

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

## Friday, 14th March 2025

[www.ovschool.co.uk](http://www.ovschool.co.uk)

[orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk)



### Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

What another fresh but lovely week with some well needed sunshine.

This week, our Eco Prefects and School Councillors have been working alongside Mr Lowe, our Caretaker, in their various roles to enhance our school's environment. They are working hard to ensure all members of our school community respect our environment and are mindful of how our actions impact on it.

Linking to the environment, we would like to promote an eco-friendly Easter bonnet competition! We would love to have as many entries as possible, being mindful of any resources you use; consider using recyclable or biodegradable items. All entries should include your child's name and class and should be delivered to the school hall on the morning on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April ready for judging to take place. We have heard some great ideas already and many children are excited to get started!

In celebration assembly, it was wonderful to see those children who attended the dance festival at Park School perform. Our Year 6 Rising Stars have had an enjoyable morning today at Pilton Community College taking part in basketball skills workshops. We are very lucky to be able to offer a range of experiences for our pupils and are always extremely proud of their achievements and behaviour at all events they attend.

Finally, please could we remind parents/carers that the car park is for STAFF USE ONLY please do not park in it or block access to it. The double gates are emergency access gates and need to always remain accessible for the emergency services. The turning circle is a drop off area and not a parking zone. If you wish to park in order to drop off/pick up, then please do so sensibly in the designated street parking. Please be mindful of neighbours, not parking on the pavements or blocking entrances/exits to the school. These are blind spots, and parking here can endanger children's safety. Thank you for your continued support with this.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy some sunshine.



Fiona Pearce  
Headteacher



## Change to online payment method

From the end of April this year we will be moving our online payment system for meals, trips, breakfast and afterschool provision etc. over to the Arbor App.

Parent Pay will not be accessible to you after 30<sup>th</sup> April.



Please ensure you have activated your Arbor App so that you are ready to go when the payment option goes live.

Please could we ask you to bring all outstanding balances for meals, childcare provision, Little Seeds and Nursery fees up-to-date on Parent Pay before this change over.

## Check if your child is eligible for free school meals and additional funding support

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals.

However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

### **How to apply**

Apply through the [Devon Citizens Portal](#). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

# E-Scooters / Bicycles / Scooters

With the onset of the better weather we are conscious that parents/children will be wishing to cycle/scooter to school.

Please could you make sure you are aware of the guidance for these modes of transport.

## **Privately owned e-scooter**

It's not currently possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters. This means it's illegal to use them on the road, pavement, cycle lanes and pedestrian areas. Use is only permitted on privately owned land with the landowner's permission.

Privately owned e-scooters are classified as **Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs)**, meaning they are subject to **the same laws as motor vehicles**.

However, since they **cannot meet UK road requirements** (such as insurance, tax, and registration), they are **banned from public roads and spaces** and could result in the vehicle being seized under S.165 Road Traffic Act 1988 for having no insurance.

We would ask our parents/carers not to use this mode of transport to bring children to school.

## **Bicycles**

Cycling is a popular means of transport both for commuting and exercise. [The Highway code](#) provides rules that legally 'must' be followed and advice that 'should' be followed to keep cyclists safe on the roads—please make yourselves aware of these by clicking on the link.

A breach of these rules is a criminal offence and can be used as evidence in both criminal and civil proceedings.

Rules for lights and brakes are examples of two areas that have legal requirements.

Throughout the year we organise for coaches from Devon Bikeability to visit us and provide children with Bikeability and Road Safety sessions.

## **Manual Scooters**

If your child wishes to use their manual scooter to travel to and from school please encourage them to stay on pavements and not to scooter through the car park.

**Children should wear helmets at all time whilst on a bicycle and it is recommended when riding a scooter.** It would also be a good idea for them to wear high visibility clothing.

# STARS OF THE WEEK

## Mrs Youll's class

Noah for settling in well, playing nicely with his peers and showing good independence.

## Mrs Oldfield's class

My star of the week is Elma. Elma has continued to impress us over the past few weeks, she has recently moved into green reading group, Elma gives 100% in reading and we are so proud to see how she is coming along in confidence, she is excellent at using 'speedy Fred talk' to sound out unfamiliar words, which is all helping her work towards being a more fluid reader. We have also seen that with the move into green group, Elma is now beginning to recognise set 2 sounds and use these in her writing. This week she has been writing some fantastic facts about frogspawn and tadpoles. Elma you are amazing. Keep up the great work. Mrs Oldfield x

## Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the week is Tyler. Tyler has been working hard in all subjects and is making great progress with his reading and writing. Tyler always listens beautifully on the carpet and is a great friend to others. Well done Tyler you are a superstar.

