

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 18th July 2025

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@thsp.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

We have had a lovely week with the children meeting their new classmates and teachers for next year. Despite a few initial nerves, the children settled quickly and really enjoyed their time together. It was especially nice to meet our new reception children. We have another session booked in next week and can't wait to continue developing our relationships.

Our Year 6's had a fabulous day out at the Milky Way on Thursday, followed by a staff-v- children rounders match; which was fiercely competitive and enjoyed by all. We then enjoyed hot dogs and ice-cream as one of their final treats. They have been enjoying their last few days at primary school before moving on to Secondary in September. We are very much looking forward to their awards evening on Monday and leavers' assembly on Tuesday.

We are sad to have said goodbye to Mrs Manley who is retiring today after 26 years at Orchard Vale. She will be greatly missed, but we are sure she will be popping back to see us and hopefully continue selling us all ice-creams and hot chocolates later in the year.

Thank you to the Park School Year 10 work experience children who have been helping in classes this week and the Park and Pilton Sports Leaders who came back to help with sports days.

Please remember to check the Lost Property area for any items of unnamed, clothing your child may have misplaced this term. At the end of term all lost property will be donated to local charity shops.

The last day of school will be Tuesday, 22nd July and we look forward to seeing you all on Thursday, 4th September.



Fiona Pearce,
Headteacher

Week commencing— Monday, 21st July

Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 1	
21 st July	
Available Every Week - Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bar, Fruit, Low Fat Yoghurts, Milk and Water available daily. All Special Diets catered for.	
Monday	Tuesday
Pepperoni pizza	Butcher's pork sausage
Margherita pizza	Vegan sausage roll
Jacket Potato with beans or cheese	Pork sausage roll
Cheese bap (Wholemeal Bread)	Wedges, tomato sauce, carrot and cucumber sticks
Chips, baked beans or sweetcorn	Homemade chocolate cookie
Vanilla ice-cream or Pip organic lolly	Carton of apple juice

LOST PROPERTY

We have a lot of unnamed items in Lost Property, in the courtyard.

If these items are not claimed by the end of term they will be placed in the New 2 U sale items or donated to charity.

Please do come and check for any items your child may have lost.

Fees for September 2025

School dinners—£2.60 per child

Breakfast Club—£3.50 per child

After School Provision—£7 per child

Nursery—0 to 2 year olds—£9.96 per hour

Nursery—2 year olds—£7.46 per hour

Nursery—3 to 4 year olds—£5.56 per hour

School uniform can be ordered online through

[School Threads](#)

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mrs Youll's class

My star of term is Barney for being a kind and loyal friend, having super manners and always trying your best in all you do.

My star of the year is Isabella. Isabella you are a kind and helpful member of the class. You are a supportive friend to those around you, always willing to lend a hand to your peers and the younger children. Your enthusiasm for tidying up and keeping things neat is fantastic, and you consistently show great behaviour and make excellent choices.

Mrs Oldfield's class

My star of the year is Ozioma. When I look back over the year and think about how far Ozi has come, I am both amazed and incredibly proud of her. Ozi is the full package. She shows a mature attitude and determination in her learning, that is rare to see in one so young. She is keen to learn as much as she can, listening intently to all input given and then working hard to practice new skills. She never gives less than 100% in all she is asked to do. Alongside this, she is such a fantastic friend, and role model to others around her. She is kind, caring and fun to be with. It is easy to see why she is so popular with both the adults and all her peers. Ozi greets every day with a beautiful smile on her face, she lights up any room she is in. It has been a pleasure and a gift to have taught her this year. I know I speak for all the adults who work with her when I say, congratulations Ozi, you are a Super Star! Mrs Oldfield x

Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the year is all of The Super Duper Troupers. All of the children have blown us away with their progress. They have all worked extremely hard and it is a pleasure to see them becoming independent learners. They have all grown into lovely caring people, they look out and look after each other. Well done everyone, keep up the good work in Year 1, you are all superstars.

