

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

## Friday, 11th December 2020

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

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



### Headteacher's message



Dear Parent/Carer

We are nearly there everyone! I would like to say a huge well done to our children for behaving so brilliantly this term. It has not been easy for them but I think I can speak for all staff members when I say the children have made the very best of our new routines etc.

#### Virtual Christmas Fayre

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Virtual Christmas Fayre (VCF). This is the first time we have tried this format and we hope the children enjoy taking part in the competitions/activities. Competition winners will be announced next week.



#### Access to the Christmas Fayre Teams

Years 1 to 6 will have access to the Fayre on their normal pupil Teams login.

Reception/Nursery will be receiving an email with your child's Teams login, in order for them to take part.

Little Seeds parents will be receiving an email explaining how they can access this.

#### Christmas DVD

If you have paid for a Christmas concert DVD this will be sent home with your child on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December. If your child is in Nursery or Little Seeds we will aim to get this to them for their last day in school.

Entries for the CD cover design need to be placed on Teams by Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December.

#### Our programme for next week will be:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday – we will be keeping to our curriculum.

#### Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner

Children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumpers over their school uniform, if they would like to.

We are all looking forward to our Christmas dinner. If you have not booked this for your child and would like to please contact the school office.

#### Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December – PJ and film afternoon

In the morning, the children will be able to watch the final Orchard Vale Christmas concert in their classes.

Children can bring in the PJ's ready to change into after lunch. Classes will be watching seasonal DVD's in class and enjoying the Christmas atmosphere.

#### Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of term

We will be holding our whole school virtual assembly in classes, celebrating our Stars of the Term and December birthdays.

In the afternoon we will have our class Christmas parties and celebrate with those children who have had a birthday in December. Birthday girls and boys will receive a mini birthday cake made by Liz and Becky. To adhere to our Covid risk assessment, children may bring in some sweet/treats, for themselves only, to eat at the party.

Children will bring home any Christmas Fayre items, friends cards and presents that have been quarantined in class and a gift from Grosvenor Church.

Have a restful weekend.

Fiona Pearce, Headteacher



## Do you need financial help?

If your income has changed and you are struggling to pay for basic household essentials, [the Government have made money available via local District Councils](#) to provide small emergency grants to people in financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.



The funds can be used for different things such as access to emergency short term support through shopping vouchers, utility top ups, paying for essential travel needs or essential advice and support services.

The Government have also published information on our website about [financial help in your local area](#), including links to national support and information on what to do if you were employed but have now lost your job.

There's [more information about what to do if you're employed and cannot work](#), on the government's website.

If you're [self-employed and getting less work or no work because of coronavirus](#) (COVID-19), there is also support available, such as the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.

The government is [extending the Job Retention Scheme \(furlough\) until March 2021](#). This means that workers in any part of the UK can retain their job, even if their employer cannot afford to pay them, and be paid at least 80 per cent of their salary up to £2,500 a month.

## Free School Meals over the Christmas Holidays

DCC have put in place arrangements to provide supermarket vouchers for children who currently receive free school meals to help their families buy groceries over the Christmas holidays.

Don't miss out on this vital support, if you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals due to a change in family circumstances you can take complete a check through DCC by clicking on the following link **by Friday 18 December**. You will be given an instant decision. [Is my child entitled to Free School Meals?](#)

If you have registered your child for Free School Meals you will receive a letter/email next week with a unique code per child and details about how to access your vouchers/alternative food box. Each child will be entitled to £30 for the school holidays to be used at Sainsbury's, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, M&S Food and Waitrose. You can save the vouchers to your phone or tablet to use online (depending on the supermarket) or show at the checkout in store. Alternatively, you can print the vouchers off to give to the cashier.

If you do not have access to the internet or a mobile device to receive and store the vouchers please contact the school office. DCC helpline 0345 155 1019. [More information about the scheme on the DCC Website.](#)

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9 December 2020

Dear Parent /Carer

Many of you may well have seen media coverage in the last 24 hours regarding the potential for early closure of schools, with the Department of Education suggesting schools may want to consider closing on the 18th of December.

One of the main reasons for considering such closure is because schools have been asked to remain contactable to support contact tracing, in the event of a positive case in their schools, for six days after the end of term; hence closing on the 18th would reduce the likelihood that school staff would need to be involved in contact tracing up to and including Christmas Eve.

