

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 10th December 2021

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I have to comment on the current climate of Covid-19 in the county and the impact on Orchard Vale. With Christmas approaching, I am sure that many of you will be looking forward to the festivities. With this in mind, I would like to thank our parents for your continued efforts in testing your children as recommended in our previous newsletter. This has had a positive impact on the number of cases that we have seen in school and I am delighted to say that our numbers have fallen in children significantly this week.

I would also like to thank our incredible staff team who have worked extremely hard and responded with tremendous flexibility in order to keep our school not only open, but also providing a positive, energetic and festive learning environment. As mentioned previously, we have continued with the following measures, which again have succeeded in reducing numbers, and we have also seen large numbers of children return to school.

- Year group bubbles and exercise in separate outside areas. Getting outside as much as possible during the day.
- Reinforce good hygiene – encouraging children to wash hands with soap/water often and for at least 20 secs.
- Using hand sanitiser regularly in class, before breaks, eating and upon entering the classroom.
- Cleaning down surfaces, paying particular attention to those touched often (e.g. light switches, door handles or electronic devices).
- Children reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (not their hands) when they cough or sneeze. Dispose of tissues into a rubbish bag immediately and wash hands.
- Keeping classrooms and corridors as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in.
- Classes eating their lunches in classrooms.
- No group, face to face assemblies.
- Staff must wear facemasks in communal areas and avoid mixing with those from other year groups.

From Monday, we are aware some parents may be advised to work from home. As a school, we will remain open and will continue to follow our specific guidance adapting to any changes as they arise. In this way, we have not moved our general learning online for children at this stage and children are expected to attend school if they are well enough and are not isolating.

As a parent myself, with two children both in education, I understand that some parents may feel frustrated when outbreaks occur. I would reiterate that we are obliged to follow specific advice from Public Health Devon. I would urge you to use the LFT test as a first port of call. If your child shows any symptoms, please book a PCR test or attend the walk in testing facility at North Devon Leisure Centre to confirm a result. I have to reiterate that the responsibility for identifying close contacts does not fall to the school now and is entirely dependent on track and trace. I would, however, advise any parent to consider using LFT tests on their children with cases high in the area, particularly before visiting any vulnerable relatives/friends.

On a more festive note, it is beginning to look a bit like Christmas in school and we all enjoyed a fabulous Christmas dinner with crackers and music, albeit in our classrooms this year! Thank you to Liz, Becky and Chris in our kitchen who always produce a fabulous festive dinner! We are hearing some festive singing around the school, which is being filmed and will be shared for your enjoyment on Teams!

The OV Virtual Christmas Fayre Teams is now available please see the poster on page 4 for more information.

Thank you all for your continued patience and support. Let's hope that we can enjoy the coming festivities as much as we can and as safely as we can.



Fiona Pearce
Headteacher



Foudation Stage and Key Stage One



Mrs Youll's nomination

Seb for doing some super talking and tidying.

Miss Cawthorne's and Miss Boundy's nominations

George L for working hard and great listening.

Ruby for always working hard and being helpful.



Mr Quilter's nomination

Henry has been a learning superstar this week! Henry is always a hardworking and focused member of our class, but this week in particular, his independent Maths and Literacy work has been fantastic! With a bit of a topsy-turvy week in our class due to lots of people coming and going, Henry has cracked on and produced some outstanding work. He's always got a huge smile for us and is a great friend to everyone. Henry, you are our shining star!

Mrs Oldfield's nomination

Jenson has really impressed me with his letter writing this week, he has been able to think of very imaginative questions to ask his fairy tale character and remembered key characteristics that go into writing a letter. Jenson has also really impressed with his bravery to try new foods and eat all his lunch. Well done Jenson keep up the fantastic work.
Mrs Oldfield.

Mrs Grimwood - Has worked very hard and been so calm this week. She has been a great help when listening to me and is always a loving and caring friend. Mrs Oldfield



Mrs Grimwood's nomination

My star of the week is the Fabulous Freya! Freya is a kind, caring member of our class who tries so hard with everything that is given to her. She has fantastic ideas and is a real 'think outside the box' kind of person. Freya has made excellent improvements in her reading, writing and maths! She is a real all-rounder. Thank you, Freya, for being a ray of sunshine in our class.

COVID UPDATE

In line with Public Health England (PHE) instructions we are not required to operate a track and trace system within the school.

Main symptoms of Covid-19

A high temperature

A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours.

A loss or change in sense of smell or taste – they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

What should you do if your child exhibits **ANY** symptom?

If they show **any** of the main symptoms of Covid-19, even if they are mild:-

Get a PCR test (test that is sent to a lab and not a Lateral Flow Test) to check if they have Covid-19, as soon as possible.

Your child should stay at home and not have visitors (self-isolate) until you get the test result – they can only leave home to have the test.

Public Health England have advised that siblings should also get a PCR test, but unless they are showing symptoms they are allowed to continue to come to school until they receive their result.

