

# Orchard's C of E Academy

## Weekly Parent Bulletin

30<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Head Teacher: Mrs C Claxton  
Deputy Head Teacher: Mr J Davis and Mr J Steeden

Email: [office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk)

Phone: 01945 583799

Website: <http://www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk>

Our Christian Value for this Half Term is **Thoughtfulness**

### Dates for the Diary

- 5<sup>th</sup> December** Indoor Planetarium in for Years 5 and 6
- 6<sup>th</sup> December** Power Maths morning – 9:00am
- 7<sup>th</sup> December** Year 4 educational visit to the Imperial War Museum in Duxford
- 10<sup>th</sup> December** Tea with Father Christmas – 4:00-5:00pm and 5:30-6:30pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> December** Church Service for Years 2 and 3 – 9:00am
- 13<sup>th</sup> December** Church Service for Years 4, 5 and 6 – 10:30am
- 13<sup>th</sup> December** Reception Nativity performance – 2:00pm
- 14<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
- 18<sup>th</sup> December** Reception Christmas Story Café – 1:00pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> December** Reception and Year 1 Christingle – 1:45pm
- 19<sup>th</sup> December** Carols and Coffee – 9:00am
- 19<sup>th</sup> December** End of Term

### Christmas Dates and Times

As you can see from the list above, we have a very busy and exciting schedule of events at school in the lead up to Christmas.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December, Years 2-6 will be walking to St Augustine's Church for a Christmas service. The Year 2 and 3 service will take place at 9:00am and the Year 4, 5 and 6 service will be at 10:30am. All classes are learning a carol to sing.

On the afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup>, the Reception Nativity will take place for parents. They are already well into their rehearsals!

Then, on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, Year 1 and Reception will be having a Christingle service in school at 1:45pm.

You are more than welcome to come along to any of the events of course.



### Tea with Father Christmas

Orchards Academy PTA proudly presents 'Tea with Father Christmas' on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December. Two sessions will be held between 4:00 and 5:00pm and between 5:30 and 6:30pm.

Come and enjoy a buffet tea with Father Christmas and receive a gift too. Spaces are limited to first come first served, so be quick! Tickets available from the PTA at a cost of £3 per child.

### Reception Christmas Story Café

All parents are invited to join us for a Christmas story café in Apple and Cherry classes at 1.00pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. We will be getting in the Christmas spirit with a story before making Christingles with the children to take along to our service at 1.45pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

### Carols and Coffee

It has been mentioned to us by a number of parents that you would like the opportunity to come into school to hear the children singing their carols. In response to this, we have decided to include a 'Carols and Coffee' event on the last day of term. It will start at 9:00am in the Lime Hall, and each year group will perform a carol for you. Be prepared for some audience participation!

## Hazel Class Assembly

Hazel Class will be performing their assembly at 1:10pm on the afternoon of Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December. We would be delighted to welcome parents of children in Hazel class to come along and support them.

## Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children



On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December, we will be taking part in Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children. For a contribution towards this very worthy cause, the children will be permitted to come to school wearing something festive!

For more information about Christmas Jumper Day, please visit <https://christmasjumperday.org/>

## Power Maths Morning (with Mince Pies)

We have recently introduced a new way of teaching maths across the school, based on the mastery approach to teaching mathematics – it is called Power Maths, and is being used daily in classes from Year 1 to Year 6.

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, we would like to invite you into school to see Power Maths in action.

Mrs Claxton and Mr Steeden will give a short presentation at 9:00am in the CDT room, and you will then be free to look in classes throughout the school to see the impact it is having on our children.

Although Power Maths is not being used in Reception, those parents are more than welcome to come into school as well.

As we will be well into December by then, please join us for a mince pie afterwards.

## Rugby Tournament



Mr Norris took a team of pupils to a Tag Rugby tournament at Wisbech Grammar School last Friday. Twenty one schools took part and Orchards finished joint 3rd with St Peters.

The standard of Rugby was amazing, the children all received medals and had a lovely day. Mr Norris was delighted to feed back that the day was outstanding and

all of the children were a credit to the school.



## Royal Visit to Wisbech



From Mrs Squires-Dutton, our Mothers' Union Family Worker.

On Tuesday Mrs Cochrane and I took the children from Fun and Faith to St Peter and St Paul's Church in Wisbech, on the invitation of Father Matthew. We were there to meet a very special visitor, His



Royal Highness, Prince Charles.

We sat by the High Altar and waited for about an hour and a half for the Prince to appear. The children had such a long wait in a small area with very little to do. So to keep amused we read some books, played eye spy, Chinese whispers, practised our bows and curtsies and did some exercises. I just want to say how proud we all were of them, they were so well behaved and patient. An absolute credit to their parents and Orchards Academy.



