The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a rather odd start to the week at The Orchard, with lots of colourful and mismatched socks on display as we marked **Anti-Bullying Week**! Our focus has been on the theme of **'Breaking the Silence'**, helping children understand the importance of speaking up if something is worrying them or if they see someone being treated unkindly. We have introduced the idea of a **'Trust Tribe'**, encouraging children to identify five trusted adults they can turn to for help or reassurance. These might be family members, school staff or other important people in their lives. It has been lovely hearing the children talk about the people who make them feel safe and supported, and we hope you will continue these conversations at home.

It has also been wonderful to welcome so many of you into school for Parents' Evening this week. These meetings are a lovely opportunity to celebrate the children's achievements, share their progress and talk about their next steps. Thank you for taking the time to meet with teachers and for all the support you give your children at home.

There is also a definite feeling of Christmas creeping into school! Across all year groups, preparations are underway for our Christmas performances in early December. Songs are being practised, lines are being learnt and excitement is building. Thank you for your support with costumes and helping the children learn their words. I have no doubt that some of you are already hearing a few Christmassy tunes being sung around the house!

Year 2

Year 2 have been developing their digital photography skills in Computing, exploring what makes a good photograph. They have been looking critically at images, thinking about how they could be improved, before putting their new skills into practice by taking photographs around the school.

In Science, the children have been learning about germs and the importance of good hygiene. They have made some useful links to their Design and Technology learning as they begin planning for their pizza making. Understanding the importance of clean hands and food preparation areas will certainly come in handy when they become little chefs!

Year 1

Year 1 have been getting creative in Art, producing self-portraits inspired by the distinctive style of Frida Kahlo. In Science, there has been excitement as the children observed the results of their freezing experiment, linking beautifully with their learning about winter and the changing seasons. In English, they have been using descriptive vocabulary to bring wintry scenes to life, thinking about the sights, sounds and feelings associated with this chilly time of year.

Reception

Our Reception children have been exploring rhyming words through the wonderful story of *Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson, listening carefully for words that sound the same and having fun thinking of their own rhymes. They have also been developing their drawing skills, learning how to draw some very cute little mice! As part of Anti-Bullying Week, Reception have been learning The Kindness Song, thinking about the little things we can do each day to make others feel happy, included and cared for. Such an important message for our youngest children and one that links beautifully with our school values.

As we come to the end of another busy week, I hope you all have a lovely weekend.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.
See you on Monday!
Sally Cary



Tuesday 1st December

We would love to invite parents and carers to join our Family Support Worker, **Teresa Doe**, for an informal **coffee morning** after drop off. This will be a relaxed opportunity to have a chat, share experiences and pick up some helpful tips about family routines. Whether it's the morning rush to get everyone dressed, fed and out of the door on time, or the challenges of establishing a calm bedtime routine, Teresa will be on hand to offer practical ideas and advice.

Come along for a cuppa and a friendly chat. It's always reassuring to share experiences and realise that other families face similar challenges too!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Dates for your Diary

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

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

Wednesday 25th November
PTA: Christmas Wreath Workshop



Thursday 26th November
Love Magical Molesey



Monday 30th November
Flu Vaccination



Tuesday 1st December
Parent Coffee Morning
with Teresa Doe
our family support worker.
After drop off

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

Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch



Thursday 18th December
Special Visitor – shhhhhh!



Friday 18th December
School Finishes at 1:15pm



SPRING TERM

Monday 4th January 2027
INSET DAY



Tuesday 5th January 2027
Children return to school



Friday 15th January 2027
Reception & Year 3 admissions deadline
https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant



Book to attend via Arbor next week

We will send out information about how to do this soon.