Please call the school office by 9.30am advising the reason your child is away from school and let us know once you have received the results.

School Diary Dates

Wed, 15th Dec

Cinderella Panto at Queen's Theatre

Thurs, 16th Dec

Visit by Father Christmas

Mon, 20th Dec to Mon, 3rd Jan

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Tues, 4th Jan

First Day of Spring Term

Early Bird Breakfast Club and OV Explorer After School Provision—spring booking

The breakfast club and after school provision will continue running in the Spring Term. If you would like to book your child a place please click on the appropriate link to select required dates.

[Early Bird Breakfast club provision spring 2022 booking](#)

[OV Explorer after school provision spring 2022 booking](#)

Mr Ovey's After School PE Clubs

Please note that there will be no afterschool PE clubs next week—Monday, 13th to Friday, 17th December.

Mr Ovey would like to thank everyone who attended the PE clubs this year—they have been superstars.

Look out for the new club letters when we come back to school in January.

Parentpay outstanding amounts

Please could we ask parents to check into Parent Pay over the next few weeks and settle any overdue amounts.

We will be conducting a review of accounts in the New Year .

Thank you for your assistance.



Year 3 and 4—Proud Cloud (High Flyer Readers)

We are proud to share the children's success for consistently reading at home each week.

Congratulations to Jack S for reaching 50 on the Proud Cloud.

Well done!! Mrs Johnson

Years 3 and 4—Bikeability Level 1— Friday, 14th January

We are still waiting for some of the Parent Consent Forms for the Bikeability Level 1 to be handed in. If you have not already done so please could you return the completed/signed forms before Friday, 17th December.

Orchard Vale's Virtual Christmas Fayre

To take part in the virtual Christmas Fayre

Firstly make your payment on ParentPay.
£4 per child, subsequent children £3 each.

This allows you to:

Guess the name of the elves and snowman

Guess how many sweets in the jar

Entry into the hamper draw

Have your child's handmade Christmas craft item.

On Thursday 9th December, if you have made a donation in Parentpay, your child will be given access to the OV's Virtual Christmas Fayre on Teams which they can use to do the activities and enter any competitions.

(OV's Virtual Christmas Fayre link).

Teams will close on Wednesday 15th December. Winners will be notified.

If you have a child in Reception or Nursery please email orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk to find out your child's Teams Login (this will be the one used last year).

Queen's Theatre—Christmas card competition winner

The Queen's Theatre would like to thank all of the students who sent in their designs for this year's Christmas card competition. They were all fantastic and are on display in the foyer at the Theatre.



The theatre's very own Fairy Godmother, Amanda Barrie, has chosen the winners! Well done to Chloe-Rose for winning the age 11 entry—the prize is a Family Ticket to this year's Panto.

Chloe's design will make up one of the 4 that will be used as the Queen's Theatre's Christmas cards.

Once again Thank you all for supporting the Theatres, and keep your eyes peeled for more Competitions in the new year!

*Father Christmas will be
visiting Orchard Vale
on Thursday 16th December
Children will have the
opportunity to visit him
during the day.*



Cancellation of Wreath Making Workshop

Please note that we have had to cancel the parent wreath making workshop scheduled for Wednesday, 15th December.

Lunch menu for week commencing Monday, 13th December

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
M	Cheese & Ham Pasta Bake	Butchers Sausage, Mash & Gravy	Roast Chicken & Stuffing	Fish Fingers	Beef Bolognaise
V	Quorn Hotdog & Sweet Potato Wedges	Sweet and Sour Quorn Pieces with Rice	Broccoli & Cauliflower Bake	Quorn Nuggets	Roasted Veg. Bolognaise
Sides	Sweetcorn & Fresh Broccoli	Peas & Green Beans	Roast Potatoes, Fresh Sliced Carrots, Cabbage & Gravy	Chips, Tomato Sauce, Peas & Beans	Pasta & Sweetcorn
JP	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna
SPL	Egg Mayo Bap	Cheese Bap	Chicken Bap	Chicken Salad	Sausage Roll
D	Fresh Fruit	Chocolate Cake	Fruit Smoothie	Cookie	Banana Cake

Yoghurts, Fresh Fruit & Bread will be available daily
Gluten free menu available on request



Dear Parent/Carer

We are running a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) funded programme at Pilton Infants' School during the Christmas holidays. The HAF Programme is funded by the Department for Education and children who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals (FSM) are given the opportunity to access rewarding activities alongside healthy meals during school holidays. It is part of the work that Marcus Rashford (Manchester United and England Footballer) has been promoting to ensure all children get these chances.

Children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of games and sports, for example Nerf gun battles, football, hockey, tennis, dodgeball, dance, cricket and tri-golf as well as art and craft activities. Children will also receive a hot meal for lunch.

Venue: Pilton Infants, Abbey road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU.