Mr Quilter's class

Wow—what an incredible year Leighton has had! Although I've only had the pleasure of teaching him full-time this past term, the progress he's made has been nothing short of remarkable. Leighton began the year seeing letters as scattered sounds, unsure how they fit together. Now, he weaves them into beautiful sentences, using thoughtful vocabulary and expressive adjectives that bring his ideas to life. Watching him discover the power of his words has been nothing short of magical. I have loved watching him find joy in his learning and share his excitement with his other teachers. Leighton has shown exceptional dedication to improving his handwriting this year. He has consistently focused on ensuring his letters are well-formed and neatly positioned on the line. Even though he still needs a bit more practice, he's come a long way and should be proud of himself! Leighton may sometimes be seen as boisterous, but behind that energy is a heart full of kindness and a genuine desire to bring joy to others. He is thoughtful, caring, and considerate—a boy who makes our classroom brighter with every smile. Leighton, you've shown us all what it means to grow and persevere. We couldn't be prouder to celebrate you as our Star of the Year. - Miss Tillman x

My Star of the year is Lily J! I have chosen Lily for lots of reasons but mostly because of her wonderful work ethic and dedication to learning! Lily has impressed me this year with her positive attitude towards school! I have seen a real improvement in focus, and this has enabled her to make tremendous progress both academically and socially! Lily is still a fun loving, rabbit loving crazy girl with a massive personality, I have loved teaching her this past 2 years, and I look forward to watching her achieve great things in her future schooling! Great job Lily J! Mr Q x

Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the year is Mason. Mason likes things to feel safe and familiar, but this year he has grown in confidence so much. He has developed so many skills to cope with new experiences and manage when things feel uncomfortable or new. He always works hard, follows classroom routines well, and is eager to take on new challenges when he is ready. This year has been full of proud moments for Mason - and the best part is seeing how much he knows it now when he is doing well! His face glows when he achieves something he has worked hard for - whether that's being chosen for the Olympic Legacy team or sharing his brilliant maths knowledge. We've seen a more creative side to Mason this year, long gone are the reception days of staying away from the paint table! It was lovely to see him properly stuck in making his clay mask. It's in these moments where I can really see Mason pushing himself and it shows how resilient he is becoming. Mason brings energy and smiles to our classroom, with his bouncy basketball moves, his love of Steph Curry, and the lovely friendships he has with his peers. Mason, I am so proud of you! You are a real STAR. Miss H x

Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the year is Eleanor. Eleanor has had such a great year in year 1! She is a brilliant learner, kind-hearted and loving friend and an all-round top person. This year, Eleanor has worked hard every day and given the very best she can to each and every piece of learning she has done. She is a fabulous reader, a creative writer and an accurate mathematician. Eleanor plays beautifully with other children. She is always kind, and she is happy in her play, with a good circle of friends. Eleanor is such a fantastic role model in our class. She never makes a fuss or gets involved in a drama, she just quietly makes good choices, and I have loved having her in my class. Eleanor, you are consistent, diligent, loving and have a beautiful soul. These are the qualities that make you a top learner and wonderful person. Thank you for being such a superstar this year. You are amazing!

STARS OF THE TERM

Mr Bayliss' class

Evie has had a fantastic year! She has made amazing progress in so many areas - her confidence has grown, she has built lovely friendships and has worked incredibly hard on managing her emotions. Evie has been making wise choices and taking a mature attitude to the playground and classroom. It has been brilliant to see her face challenges with a positive attitude and a willingness to keep going. Evie has also worked incredibly hard in her learning, especially in maths and reading, and it's really paid off. We're so proud of everything she has achieved. Well done, Evie!

Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Year is Alice. Alice is just an absolute pleasure to teach; she is kind, funny, hardworking and creative. She is a good friend to everyone, always willing to help or support others. When it comes to her learning, she puts in 100% every lesson; she has such a determined attitude and always pushes herself to do well. Despite this determination and focus, Alice is so humble and understated. She would rather celebrate others' achievements than put herself in the limelight. I admire this about her because she is such a champion of other children, and an excellent role model, but she really deserves this moment of spotlight all to herself. Alice, you really are a true OV superstar, and I am so lucky that I will be teaching you for another year. Keep up the hard work and never change!

