



The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 1st March 2024



Dear Parents / Carers

Happy St David's Day!

March has arrived and maybe, just maybe, Spring will be on its way. I definitely saw sunshine this afternoon. 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. We are always grateful for the support you give them at home with their learning as well.



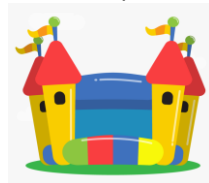
The Reception children enjoyed celebrating St David's Day today and tried out Welsh Cakes which they thoroughly enjoyed. They are also enjoying watching the frog spawn that we have in 'Yellow Bay' develop into tadpoles and were absolutely delighted to spot frogs and toads on the way to school this morning in amongst some of the rather large puddles. They all behaved like little jumpy frogs this morning in our leap-a-thon as well. It was almost like we had planned for it all. 😊

Following their previous designs, Year 1 have been constructing houses out of a range of construction materials for the little alien Beegu and have thought very carefully about all its different features, the size and placement of objects and how it will suit Beegu's needs. They have learnt about 'Shabbat' and many were intrigued to learn about the break from electronics that people of the Jewish faith take on their special rest day.

Year 2 have been continuing to grow their bean seeds and learning about what a plant needs to grow. They also learnt about the special process Muslims go through before prayer in their RE lessons. The children have also been writing letters and book reviews in their English lessons.



As mentioned earlier, we had a very special LEAP YEAR LEAP-A-THON this morning. The children enjoyed bouncing around on the bouncy castle and we are hoping to have raised some more money for our PTA. I would like to thank those who have sponsored the children of course thank the PTA and their team of parents that came in this morning to organise, supervise, count, time and ensure the safety of all the children.



Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Mrs Best, whose last day with us will be on Monday 4th March. She is going to start a new job outside of education in catering consultancy.

More about how much we will miss her in next week's newsletter.

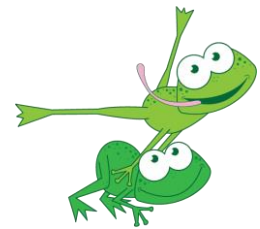
If you are a Reception parent and would like to attend our phonic workshop, please make sure you have signed up before Monday via Parentmail.

Details are further down the newsletter.

Wishing a very 'hoppy' weekend to you all.

See you Monday

Mrs Cary



I am sure you are all familiar with the term 'stranger danger'. This safety campaign used in schools now is called '**Clever Never Goes**'.

This week, we introduced the Reception children to the little robot CLEVER and its great safety advice.

The Year 1 and Year 2 children were great at remembering the rules that we discussed with them last year.

CLEVER NEVER GOES is a child-friendly programme that teaches children how to stay safe from abduction when they are outside (e.g. walking to or from school), or online. It teaches children to recognise when someone (anyone) is asking them to go with them. We call this 'Go Spotting'. It's about giving your child practical safety skills and confidence to engage with the outside world.

Please be assured that this is done in a very age appropriate way.



THE RULE:

If anyone asks you to go - even someone that you know, if it hasn't been agreed, remember: CLEVER NEVER GOES



Please find attached with the newsletter on your parentmail email the information leaflet for parents which explains the campaign in greater detail. You may also wish to visit the website:

<https://clevernevergoes.org/>



World Book Day

Thursday 7th March 2024

The Orchard, we will be celebrating World Book Day in our pyjamas and with our favourite teddies. We will also be having another date with a secret reader and we will be visited by a published author.

Smart phone free childhood campaign

You may have seen in the press the new campaign to connect parents in local communities so that together they can agree not to give their children smartphones until at least 14, or social media before the age of 16.

The facts:

- **97% of 12-year-olds in Britain have a smartphone.** When children started getting them, there was no research about their impact. Now there is, and it's overwhelming.
- **Smartphones expose children to harmful content**, raise the likelihood of developing a mental illness and are highly addictive.
- **Parents have been put in an impossible position.** Either we give our children access to something that opens the door to porn, bullying, grooming and the anxiety machine that is social media, or we risk alienating them from their peers.
- **Regulation hasn't caught up with the technology**, so it's parents and children that lose out.

The Smartphone Free Childhood purpose is to give power back to parents, and to kickstart the change society needs.

As part of the national movement, **St Lawrence and The Orchard schools** have set up a Whats app group for parents wanting to delay giving smartphones to their children or those concerned by the issue. It is a supportive and non-judgemental environment where parents can connect, exchange ideas and resources and create a constructive conversation to try and make a difference in our community.

To join the St Lawrence and Orchard School WhatsApp group, please follow the following link.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/GqbmEjXuW3x7tamVozRN23>



Smartphone Free Childhood is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood's too short to be spent on a smartphone

We're on a mission to

01.

Bring parents together to start new and positive conversations about the problems of smartphones in childhood

02.

Empower parents to take collective action in their local communities - agreeing to delay giving their children smartphones until at least 14

03.

Demonstrate that parents are demanding change at scale, and therefore force the government and tech companies to act

Why we're doing this now

We've been put in an impossible position by the tech companies. It's a lose lose - either allow our children access to something all the evidence tells us is damaging, or say no and risk alienating them among their peers at a crucial stage of their social development. **We believe something needs to change, and it starts with all of us.**



Scan to find out more

How you can get involved

Join your regional WhatsApp group.

