Orchard Vale's Weekly News
Friday, 29th November 2024

www.ovschool.co.uk
orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

This week we have started the countdown to Christmas. With the cold, dark nights creeping in it is definitely giving us something to look forward to. The children have started to prepare for their performances and are extremely excited to share these with you. Details of performances and how to book seats will be shared via your child's Teams account for Key Stage Two and a letter will be coming home from Reception/Key Stage One teachers. Please see page 6 of this newsletter for details of all our Christmas events.

It is that time of year when we have noticed an increase in absence due to sickness. In school, children are encouraged to maintain good hygiene and we strive to keep our school a safe and healthy environment. We kindly ask you to support your children with:

Handwashing: Encourage frequent handwashing with soap and water, especially before meals and after using the bathroom.

Covering Coughs and Sneezes: Teach children to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their elbow when they cough or sneeze.

Avoiding Face Touching: Remind children to avoid touching their face, especially their eyes, nose, and mouth, to prevent the spread of germs.

Staying Home When Sick: If your child is not well enough to come to school, please keep them at home to rest and recover fully before returning to school.

Personal Items: Ensure children do not share personal items like water bottles, utensils, or towels.

Our Reception Starters for September 2025 open evenings were very successful. It was lovely to meet new families and to share our wonderful school with them. If you know of any families who are yet to apply for a reception place, please let them know we are still accepting applications and will be holding 2 more open evenings in January. More information will follow.

Have a lovely weekend and stay wrapped up warm.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

Can you help?

We have been decorating the school for Christmas.

Do any of our families know anyone who would be happy to donate a live Christmas tree to Orchard Vale for us to display in the school entrance this year.

Please contact the school office.

What better way to start your Wednesday than enjoying a hot chocolate with all the trimmings in the Coffee Cabin?

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mrs Youll's class

Henry for settling in well, making some good friendships and trying hard in maths.

Mrs Oldfield's class

My star of the week is Ozioma. Ozi is a kind, friendly and happy girl who tries hard in everything she is asked to do. I have been really impressed with her attitude to learning in her writing this week. She has used a great range of adjectives and created a wonderful sentence about Goldilocks and The Three Bears. She has also been working very hard in her phonics with Miss Huxtable. I can see she is using her phonic knowledge to help her with her writing. Ozi you have been incredibly helpful around the class and you always put a smile on our faces! Keep up the amazing work. You are a superstar! - Miss Tillman x

Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the week is Kojo. Kojo has worked so hard since being in reception. Kojo plays well with his friends and looks after others. He has become a great at tidying up too. Kojo listening skills have been fantastic the last few weeks and he has been giving some fantastic answers in lessons. Well done Kojo we are very proud of you.

Mr Quilter's class

My star of the week is Ava! I wish I had a million Ava's! If I did, teaching would be the easiest job in the world. Ava is a perfect role model for others; she completes tasks quickly and efficiently and still finds time to support others with their learning. I am very grateful you do this Ava, you are kind, caring and 1 in a million. Ava has produced some outstanding work this week, her writing has impressed Mrs Gulliford this week and her maths has also been exemplary as usual. You are awesome Ava!! Mr Q, Miss Snell, Mrs Clarke x

Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the week is Eliza. It has been lovely to see Eliza thriving with more responsibility in the classroom this week, and I can always count on her to lend a helping hand! She is also shining in our Christmas show rehearsals, taking real pride in her part and giving it her all. Mr Quilter has mentioned that he has been impressed with Eliza and her partner reading this week. I have also noticed her growing confidence speaking and reading in front of others with more volume in the classroom. Eliza's enthusiasm and positive energy is infectious, and she has been spreading the Christmas cheer all round. Well done Eliza, we love having her in class.

Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the week is Stanley. This week several adults have mentioned how well Stanley is doing in phonics and I have to say, I absolutely agree. Stanley finds the routines of Year 1 quite a challenge, particularly the sitting and listening parts. However, in phonics each morning, he is applying himself brilliantly, focusing and his reading is going from strength to strength as a result. I can see Stanley starting to apply this knowledge to his writing as well and that is having a great impact on the readability of his learning. He has also been working hard on his handwriting and is developing more control which is also improving with his presentation. Stanley, well done on your great progress in phonics and handwriting. You are a star! Keep doing this.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mr Bayliss' class

I have been very pleased with the incredible effort that Kiara has been putting into her work. In English she has been going the extra mile to include further steps with the direct speech punctuation we have been learning, creating some lovely sentences. In maths Kiara has shown great focus and concentration, finishing tasks on time to a high standard. At playtime Kiara is always kind and caring to her classmates, including others into her games. Well done, Kiara!

Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Ruby. Ruby has had a great first term in Year 3/4, always approaching every task with a smile, and meeting all of the expectations of a great role model to other children. This week in particular, she has really impressed me with her focus and resilience in her writing. She has persevered using some challenging punctuation, revising her work to make sure that it is just right! Well done Ruby - keep up the hard work and enthusiasm!

Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Sophia! Ben is a real delight to have in any classroom. She works extremely hard, giving all her effort to all tasks across any subject. She is kind and caring to those around her and loves supporting others in their learning. Sophia is also someone who has grown in confidence this year, regularly sharing her ideas in class discussions and being brave enough to take risks! Well done.

Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Theo C. He has been so engaged in his learning this week, giving great explanations of his mathematical thinking, and helping others to understand the learning. He has a very positive attitude to school, and is a popular member of the class, always with a smile on his face and a willingness to join in.

Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Week is the wonderful Toby. Toby is absolutely fantastic to have in class! He has really impressed Mrs Ledger in her teaching group in the mornings, with his focus and brilliant attitude towards learning. It has been lovely to see his confidence blossoming in class; he now has a greater willingness to contribute ideas in class discussions. Toby always brings a smile to my face, and I feel very lucky to have such a kind and considerate young man in my class. He is consistently looking for ways to help any adult or any of his peers, both in learning and on the playground. Keep up the excellent work! You are a superstar!

Mrs Scott's class

My star, this week, is Lily-Mae. I feel like I have seen so much more of Lily-Mae's personality come through, already this year, and it is so lovely to feel like I am really starting to get to know her. She has a great sense of humour, alongside being hard-working and a fantastic friend. She was already a pleasure to have in my class as a year 5, but now, as a year 6, I think we are definitely beginning to see her shine (albeit quietly!) You have so much to offer, Lily-Mae, and I am excited to see what you can achieve. Well done.

Please see the letter regarding the safety of our pupils this winter from Mrs Pearce, Headteacher, which is attached to the email distributing the newsletter to parents.

Parking around Orchard Vale

Please could we urge our parents/families to put safety first by parking responsibly during drop-off and pick-up times.

Where possible you should park in the designated area just past the school after Kingfisher Drive and behind the bollards. If you are unable to park there you are able to park in one of our neighbouring residential roads, but please park considerately and do not block driveways or mount the footpath. **There should be no parking in the red zone.**

Please could we ask you not to take matters into your own hands by confronting other road users. We would suggest you take photos of offending vehicles and report any parking/speeding issues in the first instance to https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/reportcrime or on the non-emergency number of 101 or email 101@dc.police.uk.

Here are some examples from this week of unacceptable/dangerous parking.

Wow Moment

Darcy has had a busy 2 months with his martial arts. He past his black belt grading in October, won a Gold medal and two Bronze medals in the British Championships at the start of November and last weekend graduated as a Level 1 Certified Junior Instructor at the MF University.

Tidiest Cloakroom This week was Mrs Ledger's class

Reading Road Champions
Years 1 and 2

Congratulations to:

Reign

For completing 25 reads

Alice Caleb

For completing 50 reads

The 100 Club

Well done
to the following children in our timestables challenge

Charlie James
Silver Award

Lily-Mae C
Bronze Award

Tri-Reading Tournament Champ

Years 5 and 6

Congratulations to:

Asher Lily-Mae S
For reaching 25 reads

Lola
For reaching 100 reads

Christmas celebrations at Orchard Vale

Wednesday, 11th December - 10.30am to 11.30am

Some years 5/6 children to sing carols at the Barnstaple Library.

Thursday, 12th December – 9am to 1.30pm

Beauty and the Beast Panto - Selected children.
More information will be sent to parents of those attending.

Friday, 13th December - 9am to 10am

Rocksteady End of term concert – Only parents of performers are invited to attend.

Friday, 13th December – 2.30pm

KS2 carols in the playground.

Allocation of places for all performances/assemblies

Initially 2 places allocated per child, under 3 year old siblings to sit on laps of parents.
Any spaces left nearer the dates will be made available.

Monday, 16th December - 9.30am **(Coffee Cabin open for drinks 9am-9.30am)** Doors open 9.15am for audience to take their seats. **KS2** Christmas Assembly in the hall. **Places bookable via Teams only.**	**Monday, 16th December - 2pm** Doors open 1.45pm for audience to take their seats. **KS1** and **Reception** performance in the hall. **Places bookable through class teacher only.**
Tuesday, 17th December - 9.30am **(Coffee Cabin open for drinks 9am-9.30am)** (Doors open 9.15am for audience to take their seats. **KS1** and **Reception** Performance in the hall. **Places bookable through class teacher only.**	**Tuesday, 17th December - 2.30pm** Doors open 2.15pm for audience to take their seats. **KS2** Christmas Assembly in the hall. **Places bookable via Teams only.**

Nursery / Little Seeds
We will be filming the children's performances and putting this on Tapestry for parents to enjoy.

Wednesday, 18th December - Xmas Dinner - Christmas Jumper Day.
(Dinners must have been pre-booked by 27th November)

Wednesday, 18th December—Winter Ball
(places bookable through Parentpay)

Friday, 20th December - Non uniform day.