Mr Whapham's class

My star of the year is Jasmine! Jasmine has been an absolute delight to teach this year! I have truly loved having her in my class and watching her grow as a learner! Jasmine's confidence has grown and grown this year, and she should be so proud of the effort she has put in to get to where she is today! You have worked extremely hard throughout the year, and you absolutely deserve to be my star of the year!

Mrs Ledger's class

My Star of the Year is the wonderful Mea. Mea is a ray of sunshine, approaching everything with a positive, "can-do" attitude. She is more likely to ask, "why not?" than "why?". From the beginning of Year 6, when she tackled Wild Day Out with enthusiasm and positivity, to cross country, swimming lessons and The Milky Way, Mea is involved in everything she can be, and does so with a smile on her face, even when things are challenging. In lessons, Mea is a delight to have in the class, and a popular member of any group work. She always tries her best, and understands that she will get out what she puts in. She faced SATs with a brilliant attitude, and achieved well, which is a credit to her hard work throughout her time here. Mea will move into secondary school with the best of foundations, ready for fresh challenges of learning, new friendships, new subjects and teachers. She has shown just how amazing she can be, and I am sure she will continue this. Well done, Mea, you have been an absolute star all year!

Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Year is the simply wonderful Ciaran. Ciaran is someone who has been on a real journey, not just this year, but over the last three years that I have had the privilege of being his teacher. From the very beginning of my teaching career, he's been a constant source of light, laughter and hugs. His warmth, kindness and gentle spirit have left a lasting impression on everyone lucky enough to know him. Ciaran is someone who cares deeply; he often worries about things going wrong or about making mistakes and that's why today is so special. Sitting on the bench as my Star of the Year will no doubt surprise him, but to me, it feels completely right. He truly deserves it. In his time here, Ciaran has overcome so much. He's made incredible progress, especially in his learning, and has begun to believe in himself and just give things a go. Some things that may come naturally to others don't always feel easy for him — but that has never stopped him from trying. Watching him try new things, even when he's been worried or unsure, has been a joy. Whether it was facing his nerves during swimming lessons, stepping outside his comfort zone in class, riding the dodgems at the Milky Way or simply just getting his ideas down on paper, he has shown courage, resilience, and has developed a real sense of quiet self-belief. Ciaran has taught me just as much as I've taught him; about patience, perseverance and the strength that comes from simply being yourself. I am so proud of everything he's achieved, and I will miss him more than I can say. Ciaran, you are going to be amazing in whatever comes next. Keep shining, keep believing in yourself, and never forget how remarkable you are.

Mrs Scott's class

I have chosen Bella as my Star of the Year: she is an all-round star! Hardworking, kind, helpful and endlessly positive, she has been an absolute pleasure to teach and to know. Over the past two years, I've had the privilege of watching her grow - not just academically, where she has made fantastic progress, but also in confidence, resilience and independence. She is a wonderful friend to others and always one of the first to offer a helping hand. Bella embodies so much of what it means to be an OV star, and it's no surprise that she is so well thought of by staff across the school. While she now shines more outwardly with confidence, she still holds herself to very high standards - sometimes too high! It was therefore a real joy to celebrate her achievements during our recent parents' evening, including a brilliant set of SATs results that truly reflect her hard work and determination. Although I will miss her terribly, I know she is more than ready for the adventures of secondary school (whether they are ready for her is another matter!) We wish her all the very best. Keep shining, Bella - the world is your oyster!

Parents Childcare Survey



Help to ensure there is enough high-quality, affordable childcare in Devon.



Have you completed the Devon Parents Childcare Survey?

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ParentsSurveySummer2025/>

It's important....your answers help to ensure that there is enough childcare in Devon!

The Early Years and Childcare Service thank you for your time.