You'll find the links to all regional groups at linktr.ee/smartphonefreechildhood

Start a WhatsApp group for your school to begin a conversation with your community

- we've put together a toolkit to help you smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/toolkits

Follow us on Instagram

[@smartphonefreechildhood](https://www.instagram.com/smartphonefreechildhood)

Sign up to our newsletter. We'll be sharing all our plans, advice and inspiration here as the movement grows.

smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/subscribe

Value Awards

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

Wow there is a lot of green in our table below showing how determined our children are being – well done to all those children who received the values award.

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Emilia	Maple	Jack	Beech	Olivia
Elm	Alex	Rowan	Mae	Oak	Xavi
Holly	Chloe	Willow	Darcie	Sycamore	Immy
	Pine		Louis		



Be the reason someone smiles today.





Reception Parents are invited to a

Phonic Presentation and Activity Session

Tuesday 5th March 2024

9am – 10am

Please see the communication sent out last week.

You can book this session by Sunday evening via the event section in the Parentmail app.

Value Awards

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

Wow there is a lot of green in our table below showing how determined our children are being – well done to all those children who received the values award.

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Emilia	Maple	Jack	Beech	Olivia
Elm	Alex	Rowan	Mae	Oak	Xavi
Holly	Chloe	Willow	Darcie	Sycamore	Immy
		Pine	Louis		



Be the reason someone smiles today.



ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT TO BOOK

The Orchard



Friday 22nd March 2024

Book by March 15th.

Click here to book your ticket!

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

Free Parenting Workshop

Supporting family wellbeing through sleep education



Thursday 14th March 2024

9am in the school hall

<https://www.midnightmentor.co.uk/>

Please Big Kid Sleep Flyer attached

Please check Parentmail for the form to indicate whether you will be attending.



Artist of the week: Johnny Lee Hooker

Blues



He was the youngest of 11 children.

His step dad gave him his first introduction to the guitar and his older sister's boyfriend gave him his first ever guitar

John couldn't read or write but was a great lyricist.

He liked to change up the beat when he performed and would often change the tempo of songs to create a different effect.

Two of his songs, "Boogie Chillin" and "Boom Boom", are included in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's list of the 500 Songs That Shaped Rock and Roll.

Click here to listen to some of this bluesy music:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3Lehhi5CzthKpXWiOENnB?si=b9e1382fbdce4287>

Orchard Reading Recommendations



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

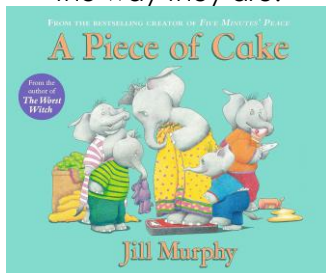
Reception

Matilda in Holly class recommends

A Piece of Cake by Jill Murphy

Ever felt a bit wibbly wobbly and felt the urge to get a little fitter.

This book is about a family of elephants on a bit of mission to get fit. They find it quite challenging. There is happy ending though because they realise they are all just perfect just the way they are.



Year 2



Molly in Beech Class recommends this book

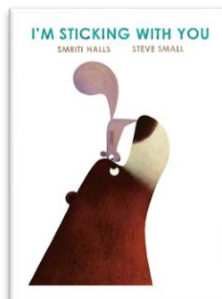
The Witches by Roald Dahl

"I recommend the Witches by Roald Dahl because it has funny words and pictures. My favourite part is when the witches turn into rats. I think this story would be suitable for 5- to 10-year olds. I don't think it's suitable for little children because my brother is 4 and he was scared. I think the message in this story is that even if you're small you can still do a lot of things."

Staff

Our staff recommendation this week is from Miss Moutso who recommends

I am Sticking with You by Smiriti Halls and Steve Small

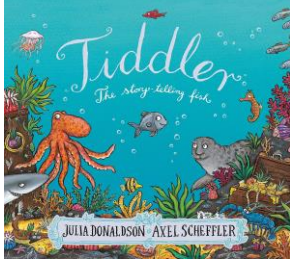


Described as a lovely book to cuddle up with, this one is all about the importance of friendship.

'A wonderful, warm bear-hug of a story with sumptuous illustrations. A modern classic.'

Year 1

William in Willow class recommends the book **Tiddler** by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. William likes this story because it has got great pictures and Tiddler goes on an adventure where he gets caught by a net. Spoiler alert.....the gets saved in the end!
William thinks this book is great for Year 1 and Reception children.



Jessamine in Rowan class recommends **The Year We Muddled Through** By Lauren Fennemore



Even though Jessamine was only little when the country went in to lockdown four year ago it's interesting to find out how the world changed. As we read this together today it brought back memories of that time almost 4 years ago and the unique time that it was.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 5th March

PTA: Mothers' Day
'Golden Ticket' Chocolate Bar Sale
Shhhh! It's a surprise!



Tuesday 5th March

Reception: Phonic workshop and activity session
9am – 10am



Tuesday 5th March

Reception: Ducklings are coming!



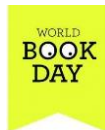
Wednesday 6th March

Whole School - Drama Workshops



Thursday 7th March

World Book Day



Friday 8th March

Year 2 Wisley Trip



w/c Monday 11th March

Book Fair



Tuesday 19th March

Sublime Science



Friday 22nd March

PTA: Quiz Night



Tuesday 26th March

PTA: Easter Disco &
Easter Colouring Competition



Thursday 28th March

School finishes @ 1:45pm