

The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 3rd November 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

What a wet and blustery week we have had here.

Children in Reception have been learning all about fireworks: how exciting they are, the wonderful noises they make and that they are used in lots of celebrations. They also learnt how important it is to stay safe around them. Their top tips are:



Stand back from fireworks

Don't go back to a firework that hasn't gone off

Keep pets indoors

Always wear gloves when holding sparklers because they are very hot

Wear bright clothes so you can be seen in the dark

Our Year 1 children have been reading a delightful book called **The Leaf Thief** by Alice Hemming. You can read it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJSGrf6A8Zc> or purchase it here:

<https://shorturl.at/awXYZ>



In art, they have been learning how to show feelings in the faces they draw and how to show different facial features doing different expressions.



Learning about the effects of exercise on our bodies is something that the Year 2 children have been doing. They have also been learning about myths and legends from different parts of the United Kingdom in their music lesson and considering how instruments can be played in different ways to make different sounds to go along with the fascinating stories.

Many children had their flu vaccinations this week. The nurse team that came in were incredibly complimentary of the children and in particular said that our Reception classes were exceptional.

If you were not able to book your child's flu vaccination you can still get one through your GP, Molesey clinic or your local pharmacy.

Next week we have our **parents' evenings** and are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress. Please make sure you have made an appointment via Parentmail if you haven't done so already.

We are looking for **raffle prizes** and **boxes of tissues**. An interesting combination I sense you wondering, but not needed for the same reason.

Boxes of tissues because it is just that season of the year – snotty noses everywhere.

Many thanks for any you can send in.

Raffle prizes will be for our **Christmas Fayre** on **Saturday 2nd December**. Is there something you can donate that will get the raffle tickets flying off the shelf? Please let your PTA class rep know.

Many thanks!

Look out for our year group **Amazon Wish list** information that we will be sending out next week.

Thank you for all you do to support your children and us all as a school. We really appreciate the partnership we have.

I hope the weather doesn't spoil any firework displays over the weekend and that you all have a safe, fun and happy time.

See you on Monday

Mrs Cary

Reading Books

Our lovely new reading books that are linked to our Little Wandle Phonics Scheme have arrived. Our PTA have kindly donated a lot of money to make this happen and we are very grateful. Some children will be bringing them home today. Although we were able to source some plastic covers for some of the books to protect them, unfortunately some of them were not a standard shape and size and we have had some difficulty in getting the covers. We really want our books to be kept safe as they transition between school and home so are providing plastic wallets in all pupils' book bags for the children's books and reading diaries to be kept safe – free from water spills, dogs chewing them or muddle puddle misadventures.



If a book comes back to school damaged or in a condition where we feel it needs to be replaced, we will be asking for compensation for that book so that we can purchase another one in its place. Thank you for your understanding and your care with this matter.

School Consultations

There are several consultations taking place at the moment regarding other schools in the local area. We have received information about the following schools:

Cardinal Newman - Admissions
Long Ditton Infants & Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School – Federation

I am sending them out with this email for you to read and to act on accordingly should you wish.

Voluntary Contributions – School Fund

Thank you once again for the school fund payments that have been made! Payments can be made via Standing Order using the bank details below: -

Bank: HSBC UK Account
Name: The Orchard School Fund
Account Number: 30632317
Sort Code: 40-20-26

Anti-bullying Week

13-17th November



Monday 13th - Odd Socks Day

Children can wear odd/fun/funky but not smelly socks to school. If they usually wear tights they may want to wear short odd socks over their tights.

Friday 17th - Children in Need Mufti

Wear spots or stripes to school and bring in a donation to support the Children in Need fundraiser.

Online Safety Focus

Five Nights at Freddy's

A series of horror games that have become a word-of-mouth success on YouTube. Please see the flyer attached to the email about this so you are informed about its harmful content.

Remembrance Day

Next week we will be marking Remembrance Day in our learning, including an age-appropriate assembly and a minute's silence. The children will learn about the reasons that the poppy symbol is used and reflect on the significance of what people in the armed forces have done for us, and are still doing, today.

From **Wednesday 8th November**, children will be able to donate to the Poppy Appeal and I will be asking the school councillors to bring the collection box to every classroom. A suggested donation is £1.

Unfortunately, there is a limited supply, so you may want to source a poppy by other means. We are trying to get more in school.

All donations received at school will go directly to The Royal British Legion.