At last we were rewarded for our good behaviour. Prince Charles came along, shook hands and spoke to all the adults from Fun and Faith. The children were standing up holding their 'Prayer for the Royal Family' that they had all written together. He walked along the line and spoke to quite a few of them. He asked what they were holding and Erika from Hazel class read the prayer out to him, the ending rather amused him and he chuckled. It was, 'Please look after the Queen's pets and keep them healthy'.

I hope that this is an occasion that the children will remember for the rest of their lives, the day they met the future King!

### **Spare Clothes for Reception**

The Reception classes are in need of spare clothes to use in emergencies. We would appreciate tights, socks, pants, trousers, leggings and skirts.

If you have any borrowed clothes at home please wash and return as soon as possible as our stocks of clothes are almost depleted.

### **Winter Reading Challenge**

Did your children enjoy taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge 'Mischief Makers'? Then you will be pleased to know that The Reading Agency is running a Winter Mini Challenge, to encourage children to snuggle down with a book and keep reading through the cold winter holidays.

Based on the book 'There's a yeti in the playground' by Blue Peter Award winners Pamela Butchart and Thomas Flintham, The Winter Mini Challenge starts on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December and finishes on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

The challenge will be run online through the Winter Mini Challenge website, although website name is confusingly called Summer Reading Challenge! <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Children simply read three books of their choice, add them to their WMC website profile and leave a short book review. They will unlock rewards, including a virtual badge and a certificate to print off and keep. The website will also have a whole host of fun activities, quizzes and reading recommendations, plus an exciting new competition.

### **Nativity Costumes**

A reminder to parents in Apple and Cherry class – please make sure that Nativity costumes are sent in to school by Monday 3rd December in a named bag. Thank you in advance!

### **Stars of the Week**

Well done to all the children for their hard work this week. The following children were particularly celebrated for their behaviour and achievement in class.

**Early Years** – Ignas in Apple; Amelia K in Cherry.

**Key Stage 1** – Andreja in Willow; Ignas in Walnut; Hume in Beech; Victor in Hazel; Elvita in Maple.

**Key Stage 2** – Kajus in Hawthorn; Ugne in Laburnum; Kyra in Holly; ... in Rowan; Olivia in Cedar; Freja and Daniele in Chestnut; ... in Elm; John in Oak.

### **Attendance**

Attendance across the school for the last week was as follows. We understand that children are occasionally ill and sometimes it is inappropriate for them to be in school, but we are working towards the Government target of 96% attendance over the course of the year.

**Whole School – 94.3%**

**Early Years** – 90% in Apple; 93.3% in Cherry.

**Key Stage 1** – 90.2% in Willow; 91.9% in Walnut; 96.4% in Beech; 95.3% in Hazel; 92.3% in Maple.

**Key Stage 2** – 98.8% in Hawthorn; 97% in Laburnum; 94.4% in Holly; 96.4% in Rowan; 96.9% in Cedar; 95% in Chestnut; 94.3% in Elm; 92.4% in Oak.

Congratulations to Hawthorn class for having the best attendance in the school since last Friday.

### **And Finally...**

Please see the attached letter from Mrs Betty Hasler our Chair of Governors.

Thank you for all the support you provide for the children and our academy!



# Orchard's C of E Academy

## Governor News

Dear Parents / Carers

It was a great privilege to join the school for the annual remembrance assembly recently and to see so many parents there too. How heartening it is to see our young people understanding the significance of the annual national Act of Remembrance and showing their historical knowledge of the First World War. I had also joined an achievement assembly earlier in the term when I was delighted to award the Governors' Cup for attendance and to see the enthusiasm of the children to "be the best" at attending school. A big thank you to all the parents who, in spite of very busy lives, ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually; we know that the research says that attendance is so important to make sure that a child makes progress and reaches his or her potential.

I have been pleased to welcome Mrs Claxton as our new headteacher and I have had several valuable meetings with her, when she has shared her vision for our school. I am very confident in her leadership and have already seen the positive effect her rigorous but caring approach is having on both staff and pupils. It was also good to welcome our new deputy head Mr Steeden and all the new teachers and to be able to visit some classrooms and see your children learning.

As governors we have continued to meet regularly at our governors' meeting. Our job as governors in an academy is to ensure that the school is fulfilling its legal duties (e.g. to safeguard your children) and also to hold the headteacher and leadership team to account for the standards in the school. One of the ways we do this is by looking carefully at the school's development plan and then asking challenging questions about it at meetings and visiting the school to see whether the plan is working in practice.

On our governing body we have members of the local community, a representative from DEMAT (our multi-academy trust), representatives of the staff and also some parents. At the moment we have at least one vacancy for a parent governor so if you are interested in joining us please let me know by phoning the school and leaving your name and contact details. The commitment is one evening meeting a half-term and one or two monitoring visits at your convenience (for which you will receive training and support). I hope you will want to join us and help to make the school one of the very best.

I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Betty Hasler

Chair of the Local Governing Body