Headteachers across all the schools in our Trust have made the **decision to remain open on the 18th of December** for the following main reasons:

- Closure at such short notice is disruptive for all parents and especially those who are key workers
- This is not an additional non-pupil day and therefore taking a non-pupil day on the 18th of December would cause disruption to the planned school calendar later in the year
- Throughout this pandemic Headteachers and their teams have done whatever is necessary to support the national response to the pandemic and this now includes an open willingness to support contact tracing wherever and whenever necessary over the Christmas holidays

### Confirmed Case of Coronavirus during Christmas holidays

With this in mind we would like to give absolute clarity within this letter on the **steps you need to take if one of the children in your family who attends our school has a confirmed positive test for COVID-19** during the Christmas holidays.

**If your child tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours since being in school, the school should be contacted. If your child develops symptoms and test positive after 48 hours, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.**

Please email [info@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:info@ventrus.org.uk) as soon as you possibly can marking the subject as "Confirmed Covid-19 Case", in the body of the email please include the following information:

**School Name:**

**Child Name:**

**Date of confirmed positive test:**

**Date child became symptomatic:**



## COVID-19—What does Tier 2 mean to you?

- You must not socialise with anyone indoors who is not in your household or part of your support bubble, at home or in a public space.
- If you are outside, you can meet in groups of up to six people from different households.
- Everyone who can work from home should do so.
- You should reduce the number of journeys you make, avoiding busy times and routes on public transport, and car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Walk or cycle instead if possible.
- Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10.00pm and must close by 11.00pm.
- Some businesses such as non-essential retail, leisure and sports venues can reopen providing they are COVID-secure.
- You must continue to follow Tier 2 restrictions if you travel to a Tier 1 area. Avoid travel to a Tier 3 area other than where necessary, for example for work, education, medical treatment or to carry out caring responsibilities.

[Full details of Tier 2 restrictions are available on the government's website.](#)

### So, can you travel?

The rules follow you down the tiers, but not up.

So, if you live in Tier 2 and travel to Tier 1, you must stick to Tier 2 rules.

But if you live in Tier 1 and travel to Tier 2, you must follow Tier 2 rules.

Those living in Tier 3 should avoid travel altogether unless the journey is essential.

## Accessing your GP and health services this winter

GP practices offer online services 24-7. To book appointments, request sick notes and order repeat prescriptions, [download the NHS App](#). You can also save time and consult with your GP practice online via their website. Alternatively, you can phone them.

Watch the NHS's [animation that explains how you can continue to access GP services](#), including how to get in contact, the different ways care may be delivered, and how face-to-face appointments have changed.

If you think you need to go to A&E, call **111** first or click [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk). Clinicians will advise you on where to go, or what to do next, and can book a time to attend a service – such as a hospital, pharmacy or GP practice – where appropriate.

Many minor illnesses and injuries like coughs, colds, grazes, small cuts or a sore throat can be treated at home or in holiday accommodation. Be prepared for common health problems by keeping a well-stocked [medicine cabinet](#).

Pharmacists advise and treat illnesses like hay fever, diarrhoea, earache, painful cough, sticky eye, teething and rashes. By visiting your pharmacy, you can avoid an unnecessary trip to your GP or A&E and save time. [Find your nearest pharmacy online](#).

If you are an adult and need urgent mental health support, call: Devon 0300 555 5000; (24 hours). For children and young people's support in Plymouth (including for parents and carers) call 01752 435 122.



### Covid Christmas Bubbles

Forming a Christmas bubble - You can find out more about [forming an exclusive Christmas bubble](#) with no more than three households on the government's website.

Between 23 and 27 December:

- you can form an exclusive 'Christmas bubble' composed of people from no more than 3 households.
- you can only be in one Christmas bubble.
- you cannot change your Christmas bubble.
- you can travel between tiers and UK nations for the purposes of meeting your Christmas bubble.
- you can only meet your Christmas bubble in private homes or in your garden, places of worship, or public outdoor spaces.
- you can continue to meet people who are not in your Christmas bubble outside your home according to [the rules in the tier where you are staying](#) you cannot meet someone in a private dwelling who is not part of your household or Christmas bubble.

# Star of the Week

## Foundation Stage and Key Stage One



**Mrs Youll's** – I have two stars of the week:

Oscar for showing good imagination and doing some good tidying.

Wyatt for settling in well at nursery and doing some super listening at circle time.

**Miss Cawthorne's nomination** – I have two stars of the week:

Brody for working hard and good listening.