## Mr Quilter's class

My star of the week is Toby! Toby has impressed me with his Maths knowledge this past few weeks. His knowledge of the early times tables we teach have strengthened greatly and it is excellent seeing him call out answers and share his new found knowledge. He is especially good at working out doubles, quickly! I have enjoyed watching Toby excel in PE this week, he plays Bench ball as if he was in key stage 2; he has shown excellent throwing and catching whilst also showing great teamwork! Toby is a very popular young man, he is kind and caring and great fun to be around. Kepp up the good work mate! Mr Q x

## Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the week is Evie. I've seen a real change in Evie's confidence this week, particularly in her writing. We've been planning and writing our own stories, and Evie has embraced this fully. In the past, Evie is usually more reserved with her writing and ideas. This week, I couldn't get her to stop even when everyone else has finished! She kept coming back asking to add more and more. With her newfound confidence it is like a wall has lifted and it is so nice to see the enthusiasm that has come with it. Not only is her story long and exciting, but it is also full of excellent adjectives and brilliant description that brings her ideas to life. Keep up the amazing work, Evie - I'm so proud of you!

## Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the week is George. George is new to our school. He has had to cope with a huge amount of change - moving house, moving area, moving school. Despite all this he has come in and cracked on with his learning. He is working well in his phonics group and his reading is strong. He has joined in with our story writing and he has unique and creative ideas. He also produces lovely illustrations-his pictures are full of life and characters. George found playtimes very tricky when he first arrived, but he has now started playing more happily with other children. I am really impressed with George's great attitude in the midst of everything he has to deal with. Well done, George. You are a star!



# STARS OF THE WEEK

## Mr Bayliss' class

Freya has shown excellent initiative this week by promptly starting tasks and completing them to a high standard. She has shown great teamwork skills, working well with other members of the class during activities. Freya has also made significant progress in working more independently, listening attentively to instructions from teachers, and consistently following classroom expectations. Her positive attitude around school and with her learning has been brilliant this week. Well done, Freya! Keep up the amazing work!

## Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Molly. Molly has had such a good year so far; she always wants to produce work she is proud of, and her presentation is beautiful. This week, Molly has been creating a storyboard for her own version of Jack and the Beanstalk. She has taken great care to think through how she will change the story and has produced lovely illustrations to go with it. Molly is also a very dependable member of the class. She always knows what she should be doing, and is like a PA to me, reminding me of important events! She sets high standards for herself, which I know this is going to help her when she moves up to Year 5. Keep up the good work Molly!

## Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Isla! Isla has had a great week, working hard across all areas of her learning. Isla always tries her very best and likes to complete all tasks to the best of her ability. Over the last 2 weeks, Isla has developed a better level of resilience when things do not go as she may have planned. Isla has pushed past this and is now thriving! Well done, Isla!

## Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Noah Le. Noah has so many good qualities. He brings so much energy and enthusiasm to the class and is always eager to share the incredible knowledge he has! He's a natural leader and works so well with others. This week, he has really tried to make thoughtful and insightful contributions in class. Keep it up, Noah—you're doing fantastic!

## Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Week is the wonderful Ellie. Ellie is a kind and caring member of our class who is always eager to help both staff and her peers. She is a fantastic role model, always showing respect, enthusiasm, and a positive attitude in everything she does. Recently, Ellie has been working incredibly hard in her learning. It has been wonderful to see her confidently raising her hand and contributing fantastic ideas in class discussions. She has really impressed me with her fluency in reading, and she is now independently answering comprehension questions with confidence. Ellie, your hard work and determination are truly paying off, and we are all so proud of you. Keep up the amazing effort!

## Mrs Scott's class

My star, this week, is Reuben. Reuben is a lovely member of our class, with a great smile and sense of humour, as well as being someone who works hard in all his learning. Reuben is a great friend to many, and is just a wonderful presence in our classroom. Well done, Reuben - keep being you!

## Dance Festival

On Wednesday, Miss Parkhouse and Miss Madge took a group of talented Year 4, 5, and 6 girls to this year's Dance Festival at Park School, where they performed a fantastic routine to a song from *The Lion King*. They showcased their incredible skills, working together as a strong and supportive team while listening carefully to instructions and even having the opportunity to create their own choreography. Their dedication and enthusiasm shone through in every movement, making it a truly memorable performance. Huge well-done girls – you made us all very proud!

