

Orchard's C of E Academy

Weekly Parent Bulletin

7th December 2018

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

Dates for the Diary

10th December Tea with Father Christmas – 4:00-5:00pm and 5:30-6:30pm
13th December Church Service for Years 2 and 3 – 9:00am
13th December Church Service for Years 4, 5 and 6 – 10:30am
13th December Reception Nativity performance – 2:00pm
14th December Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
18th December Reception Christmas Story Café – 1:00pm
18th December Reception and Year 1 Christingle – 1:45pm
19th December Carols and Coffee – 9:00am
19th December End of Term
7th January Children back to school
10th January Music Workshop
25th January Spelling Bee – Round 1
14th February Spelling Bee – Round 2
15th February Last school day before Half Term

Christmas Dates and Times

We look forward to seeing you at all of our Christmas events over the next two weeks.

Tea with Father Christmas is on Monday after school, then on Thursday 13th 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 13th, the Reception Nativity will take place for parents. They are already well into their rehearsals!

Then, on Tuesday 18th 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.



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 18th 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

Back by popular demand is our '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!

Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children



On Friday 14th 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

Thank you for those of you who came along to the Power Maths morning – we hope that you found it valuable, and enjoyed a mince pie.

For those of you who couldn't make it, there is some information attached to this newsletter.

Indoor Planetarium

On Wednesday, Year 5/6 were lucky enough to have a mobile planetarium come into school. The planetarium taught us about stars in the night sky, the phases of the moon, the other planets and (on top of that) we found out there are eighty-eight star constellations in the night sky. The children were in awe, as they witnessed the night sky appear before them on the walls of the planetarium. An excellent time was had, new facts were learnt and the children left smiling; it was a great way to conclude our space topic!

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.

Christmas Trees

If you, or any of your family or friends, purchase your Christmas tree from Skylarks Garden Centre in Wimblington, please mention the unique code ORCHARDS, and Skylarks will donate £5 to the school for each tree sale.

Many thanks to Jemma from the PTA for organising this.

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 1st December and finishes on Friday 11th 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.

Starting Rite



We have just completed our first 'Starting Rite' course at Orchards. It was a free 5 week Christian nurture course for parents/carers and their babies under one. We had three lovely mums and their beautiful babies. Each week we explored a different theme. We read stories and sang songs. The babies splashed in water and played in sand. We sat in a sensory tent with coloured tea lights. Mums did baby touch with oil and we all cuddled lots of fluffy toy sheep!

We thoroughly enjoyed running the course and mums and babies loved it too. We hope to be able to offer this course again next year. From Sue Squires-Dutton.



End of Day Bell

Just a brief reminder to parents of children in Key Stage 2 classes (Years 3-6) that the bell that rings at 3:00pm is the one to signal the end of the day for the Key Stage 1 children (Years 1 and 2). The Key Stage 2 bell rings at 3:05pm.

Stars of the Week

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

Early Years – Chanelle in Apple; Maddison in Cherry.

Key Stage 1 – Blake in Willow; Smilte in Walnut; Nikole in Beech; Kasjan in Hazel; Kiean in Maple.

Key Stage 2 – Jaiden in Hawthorn; Nevaeh in Laburnum; Gabija in Holly; ... in Rowan; Mantas in Cedar; Liliana in Chestnut; Julianne in Elm; Charis 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 – 94.5%

Early Years – 95% in Apple; 94.3% in Cherry.

Key Stage 1 – 93.1% in Willow; 91.7% in Walnut; 91.7% in Beech; 96.5% in Hazel; 92.7% in Maple.

Key Stage 2 – 96.9% in Hawthorn; 95.7% in Laburnum; 95.3% in Holly; 92% in Rowan; 98.8% in Cedar; 93.9% in Chestnut; 92.3% in Elm; 95.4% in Oak.

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

And Finally...

The newsletter for next week will roll over to the short last week of term, so will not be published until December 19th.

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



Power Maths - a Mastery Approach to Teaching

Thursday 6th December 2018

The Mastery Approach to Maths

- ▶ Teaching for mastery in maths is the expectation that all pupils will gain a deep understanding of the maths they are learning. For understanding in maths to be secure, learning needs to be built on solid foundations.
- ▶ A mastery approach to the Curriculum means pupils spend far longer on fewer key mathematical concepts whilst working at greater depth. Long term gaps in learning are prevented through speedy teacher intervention and those children who grasp the concepts more quickly are given opportunities to deepen their knowledge and improve their reasoning skills rather than accelerating on to new curriculum content.
- ▶ Problem solving is central and opportunities are given for pupils to calculate with confidence, ensuring an understanding of why it works so that pupils understand what they are doing rather than just learning to repeat routines without grasping what is happening.

The Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract Approach to Mathematics



The image shows a woman standing in front of a whiteboard. The whiteboard has some text and diagrams. The text includes 'friends' and 'aces does'. There are also some blue dots and lines on the board.

What is Power Maths ?

- ▶ Power Maths is an exciting whole-class mastery approach that works for every child.
- ▶ It has been written specifically for UK classrooms by leading mastery experts.

Why Did We Choose Power Maths?

- ▶ The Power Maths Key Stage 1 and 2 resources have been judged as fully delivering a mastery approach to maths and have been placed on the Department for Education's list of recommended textbooks
- ▶ It is a unique mastery teaching model created by leading educational experts from the UK and China.
- ▶ A growth mindset and problem solving approach helps spark a curiosity and excitement for maths and equips children with deeper understanding.
- ▶ It has been developed alongside a group of teachers to ensure Power Maths meets all the specific needs of children in the UK.
- ▶ An enriched approach that combines interactive teaching tools and rich textbooks and on-going professional development.

Textbooks

Rich and quality textbooks provide a coherent structure through the curriculum and support children on their journey towards deeper understanding.



Practice Books

Just the right amount of intelligent practice for children to complete independently



Online toolkit

All the digital resources you need to support your whole-class teaching, including online versions of the textbooks, teaching tools, 'Power Up!' activities, strengthen and deepen activities, subject knowledge videos - and more.