Charlotte for great phonics and reading.



**Miss Boundy's nominations - I have two stars of the week:**

Holly has been amazing this week. She has been a great friend and has been trying extra hard in phonics. Well done Holly

Chloe H has shown lots of enthusiasm in her reading this week. She has been an amazing friend and has shown lots of confidence in talking to adults. Well done Chloe.

**Mr Quilter's nomination**

'Bon Bon' has really impressed me with her amazing art work this week; she explored colour beautifully and the final outcome was brilliant! Bonnie has a great attitude towards school, she always works hard and gives 100%  
Great job! Mr Q x



**Mrs Oldfield's nomination**

Asher has really impressed us this week with his attention to detail in his writing, he has worked hard to sound out unfamiliar words and has thought hard about the vocabulary he wanted to use in his letter to the Nutcracker. He has also been a Maths wizard this week quickly grasping subtraction and helping other when they are unsure what to do. Weekend done Asher keep up the great work.

**Mrs Grimwood's/Mrs Huggins' nomination**

Our star of the week is Ciaran. He is the kindest of boys and always wants to be your friend. Ciaran is very chatty and loves to have a conversation with you. I am also very impressed with Ciaran's reading. He knows lots of sounds and is using these to work out his new words. Well done Ciaran keep it up. You are our shining star.



# Star of the Week

## Key Stage Two

### Miss Gulliford's nomination

This week Larny has shone the brightest. Her confidence has blossomed since her journey into year 4 and she has been working on her self-belief to know that she can do anything with a little perseverance. Her humour is contagious and she lights up the classroom bringing a joyful atmosphere.

### Mrs Johnson's nomination

This week I have chosen a girl who embodies Christmas Spirit! She is always cheering us up with her singing and never fails to come to school without a beaming smile. This week she has been working on her addition and subtraction in maths and has become more confident using written methods. She has also been working hard on her handwriting and Mrs Moore commented only this week how beautiful it looks. Congratulations Amelie! We all love you and enjoy having you as a part of our class!

### Mr Whapham's nomination

Olivia has had a really fab week - really trying her best in maths. She has been engaging more and more in class discussions and is willing to share her ideas. She is working well in afternoon topic work, listening carefully and really showing what she understands. Olivia has showed a really positive spirit this week and her lovely smile keeps us all happy!

### Mrs Lavictoire's nomination

This week has been great! I am so proud of every my class this week, you have all worked extremely hard- well done! for this week's 'Star of the Week', I have chosen someone who has shown complete concentration and determination every day and as a result has produced some excellent work in all lessons. This week's 'Star of the Week' is Kaden Wheatley. Well done Kaden, keep up the good work!"

### Mrs Harding's nominations

Jessica has worked very hard this week on her research for her World War 2 book. She has used her reading skills and copied down key facts and vocabulary carefully. In maths she has worked hard on her halving and doubling even when they have been challenging for her and she has been a special friend at lunchtime in helping others to solve problems and play together nicely. Well done Jessica. Enjoy being star of the week, Mrs Harding, Miss Passmore and Mrs Knight

### Mrs Rana's/Mr Boul't's nomination

Star of the week for year 5 this week is Sophie! Sophie has just been a superstar all week and throughout the whole term. She is always ready to work, ready to listen and ready to contribute. This week, she has shown off all of her wonderful learning in her maths and science, displaying everything she knows and doing really well. Sophie is a pleasure to teach and a wonderful member of our class.

### Miss Squire's nomination

My star this week is someone who has impressed me throughout this term with their attitude since becoming a year 6. There's a lot of things they learnt in year 5 that they've brought with them but a lot of things they've chosen to leave behind them from year 5 which can be really important as you grow up, they are a really hard worker and a fantastic friend. Last week some of their friends were away and they continued to work really hard and use other people around them to keep them company and have as working partners as well, I was really impressed to see how they coped with this. My star this week is Riley, well done.



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



We are proud to share the children's success for consistently reading 25 times a week at home. The following children have reached their first step on the Proud Cloud. When children reach 50 they will receive their first certificate. Well done to:

**Miss Gulliford class**      50 - Rhys  
25 - Vinny and Lily-Rose

### Years 5 and 6—Tri-Reading Tournament



The children in Years 5 and 6 are taking part in a Tri-Reading Tournament.