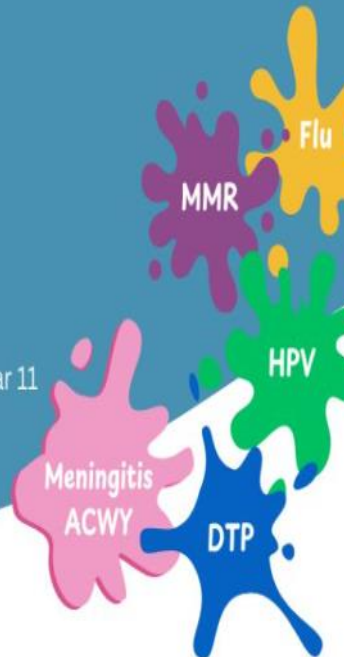


### School aged vaccinations

Did you know children will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- ✓ Flu - reception - year 11
- ✓ MMR - catch up
- ✓ HPV - year 8 - year 11
- ✓ Meningitis ACWY - year 9 - year 11
- ✓ Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP) - year 9 - year 11

**CORNWALL & DEVON**  
School Age Immunisation Service  
Delivered by Kernow Health CIC



### Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across Devon for:

- ✓ Home educated children
- ✓ Anxious children
- ✓ Children who missed the session at school

For more information, scan the QR code, or call us to speak with a member of our team



Call us on **01392 342678**



[kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net](mailto:kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net)

Tidiest

Cloakroom

This week was  
Mrs Oldfield's  
Class

Reading Road Champions  
Years 1 and 2

Congratulations  
to:

Ruby Hallie

For completing 75 reads

Hendrix Eleanor

For completing 100 reads

Tri-Reading Tournament Champ

Years 5 and 6

Congratulations to:

Dylan

For reaching 150 reads

The 100 Club

Well done  
to the following children in our  
times tables challenge

Rory W

Gold Award

Olivia Marley

Bronze Award

## School Diary Dates

Wed, 19th Mar	Y3/4 U9's Girls Football Tournament
Wed, 26th Mar	Y5/6 U11 Girls Football Tournament
Fri, 28th Mar	Ready Steady Rock Bank Practice
Tues, 1st Apr	Y3/4 Watermouth Castle Trip (details to come)
Wed, 2nd Apr	Y5/6 Boys Football Tournament
Fri, 4th Apr	Ready Steady Rock End of Term Concert
Mon, 7th to Mon, 21st Apr	Easter Holidays (Last day of school Fri, 4th April)
Tue, 22nd Apr	Back to school
Wed, 23 Apr	Y2 Tennis Festival—Tarka Leisure Centre
Mon, 5th May	Bank Holiday (back to school on Tue, 6th May)
Tue, 6th to Fri, 9th May	Y3 / 4 Bikeability
Tue, 6th May	Y2—Northam Burrows trip
Wed, 7th May	Y1 Multi-skills Festival—Park School
Thur, 8th May	Y1—Northam Burrows trip
Fri, 16th May	Y3 Cricket Skills Festival
Wed, 21st May	Wilcombe Wobbler Cross Country (details to come)
Fri, 23rd May	Aquathlon—Torrington
Fri, 23rd May	Y6 and Reception—National Child Measurement
Mon, 26th to Fri, 30th May	HALF TERM

### Week commencing—Monday, 17th March

Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options



### LUNCH MENU – WEEK 2

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2024 – 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Jan – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb – 17<sup>th</sup> Mar 2025





Food to excite  
**ventrus**  
Catering for your children's education

Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bowls, Low Fat Yoghurts, Fruit, Milk and Water available daily. All Special Diets catered for.

	Meat Free Monday	Tasty Tuesday	Roast it up Wednesday	Treat yourself Thursday	Finish it off Friday
	Mozzarella topped Mediterranean Pasta	100% Beef Burger Bap & Diced Potatoes	Roast Chicken & Stuffing	Crispy Salmon Bites	Beefy Macaroni Cheese
	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Veggie Curry with Wholegrain Rice	Cauliflower Bites	Vegan Sausage Roll	Cheese & Onion Pastry with Diced Potatoes
	Mixed Vegetables	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Roast or Mash Potato with Fresh Broccoli, Carrots, & Gravy	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cauliflower, Sweetcorn & Crusty Bread
	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Sausage Roll
	Warm Pancakes with Syrup	Chocolate Cake & Chocolate Sauce	Cheese, Apple & Crackers	Mandarin Jelly	Fruity Lolly