Musical Artist of the Week



The Clash

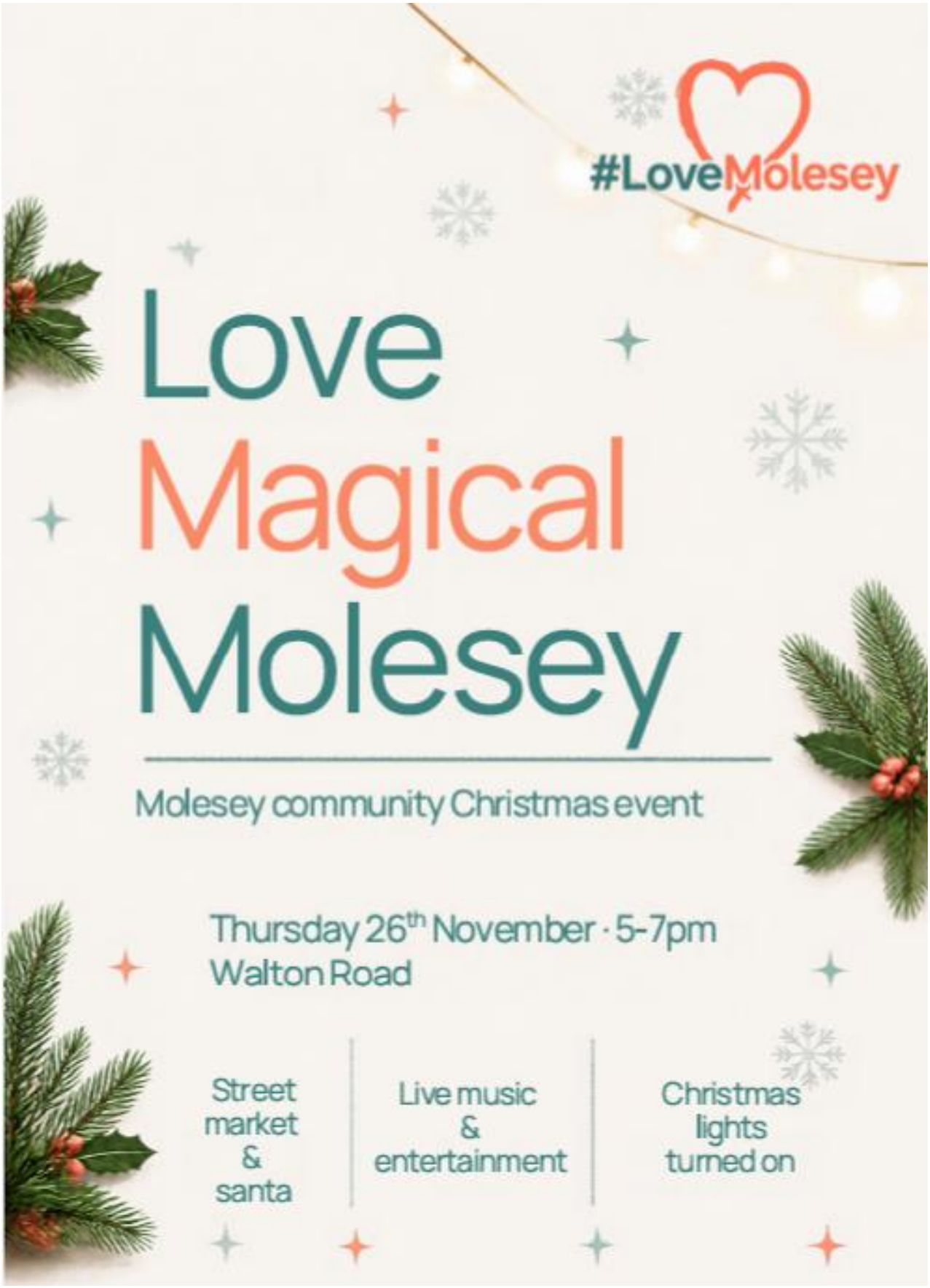
London's calling.....

This week's Musical Artists are The Clash! This British punk rock band became famous for their energetic music and distinctive sound. Have a listen and see what you think!

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0ueSr0yUw8WYzW4QvoHz6W



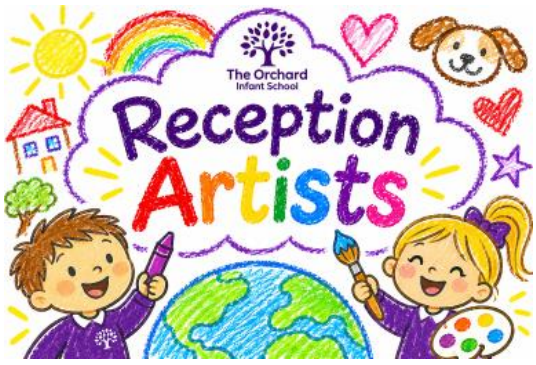
Our choir are singing at 12pm


#LoveMolesey
Love
Magical
Molesey
Molesey community Christmas event
Thursday 26th November · 5-7pm
Walton Road
Street market & santa
Live music & entertainment
Christmas lights turned on

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 use the entry form that I sent to all Reception parents via Teams last week or the one with that has been sent out with this newsletter. 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.

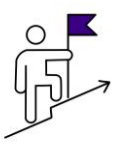


Many thanks,
Mrs Thornton

Our Value Award Winners are…

Ash **Enrico**	Elm **Ralph**	Holly **Oscar W**
Willow **Jasper**	Maple **Gaia**	Rowan **Hunter**
Beech **Elijah**	Oak **Floria**	Sycamore **Connor**

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



The secret to happiness is freedom…and the secret to freedom is courage.



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

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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.