For each donation, the children will receive a poppy which they can wear to school on **Friday 10th November**.



Autumn 1 Attendance

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	97.5%	Maple	98.4%	Beech	97.1%
Elm	95.9%	Rowan	96.1%	Oak	96.3%
Holly	97.2%	Willow	97.1%	Sycamore	98.0%

Well done to Maple class who had the best attendance last half term!

Whole school attendance = 97.1%

Attendance is not just monitored as classes or collectively as a school it is also monitored as individuals. It is the Department of Education/Ofsted that dictate that attendance below 95% is poor and that below 90% is 'persistent absenteeism'. The reasons for this have been made clear before; good attendance is vital for the success of pupils and their wellbeing. School data, as well as that issued nationally, makes clear that poor attendance results in poorer outcomes for children.

It is my duty as Headteacher to address poor attendance and the duty of my Governing Body to hold me accountable for it. The vast majority of parents at The Orchard ensure their children attend in line with the expectation as we can see from the results above and I am grateful for this, as are my staff. Please be advised that I will be contacting parents next week if their child's attendance is below the 90% threshold as it is important for you to know this information so we can address these concerns together.

Thank you for your continued support in getting your children in school, on time, every day.

Coffee Morning

We will be hosting a coffee morning at school where parents will have an opportunity to meet with other parents and also chat with our Family Support Work – Teresa Doe.



All welcome!

Wednesday 22nd November 9am

Value Awards

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

Wow – what a lot of determination this week!

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Edie	Maple	Lily	Beech	Bastie
Elm	Lorcan	Rowan	Riley	Oak	Martha
Holly	Florence	Willow	Fred	Sycamore	Theo
		Pine	Chloe		

"Fall seven times, stand up eight." – Japanese Proverb.

Pumpkin Decorating Winners



I was unable to show you the winners of our pumpkin competition last half term as the server went down in advance of some building work before I had a chance to upload the spectacular photos. I have to say that the standard was excellent and all the pumpkins were so impressive.

We hope you all enjoyed Hallowe'en celebrations this year despite the wet weather. Here are our pumpkin carving winners, who each received a prize from the PTA. I was particularly impressed by two children who chose to use the winnings to buy something special for their classes – thank you!



Elm - Jesse



Ash - Rose



Holly - Max



Maple – Miles



Willow – Leo



Rowan – Leonidas



Sycamore – Bertie



Oak - Daisy



Beech – Alfie

Don't forget to add these to your calendar!

For the Grown Ups!

**Let's kick start the Christmas Season
in style!**

**ORCHARD SCHOOL CHRISTMAS
PARTY 2023**

When: Saturday 25th November 2023

You can get your tickets here:

<https://www.pta->

[events.com/orchardpta/index.cfm?event=event&event
Id=66460](https://www.pta-events.com/orchardpta/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=66460)

For the children!

Christmas Fayre



**Saturday 2nd December
at the Orchard
10am – 1pm**

Dates for the Diary

Monday 6th November

Parent Tour Mornings for Sept 2024 intake

9 – 9:30am



Tuesday 7th November and Thursday 9th November

Parents Evening

Please check your appointment time and arrive a few minutes before.



w/c Monday 13th November

Anti-bullying week



(Monday – Odd Socks Day – wear odd socks

Friday - Children in Need Day – wear spots or stripes and bring in a donation for Children in Need)



Wednesday 15th November

Photo Day



Wednesday 22nd November

Parent Coffee Morning



Wednesday 29th November

Wreath Workshop

7:30pm @ The Orchard



Thursday 30th November

Magical Molesey



Wednesday 6th December

Bridge Road Winter Wander



Monday 11th December

Tuesday 12th December

Wednesday 13th December

Christmas Assemblies

More details to follow soon



Artist of the Week: Ultravox



We will be experiencing the sounds of British new wave pop band Ultravox next week. Did you know.....?

- 1) Had lots of different names: Tiger Lily, The Zips and Fire of London were some of them
- 2) Had 7 top ten albums and 17 Top 40 singles but....
- 3) Sadly they never got a number 1 song
- 4) Midge Ure who was part of Ultravox helped to write the charity song 'Do they know it's Christmas?'
- 5) They were an early influencer of techno music.

You can listen to some of their famous hits such as 'Vienna' and 'Dancing with Tears in my Eyes' here:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6yC2MKPRMeKyZcLzZN5XiA?si=eaafd101bd304a3b>