Dates: (Children can attend one or more than one day)

Monday 20th December

Wednesday 29th December

Tuesday 21st December

Thursday 30th December

Times: 8.30am – 3.30pm

Cost: The programme is free of charge for your child.

Booking: <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2021/12/20/haf-pilton-infants-christmas-holiday-camps>

Food: Children will receive a free hot meal, drinks, snacks and fruit each day. Parents will be emailed a menu two weeks prior to the sessions starting and will need to let us know if their child would like a hot meal by responding back to our email. Children not wanting a hot meal need to bring a packed lunch. Children should bring a refillable drinks bottle.

What to wear: Comfortable clothes for being active such as shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings with a T-shirt, jumper and trainers.

A warm waterproof coat as some activities will be outdoors unless the weather is extremely poor.

If your child has been to one of our previous holiday camps and won a prize, they should bring this back to get points for their team! If they won a wrist band at the last holiday camp, they can bring this one back to get points!

If you have any questions related to any of the above please contact us on north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk or telephone on 07789954068.

Kind regards

COOL TO BE ACTIVE...
FUN TO BE FIT

www.primary-sports.co.uk



Booking now in the library.

All sessions must be booked in advance.

Places are limited.

**To book or for more information: 01271 318780
barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk**

Monday 20th December 10-1

Festive crafts, games and activities followed by lunch with Jack the Elf. Suitable for children 5-8 (children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer and lunch will be provided for them).

Tuesday 21st December 10-1 or 12-3

Spend either the morning or the afternoon in the FabLab. You will design and make decorations for an apron to take home. There will also be other fun activities. Sophia the Elf will be joining us for lunch and the morning and afternoon group will be eating together. Suitable for children 5-12 (children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer and lunch will be provided for them).

Wednesday 22nd December 10-1

Festive crafts, games and activities followed by lunch with Jack the Elf. Please note the activities will be different to those offered on Monday 20th as you may wish to attend both. Suitable for children 5-8 (children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer and lunch will be provided for them).

Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer



Registered charity Number: 1170092

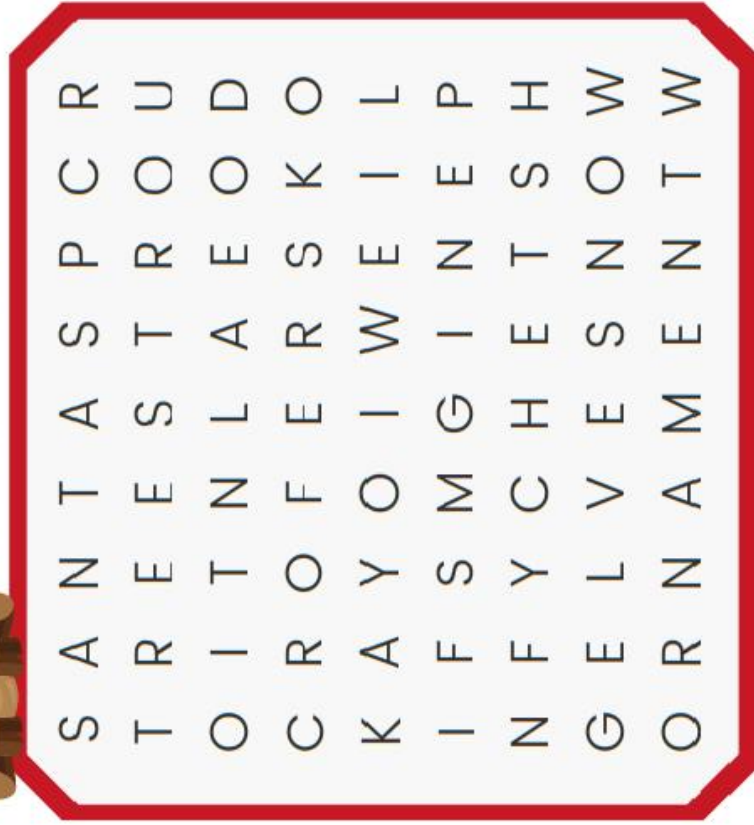


Name: _____ Date: _____



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Circle words in the puzzle below



Santa stocking snow toys
elves tree cookies ornament
Rudolph star present sleigh

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FESTIVE ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER

- Christmas Craft Activity 10am - 12pm
- Lego Builders 2pm - 4pm

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER

- Christmas Craft Activity 10am - 12pm
- Lego Builders 2pm - 4pm

WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

- Last Wednesday Bounce & Rhyme of 2021 10.30am - 11am
- Stories Under the Tree Followed by Hot Chocolate with the B.F.G's (Barnstaple Friends Group) 4.15pm - 5.30pm

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER

- Last Thursday Bounce & Rhyme of 2021 10.30am - 11am

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER

- Last Friday Bounce & Rhyme of 2021 10.30am - 11am

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

- Lego Builders 2pm - 4pm