhh! It's a surprise!



Tuesday 5th March

Reception: Ducklings are coming!



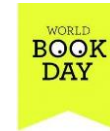
Wednesday 6th March

Whole School - Drama Workshops



Thursday 7th March

World Book Day



Friday 8th March

Year 2 Wisley Trip



w/c Monday 11th March

Book Fair



Friday 22nd March

PTA: Quiz Night
See details below



Tuesday 26th March

PTA: Easter Disco &
Easter Colouring Competition



Parent request.....

Do you have a talent for taking great photos?



Professional or amateur?



We need your help!

We are in the process of updating our website and school prospectus. Are you able to help us out by volunteering to take some photos of our school grounds and the children and staff as they work and play?

We would love to do this towards the end of the spring term when the weather has cheered up a bit and we have some blue skies and the leaves are back on the trees.

Please contact the school office if this is something you are able to support us with.
020 8979 2945 / admin@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

Many thanks

Save the Date

The Orchard



Friday 22nd March 2024

THE HUB, RAY ROAD, WEST MOLESEY - KT8 2LG

Cost: £17.50 pp for the quiz and a sharing meat and cheese board served to your table.
Vegetarian platters provided and other dietary requirements catered for.

Teams: Minimum 6 - Maximum 8



Click here to book your ticket!

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/orchardpta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=74207>

Value Awards

Our values are: **Courage**, **Determination**, **Respect** and **Kindness**.

Well done to all these wonderful children for showing our values through your words and actions this week.

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Luli	Maple	Wilfred	Beech	Arlo
Elm	Wilf	Rowan	Theo	Oak	Harvey
Holly	Zeus	Willow	Ascher	Sycamore	Niamh
		Pine	Louis		

It always seems impossible until it's done.

ARTIST OF THE WEEK: OTIS REDDING

This week we will be listening to the soulful tunes of Otis Redding such as
Try a Little Tenderness and
(Sitting on the) Dock of the Bay

Redding was hugely influenced by gospel music and the rock and soul style of his favourite role model Little Richard.

He had to support his family when he was very young because his dad got very sick. His breakthrough came after winning a talent show every week for 15 weeks in a row. His music made him very wealthy. He had over 200 suits and 400 pairs of shoes! Sadly, Otis died in a plane crash whilst on tour.



<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/70gtb3gQegKH9I5ksQa1Wg?si=9713879bb244411f>

School Census Day

Thursday 18th
January 2024

Special school lunch



Orchard Reading Recommendations



You can click on the book covers to link you to Amazon to read more about each book.

Reception

Marlo in Reception has chosen **Dear Zoo** to recommend to other children. Marlo says she likes **Dear Zoo** because it has three of her favourite animals in it: a lion, a snake and a dog. This book is a wonderful story all about animals. It has such a distinct pattern in it that children would be able to add animals that they can think of themselves in that same way that the author Rod Campbell does.

Dear Zoo



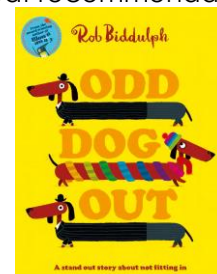
Rod Campbell

Year 1

Vladimir in Rowan class is a big fan of the drawings of the illustrator and author Rob Biddulph (YouTube: Draw with Rob). Rod has also written a great book called **Odd Dog Out** which Vladimir also enjoys reading.

Vladimir tells us, "It's all about a dog that feels like it doesn't belong with all the other dogs. Luckily, he realises just how special he is and that we don't all have to be the same."

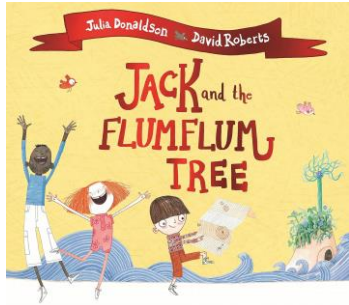
What a great recommendation Vladimir.



Staff

Miss Long absolutely loves the book
Jack and the Flumflum tree

Miss Long says, "This is my favourite story of all time! It is written by Julia Donaldson, the author of the Gruffalo and Superworm. It is full of adventure, brilliant rhyme and lots of lovely pictures. Sail off to the island of 'Blowyernose' and help cure Granny of the Moozles in this wonderful book."



Year 2

Zepphyrin in Beech class has chosen to recommend a book for slightly older children.

Miles Morales Stranger Tides (A Spiderman Graphic Novel)

written by Justin Reynolds and illustrated by Pablo Leon. Zepphyrin got this book at last year's book fair. He likes it because he loves Spiderman and he thinks "it is a dramatic book as sometimes the action can get a bit dangerous and I likes dangerous things". Zepphyrin thinks children in Year 2 or older will love this book – anyone over the age of 6," recommends Zepphyrin.