School Diary Dates

Mon, 21st July	Whole school & Reception Starter transition 10.45am—11.45am
Mon, 21st July	Year 6 Presentation evening
Tues, 22nd July	Leavers' Assembly
Tues, 22nd July	LAST DAY OF TERM
Wed, 23rd July—Wed, 3rd Aug	SUMMER HOLIDAYS
Thur, 4th Sept	First day of autumn term
Thur, 18th Sept	Y5/6 Wild Day Out (details to come)
Tue, 16th Oct	Tempest—Individual and Sibling photos
Mon, 27th to Fri, 31st Oct	HALF TERM

Years 6—Milky Way visit



On Thursday, our Year 6s kicked off their end-of-year celebrations with a long-awaited trip to the Milky Way and it turned out to be a fantastic day from start to finish. Although the weather started off a bit soggy, the sun soon made an appearance, and the fun quickly followed. The Ninja Star soft play was a clear favourite; the children were determined to climb as high as possible, and some even launched their wristbands at the targets in a bid to outscore the ever-competitive teachers (who inevitably took the challenge far too seriously!). The rollercoaster was another big hit, with some children managing more rides than we could keep track of! The dodgems proved just as popular, with plenty of good-natured bumping and a lot of laughter.



After a packed day of sliding, climbing, spinning and dodging, we returned to school for the much-loved annual *Staff vs Year 6* rounders match. The Year 6s came out swinging and definitely gave us a run for our money, but the staff team managed to keep their unbeaten streak! There were a few dramatic moments, including Mr Ovey and Mrs Johnson both falling face first into the ground in an attempt to beat the children's very respectable score! We ended the day with hot dogs and ice cream in the sunshine — the perfect way to relax and enjoy some final moments all together. It was a wonderful way to celebrate a very special year 6 cohort.

Year 6, you've worked so hard, grown so much, and made a lasting impression on all of us. We'll miss you hugely, your humour, your energy, and just seeing you around school each day, but we know you're more than ready for what's next. Good luck in secondary school, and don't forget to come back and visit!

Key stage 1 end of term water fight

As an end of term treat, the children and staff in key stage 1 enjoyed a water fight today. I think we can say everyone got very very wet.



Y6 PARENTS/CARERS

You are invited to an online workshop:

SUPPORTING A SUCCESSFUL SECONDARY SCHOOL TRANSITION

DATE - TUESDAY 5TH AUGUST 2025

TIME - 15:45 - 16:45

ONLINE VIA TEAMS *(joining code below)*

Discuss the
common
secondary
transition
concerns.


Helpful tips to
support your
child's mental
health during the
transition.

Explore signs and
reasons for
worries about
change.


Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 379 847 996 671 5

Passcode: Ge3FE33U



Join us online



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FREE FAMILY FUN WITH THE NORTHAM BURROWS RANGERS

Throughout the summer holidays - free trail and craft activities - pop to the visitor centre to join in.

Thurs 24th July	Poisonous plants guided walk	Meet at the Northam Burrows Visitor Centre at 2pm.
Tues 29th July	Big seaweed search	Meet on the Westward Ho! slipway at 2pm.
Thurs 31st July	Big butterfly count	Drop in at the Northam Burrows Visitor Centre.
Tues 5th Aug	Teddy bears' picnic	Stories and crafts on the grass by the Visitor Centre.
Thurs 7th Aug	Bumblebee safari	Meet at the Northam Burrows Visitor Centre at 2pm.
Tues 12th Aug	Rockpool ramble	Look for the blue banner near the W. Ho! slipway.
Thurs 14th Aug	Sandcastle competition	On the beach near Sandymere lifeguard hut.
Tues 19th Aug	PIRATE DAY! Trail & crafts	Drop in at the Northam Burrows Visitor Centre.
Thurs 21st Aug	Flying high - Kites and gliders	Drop in at the Northam Burrows Visitor Centre.
Tues 26th Aug	Great nurdle search	Drop in at the Northam Burrows Visitor Centre
Thurs 28th Aug	Art on the beach!	Drop by on the beach near Sandymere lifeguard hut.

Activities run from 2pm to 4pm unless otherwise stated. Children must be accompanied by an adult. No booking required. For full details of each event, visit our website and social media pages or check the posters at the Visitor Centre and toll booths.

northam.burrows@torridge.gov.uk

01237 479708






BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

Meet Children's Author Catherine Barr

Saturday 19th July 2025
10.00am - 12.00pm
Children's Library - FREE - Drop-in

Meet non-fiction children's author Catherine Barr. Catherine has written over 35 non-fiction picture books on nature and conservation.

