The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 13th November 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

I don't usually pay much attention to the superstition surrounding Friday 13th, but today certainly seemed determined to live up to its reputation!

With no access to my emails for much of the day (perhaps the universe was trying to tell me something!), I found myself with a wonderful opportunity to spend more time in classrooms with the children. And what a lovely reminder of why I do this job! Seeing the children so engaged in their learning, developing new skills, growing in confidence and making discoveries is always a joy. Sometimes a little break from the computer is exactly what is needed!

It has also been a week of **remembering, reflecting and thinking of others**. On Wednesday, the children showed such respect as we marked Remembrance Day, proudly wearing their poppies and taking time to think about those who have served, and continue to serve, in our Armed Forces.

Today, we swapped our uniforms for something a little more colourful as we celebrated **Children in Need**. It was a lovely opportunity to remind the children that even the smallest acts of kindness can make a big difference to the lives of others, particularly children who may be facing challenges or difficulties.

A Little Look at Learning This Week

Reception

Our youngest learners have been busy developing their counting skills, using one-to-one correspondence to make sure every object gets its very own number! They have also been heading outdoors on phoneme hunts, putting their growing phonics knowledge to good use. Alongside this, they have been thinking about birthdays and the different ways we celebrate these special occasions.

Year 1

Our Year 1 children have been practising their balance and control in gymnastics, exploring different shapes and positions. In maths, they have been comparing numbers and quantities using 'more than' and 'less than'. They have also been thinking about their families and recognising that every family is special and unique. And, with autumn well and truly upon us, they have been spotting the seasonal changes happening all around them.

Year 2

Year 2 have been busy becoming sentence experts, exploring different types of sentences and the punctuation needed to make them work. In their learning about healthy eating, they have been designing their very own pizzas while thinking carefully about the different food groups (I'm sure there were some delicious combinations!). In RE, the children have been exploring how Christians show their love for God and reflecting on the many ways we can all show love and kindness to others.

Welcome to Our New Parent Governor!

After inviting nominations over the past few weeks and extending our deadline, we are delighted to announce that **Renee Gallant**, mum of Eloise in Year 2, has been appointed as our new Parent Governor.

are delighted to announce that Renee Gallant, mum of Eloise in Year 2, has been appointed as our new Parent Governor. As only one nomination was received within the agreed deadline, there was no need to hold an election.

We are really pleased to welcome Renee to our Governing Body and look forward to the ideas, enthusiasm and valuable parent perspective she will bring to our school community. Thank you, Renee, for putting yourself forward!

Parents' Evenings – Tuesday and Thursday

Next week, we are really looking forward to welcoming you into school for our **Parents' Evenings on Tuesday and Thursday**. These are such valuable opportunities to celebrate the progress your children are making, share their achievements and talk together about their next steps in learning. We know how much you value hearing about your child's school experience, and we equally appreciate the opportunity to hear from you. Working together makes such a difference, and we look forward to seeing you all!

Odd Socks Day – Monday

Finally, don't forget that **Monday is Odd Socks Day!**

We will be kicking off Anti-Bullying Week by celebrating all the wonderful things that make us different and unique.

So, dig out those odd socks, find the brightest, stripiest or most wonderfully mismatched pair you can, and let's celebrate being ourselves!

Christmas Artwork – Ready for Collection!

The children's lovely Christmas artwork products are now ready to collect from the school office!

The company supplied the orders to us in a rather unusual way, which unfortunately meant that a few mix-ups may have occurred when we first started handing them out. We didn't spot this straight away, so apologies for any confusion!

If you have accidentally received an item belonging to another child, we would be really grateful if you could return it to the school office on Monday so that we can make sure it finds its way to its rightful owner.

Thank you so much for your understanding and help in sorting this out!

Wishing you all a lovely, restful weekend. Hopefully, Monday will bring a fully functioning email system and a little less Friday 13th mischief!

Sally Cary

Anti-Bullying Week

Break the Silence

16th – 20th November

Breaking the silence does not mean solving problems on your own. It means recognising when something is wrong and knowing that speaking up, supporting others and seeking help can make a positive difference. Together we can create a school where everyone feels heard, respected and supported.

Odd Socks Day

16th November!

Celebrating individuality and our differences – just like 'odd' socks!



Bullying is defined as:

Bullying is defined as intentional unprovoked and repeated behaviour which results in another person being upset or hurt.

The children are taught that bullying can be defined as "STOP", which stands for:

"several times and on purpose".

Please speak to your **class teacher** if you are concerned about bullying.

When people come together, speak openly, and choose **kindness**, bullying loses its power.



Making Music at The Orchard!

As part of our School Development Plan this year, we are placing a particular focus on developing our music curriculum and providing even more opportunities for children to enjoy making music.

We are using **Charanga**, a fun and interactive music programme that encourages children to sing, listen, explore rhythms, play instruments and develop their musical skills in an engaging and creative way.

We are delighted that our wonderful **PTA** has generously provided funding to help us upgrade our collection of untuned percussion instruments, giving the children even more opportunities to explore rhythm and sound.

We have also just received the exciting news that we have been successful in securing a grant from the **RC Sherriff Trust**, which supports the development of the arts in schools and the wider community. This funding will allow us to expand our collection of tuned percussion instruments, including purchasing a number of glockenspiels for the children to use in their music lessons.