Congratulations to the following children who have achieved 25, 50...nights of reading at home:

**Mrs Rana's/Mr Boul't's class**    100—Naima      75—Will R  
Miss Squire's class                      50 - Ella and Macie

### Mr Ovey's PE Champions

Mr Ovey has been impressed with everyone positive attitude to PE this week. Well done to the PE Champions from Key Stages 1 and 2.



Years 1/2 Cole - exceptional skills in a range of sports but for great helping of others

Years 3/4- Rhys K - for being brilliant at eliminating the Jedi knight in Star Wars dodgeball

Years 5/6- Kelsey H- for great enthusiasm in PE and clubs

### Menu—w/c 14th December

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Main</b> – Macaroni cheese, focaccia bread and sweetcorn	<b>Main</b> – Sausage, mash and gravy with peas	<b>Main</b> – Roast chicken, gravy potatoes and fresh vegetables	<b>Main</b> – Beef bolognaise, Pasta with sweetcorn	<b>Main</b> – Fish fingers, chips and veggie sticks
<b>Vegetarian</b> Vegetarian Hotdog with crispy round potatoes and sweetcorn	<b>Vegetarian</b> Butternut squash, spinach and courgette casserole with potato mash and peas	<b>Vegetarian</b> Vegetarian sausage roll with potatoes and fresh vegetables	<b>Vegetarian</b> Focaccia bread pizza with pasta and sweetcorn	<b>Vegetarian</b> Quorn nuggets, fries and vegetable sticks
<b>Jacket potato</b> Cheese / beans / tuna	<b>Jacket potato</b> Cheese / beans / tuna	<b>Jacket potato</b> Cheese / beans / tuna	<b>Jacket potato</b> Cheese / beans / tuna	<b>Jacket potato</b> Cheese / beans / tuna
<b>School packed lunch option</b>  Sausage Roll, desert, fruit and crisps	<b>School packed lunch option</b>  Cheese Sandwich, desert, fruit and crisps	<b>School packed lunch option</b>  Ham Sandwich, desert, fruit and crisps	<b>School packed lunch option</b>  Cheese and onion pasty, desert, fruit and crisps	<b>School packed lunch option</b>  Ham sandwich, desert, fruit and crisps
<b>Dessert</b> Fresh Fruit	<b>Dessert</b> Carrot cake	<b>Dessert</b> Various ice-creams	<b>Dessert</b> Apple flapjack	<b>Dessert</b> Chocolate cracknel



Teamwork at its best in Mr Quilter's class.

We have completed our mission and finished the space puzzle.



Sophie is very proud of the hard work she has done in the past few weeks with Mrs Roberts.

They have gone CHRISTMAS CRAZY and have created this amazing Christmas display.

Well done Sophie!



Isaac has had a great attempt at the cake competition, he has done most of this himself with help with the oven and some of the rolling, he's very proud and wishes he could share it with his class. The design was his own and he was very particular about his candy canes !!



## Freedom Community Alliance Christmas Treat Boxes

This year instead of Christmas food hampers we will be supporting the local charity for the homeless.

If you would like to support this project, please pop your donations into the box from the

Please bring your contributions to  
the school office  
by Wednesday, 16th December

Suggested items are toiletries, socks, chocolates, deodorant, gloves and other lovely treats.



*Christmas*  
**TREAT BOXES**

*We are collecting  
treat boxes from the  
beginning of  
December!*

We are collecting treat boxes this year. Due to Covid-19, these will be given out to the homeless and the vulnerable. We are asking for Socks, Shower Gel, Deodorant and some lovely treats.

*\*Please do not put any alcoholic items in the boxes.*

The poster features images of various items: a box of Orange Quigo, a box of Quigo, a box of Shower Gel, a box of Deodorant, a box of Socks, a box of Toblerone, and a box of Dairy Milk.



**ON THE TRAIL**

**What is Christmas really all about?**  
Scan the code and let the adventure begin!

**Go to Rock Park**  
12<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> December  
to find the poster  
near the play area  
for the next QR code  
and first clue

**Scripture Union**

Please ensure you follow current government guidance around social distancing as you take part in this trail.

The poster features a QR code and a 'SCAN ME' button. It also includes a photograph of a Christmas tree decorated with a red ball and a silver bell.



As a group of Churches together in Barnstaple, we have put together a short Nativity Trail in Rock Park.

It will run from the 12th to the 21st December and posters with a QR code will be displayed in various places around the park. Each QR code will show a short video with a letter clue to unlock the final video.