The following books will be available for purchase and signing:

- A Bear Belongs
- Water
- Wildlife Crossings (shortlisted for The Week Junior Book Awards 2025)



With special thanks to







THE SUMMER BOOK QUEST

LAUNCH DAY!
Saturday 12th July 2025
Barnstaple Library

What To Expect:

- **Face Painting**
10.00am - 12.00pm - Drop-in
- **Badge Making**
10.00am - 3.00pm - Drop-in
- **Wizelfloor Interactive Games**
10.00am - 3.00pm - Drop-in
- **Drop-in Crafts**
10.00am - 3.00pm
- **Mermaid Story Telling**
Throughout the morning - Drop-in
- **LEGO SPIKE**
2:00pm - 4:00pm (£3.50 per person)
To book, call 01271 318780 or visit the Library.
- **Deep Sea Diver Meet & Greet**
AND MUCH MORE!!!



Libraries Unlimited

THE SUMMER BOOK QUEST

JOIN US ON A DEEP SEA ADVENTURE
Launching 12th July 2025

Visit your local library for your **free pack** and join in with our brand new reading challenge this summer!

EVENTS ACTIVITIES ARTS & CRAFTS CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 8700102. To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk



Libraries Unlimited

THE SUMMER BOOK QUEST

Dive into a **Deep Sea Adventure** with Pip, Zena and Liba at your local library this summer!

Read what you love, complete fun sea-themed activities, and collect stickers along the way. Finish the quest to earn a certificate, keyring and finisher sticker - all for **free!**

We've teamed up with some of our local leisure centres, Surfers Against Sewage, Surfing England and Active Devon to help keep our oceans clean and families active this summer.

Pop into your library between **12 July - 6 September** to get started!

[Click here for The Deep Sea Adventure 2025 - Schools](#)



Libraries Unlimited

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

JULY SUMMER EVENTS

- **Summer Book Quest Launch Day**
Saturday 12th July - 10.00am - 3.00pm - Various events around the library.
- **Boogie Books Summer Special: Sharing A Shell**
Thursday 24th July - Room 3B - 10.30am - 11.30am
Donations Appreciated.
- **The Mermaid of Zennor Drama Workshop**
Monday 28th July - 10.00am - 3.30pm - Room 3B - £5.00 per person
Booking Required
- **Drop-in Crafts**
Tuesday 29th July - 2.00pm - 4.00pm - Children's Library - FREE
- **Mama G Story Time**
Wednesday 30th July - 1.00pm - Library Foyer - FREE - Drop-in
- **Duo Tutti: A Classical Music Concert for Kids and Their Grown-ups**
Thursday 31st July - 2.00pm - 3.00pm - Library Foyer - FREE - Drop-in
- **Summer Bounce & Rhyme - No Stay & Play After**
Thursday 31st July - 10.30am - 11.00am - Room 3B - FREE
Please arrive 10 minutes early to allow time for buggies to get to the top floor.



Libraries Unlimited

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

AUGUST SUMMER EVENTS

- **Breakfast & Crafts**
Friday 1st, Friday 8th, Friday 22nd & Friday 29th August
9.30am - 11.00am - Library Foyer - FREE - Drop-in
- **Tiddler Drama Workshop**
Monday 4th August - 10.00am - 12.00pm - Room 3B - £5.00 pp - Booking Required
- **Summer Bounce & Rhymes - No Stay & Play**
Tuesday 5th, Tuesday 12th, Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 27th August
10.30am - 11.00am - Room 3B - FREE
Please arrive 10 minutes early to allow time for buggies to get to the top floor.
- **Drop-in Crafts**
Tuesday 5th, Tuesday 12th, Tuesday 19th & Tuesday 26th August
2.00pm - 4.00pm - Children's Library - FREE
- **Boogie Books Summer Special: Rainbowfish**
Thursday 7th August - Room 3B - 10.30am - 11.30am
Donations Appreciated.
- **Coppice Theatre Presents: How to Catch A Book Witch**
Thursday 28th August - Shows starting at **11.00am & 2.00pm**
£ Per person