We are incredibly grateful to both our PTA and the RC Sherriff Trust for their generosity and continued support. Their contributions will make a real difference to the musical experiences we can offer our children.

We can't wait to hear the wonderful music our budding musicians will create!

THE RC SHERRIFF TRUST
30 YEARS ADVANCING THE ARTS IN ELMBRIDGE

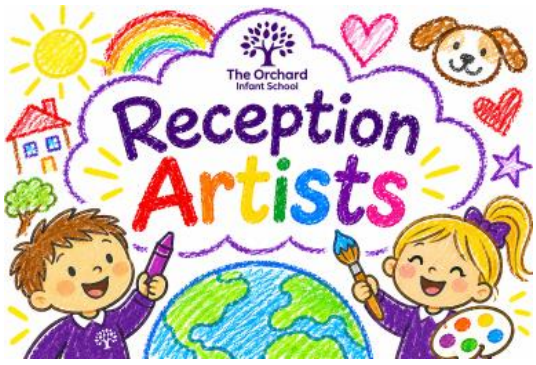


Dear Reception Families,

We have an exciting opportunity for all our Reception children to take part in a drawing competition called ***My Wonderful World***, organised by Young Artists. Children are asked to draw anything that makes their world wonderful! It could be their favourite person, place or animal to a hobby or food, there is so much they can choose from. To enter, please download the attached entry form or speak to your class teacher directly for a paper copy. All entries must be handed in to myself or given to the class teacher no later than **Friday 4th December** so that I can submit their work to Young Artists.

We have a chance of winning art supplies for the school, for your child's work to be featured in a My Wonderful World book and it is a great way to engage in discussions about what makes your child's world wonderful.

Many thanks,
Mrs Thornton



Our Value Award Winners are…

Ash **Vincent**	Elm **Rafe**	Holly **Philip**
Willow **Alex K**	Maple **Camila**	Rowan **Iris**
Beech **Darcie**	Oak **Fitz**	Sycamore **Kayla**

Courage **Determination** **Respect** **Kindness**






How beautiful a day can be when kindness touches it! – George Ellison



Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November

Dates for your Diary

https://orchard.surrey.sch.uk/Calendar/

Click on the *'subscribe'* button to sync your device to it.

Friday 13th November
Children in Need & World Kindness Day



Monday 16th November
Odd Socks Day



Monday 16th November – Friday 20th November
Anti-Bullying Week



Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November
Parents' Evening



Thursday 19th November
Full Governing Body Meeting
6pm



Wednesday 25th November
PTA: Christmas Wreath Workshop



Thursday 26th November
Love Magical Molesey



Monday 30th November
Flu Vaccination



Friday 4th December
Tombola Mufti Day

Friday 4th December
Christmas Tree Pick Up



Saturday 5th December
Orchard Christmas Fair
12 – 3pm



7th , 8th & 9th December
Christmas Assemblies
See the next page for specific timings



Tuesday 15th December
PTA: Christmas Shows



Friday 18th December
School Finishes at 1:15pm





Musical Artist of the Week



James Brown

SOUL SINGER

Listen to his music by clicking on the picture above or the link below.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0Z9zdCgaVaJ2v0AsZ3iWX6

Reading Books – An Important Reminder

A polite but important reminder that **all school reading books must be returned to school every Friday, ready for book changing**.

We have a limited number of copies of each reading book, and it is essential that books are returned promptly so they can be passed on to other children who need them for their reading journey. When books are not returned promptly, it can delay other children receiving the books they need to support their reading progress. We also ask that books are looked after carefully at home and returned in good condition so that they can continue to be enjoyed by many children.



Please make returning reading books every Friday a priority.

Your support with this is really important in helping us keep our reading system running smoothly and ensuring that every child has access to the books they need.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



Tea towels **Trees** **Wreaths**

Click on the name of the product that you would like to order

A free live webinar hosted by Neuly for parents and carers

From Busy Gatherings to Bedtime: Supporting Your Child Through the Festive Season

Delivered by Dr Barney Gilbert, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist



Thursday 19 November **8pm to 9pm**

The festive season brings changes to routine, busy social plans and new sensory demands. These can feel particularly challenging for neurodivergent children and young people, and for the parents supporting them. Through answering your pre-submitted questions, Dr Gilbert will share insights and practical strategies to help you support your child this season and beyond.

What we'll cover:

- Understanding what the build-up to festive events and changes to routine can mean for your child
- Preparing your child for transitions, from term time to the school holidays
- Responding to sensory needs and navigating social expectations at performances, gatherings and meals
- Protecting sleep when late evenings and busy days disrupt bedtime routines
- Recognising early signs of overwhelm and supporting emotional regulation

Sign up here to secure your place



Click on the picture above to take you to our website.

St Lawrence Parent Tours

St Lawrence C of E (A) Junior School

Closing date for applications is 15th January 2027

Did you know that children that attend The Orchard Infant School have preference over other children in the area?

Tour Dates

Tuesday 8th December 2026
Thursday 7th January 2027

BOOK YOUR TOUR HERE



We are aligned with The Orchard Infant school and hold multiple transition events including watching performances, attending a mini Sports Day and taking part in a Science Day.