School Diary Dates

Wed, 4th Dec	Y4/5/6—Swimming lessons
Tues, 10th Dec	Reception and Key Stage 1—Space Odyssey experience (amended date)
Wed, 11th Dec	Some year 5/6—Carols at Barnstaple Library
Wed, 11th Dec	Y4/5/6—Swimming lessons
Wed, 11th Dec	Y5/6 Girls Football Tournament
Thur, 12th Dec	Beauty and the Beast Panto—Queen's Theatre
Fri, 13th Dec	Rock Steady End of Term Concert—9am to 10am
Fri, 13th Dec	Years 5/6—Carols in the playground—2.30pm
Mon, 16th Dec	KS2—Christmas Performance—9.30am
Mon, 16th Dec	KS1 and Reception—Christmas Performance—1.30pm
Tue, 17th Dec	KS1 and Reception—Christmas Performance—9.30am
Tue, 17th Dec	KS2—Christmas Performance—1.30pm
Wed, 18th Dec	Christmas Dinner / Jumper Day (pre-book dinners with the office)
Wed, 18th Dec	PTA Winter Ball
Fri, 20th Dec	Last day of term
Tues, 7th Jan	First day of spring term

Week commencing—Monday, 2nd December

Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options

Please note we no longer offer tuna baps

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 2

2nd Dec 2024 – 6th & 27th Jan – 24th Feb – 17th 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
	Veggie Curry with Wholegrain Rice	Cauliflower Bites	Vegan Sausage Roll	Cheese & Onion Pasty with Diced Potatoes
Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	
Mixed Vegetables	Tomato Sauce, Corn on the Cob or Green Beans	Roast or Mash Potato with Fresh Broccoli, Carrots, & Gravy	Chips, Pasta, Peas or Baked Beans	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

OV Winter Ball

Wednesday 18th December

ALL children must be collected at the end of the school day and return for their disco.

Reception & Years 1 & 2 - 3:30 - 4:30
Years 3 & 4 - 4:45 - 5:45
Years 5 & 6 - 6:15 - 7:15

Entry is via the Community Room.

£2.50 entry per child
(includes a drink and sweets)
Payments to be made on ParentPay

By purchasing a ticket you are agreeing that a responsible adult will be collecting your child at the appropriate time.

Please inform us who the responsible adult will be when completing your payment on ParentPay.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Let's get fundraising!

PLASTIC FREE NORTH DEVON

CLEANSE + CLEAN

DAY OF ACTION

25th January 2025

Join our organised cleans
25/01
Many locations TBC across North Devon

Do your own clean
Get outside, get active and clean up as you go

Businesses
Organise a clean with or at your workplace from 20th - 24th Jan

Schools
Organise a clean with or at your school from 20th - 24th Jan

Then send us your stats to evidence what has been achieved

Find out more at plasticfreenorthdevon.org

@plasticfreenorthdevon
#cleanseandclean

TARKA
LEISURE CENTRE

SWIMMING LESSONS

Why not join our weekly lesson programme and continue your journey

Lessons available for all ages and abilities
Weekdays and weekends available

FREE public swimming included
FREE swim hat provided
FREE softplay included

To book your place

Call the centre on 01271 373361

Go online at LeisureCentre.com

LeisureCentre.com

Following the Swim England Learn to Swim Programme

Water Safety Partner of RLSS UK
OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIP

National Trust

Christmas
at Arlington Court

Opening times:

Open Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays, 10am-4pm, from 16 November until 15 December.

Then open daily, 10am-3pm from 16 December to 5 January, excluding 24 , 25 & 26 Dec

Experience Christmas at Arlington as never before. The house will be dressed to impress with each room themed on a Victorian Christmas carol, from ships sailing down the dining room table to sheep taking over the drawing room, an exciting display awaits in every room.

Evening openings

Thursday 5, 12 & 19 December, 10am- 7pm

Discover Arlington after dark, when the Christmas magic comes to life. Pick up a tasty festive treat from the tea-room, take part in family crafts or browse a selection of artworks and gifts from local artists in the Activity Room.

Last entry to the house is 6:30pm. Tickets cost £8 for adults and £4 for children, members can enter for free and pre booking not required.

FOUNDATION HUBS

DEVON CRICKET FOUNDATION

TASTER SESSION
5 DECEMBER 2024
PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
EX32 9AX
5:30 - 7 PM

WEDNESDAYS
8 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2025
& 5 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2025
7PM - 8:30 PM

Open to all **state school** girls Years 6 - 10*

*Players in the Devon Cricket Performance Pathway are **not** eligible.

Sign Up

For more information contact
martin.brice@devoncricket.co.uk
01392 262509 / 07939 015663
or visit www.devoncricket.co.uk/mccf-hubs

NORTH DEVON GIRLS' HUB

VENUE
Pilton Community College
Chaddiford Ln
Barnstaple
EX31 1RB

HAF CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAYS

Ofsted

DEVON HAF

Primary Sports and Education North Devon

DATES:
-MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER
-THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY
-FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY

STICKLEPATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

9.00AM-1.00PM
Extended options available

5-11 YEAR OLDS

PRIMARY SPORTS & EDUCATION

HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK!

For More information, contact us :
north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk
www.primary-sports.co.uk
07531530131