

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 26th November 2021

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had another busy week and the children are continuing to get out and about enjoying fresh autumnal walks, cinema trips, swimming lessons and even a visit to Dartmoor in the sunshine. I am delighted we have been able to provide these much-needed experiences for children and I must say the look of delight on their faces makes it all worthwhile.

Despite our best endeavours to keep Covid at bay we are noticing an increase in illnesses and ensuing absences, across the school in both children and staff. In order to minimise risk, we have reintroduced year group bubbling, this will be reviewed weekly. This will include returning to lunches being eaten in the classroom for some classes, a pause on whole school assemblies and using the zone system in the playground. Due to staffing shortages next week's lunch menu has been altered so please check this on page 4.

This is not intended to alarm anyone, instead, we are just taking some extra precautionary measures in the hope this will help prevent any further spread of coughs, colds, tummy bugs and positive cases of covid.

If you or your child have any concerns, please contact the school office via orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk.

We do have a number of staff absent so please be patient with us. It may take us a little longer than usual to answer emails or phone calls and you may have to leave us a message. We will try and get back to you as soon as possible. We will also have to cancel the tuck shop scheduled for next week and the school discos scheduled for the end of term. If your child is in KS2 and you have already paid for the disco, we will ensure this is refunded to you.

Please could we ask that if you are visiting the school office for any reason, can you wear a mask whilst in the foyer.



We thank you again for your patience and your kindness during this busy period.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

COVID UPDATE

As you are all aware cases of Covid-19 are on the rise locally. Orchard Vale have been very fortunate so far during the pandemic but we are now seeing a few cases. Please rest assured that we are continuing with good hygiene measures for everyone, maintaining appropriate cleaning regimes, keeping occupied spaces well ventilated and making use of appropriate PPE.

In line with Public Health England (PHE) instructions we are not required to operate a track and trace system within the school. We are aware other schools in North Devon have received instructions from PHE and are being guided through the correct procedure to communicate cases with parents. At the moment Orchard Vale is not at this stage but we are vigilant and will pass on information should PHE advise us to do so.

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.

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.

Stone age roundhouse experience

In years 3 and 4, the children had a fantastic time at the Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor, learning about the Stone Age and the Bronze Age.

We really did go back in time! The children made their own spears out of willow and hunted (pretend) deer to take back to the round house. We sat around a fire in the roundhouse and learned about how people lived back in the Stone Age. We even got to play musical instruments that would have been used in that era.

Later in the day, we learned how to grind our own porridge oats and made clay decorative jewellery from items we gathered.

This was a fantastic experience for everyone, and we were so lucky to be on Dartmoor on such a beautifully cold autumn day!



Free cinema viewing with Into Film Festival 2021

Years 5 and 6 visited Scott Cinema on Friday, 19th November

On Friday 19th November year five and six went to the cinema. We watched *The Addams Family 2* and enjoyed the film thoroughly. It was very funny! It was great we can get out and watch the film. My favourite part is when the two giant animals/humans fought.

Phineas Year 6

Years 3 and 4 visited Scott Cinema on Friday, 26th November

The children all enjoyed a free screening of *Shaun the Sheep* and behaved impeccably walking down and back to the cinema.



Key Stage One have been looking at instructional writing.

Dexter, Freya and Molly enjoying the jam sandwiches they followed the instructions to make!

DONATIONS WANTED

We are beginning to think about Christmas and would be grateful for any donations of:

Jam jars (empty and clean)

Hamper items:

Smellies for both adults and children
New toys
Bath Bubbles
New hair accessories
Biscuits
Non-Alcoholic Wine or Beer
Savoury biscuits
Christmas food in tins

Games again adults and children.
Candles
Perfume
Jewellery
Chocolates
Tin Meat
Cordial Juice

Soap
Talcum Powder
Craft kits
Christmas Pudding
Cheese with a long lasting date
Sweets

Star of the Week

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One



Mrs Youll's nomination

We are very proud of Mason for having a go at trying new food and making good progress adapting to our class routine.

Miss Cawthorne's and Miss Boundy's nominations

Alfie G has been great at listening at school and at home this week. Well done Alfie

Arabella has been fantastic in phonics this week and has been making lots of new friends. Well done Arabella.



Mr Quilter's nomination

Harry has made so much progress in such a short space of time. His independent writing has been incredible this week where he has written his own set of instructions with very limited support. Harry is showing me what a fabulous learner he is! Great job Harry, you are my shining star!!

Mrs Oldfield's nomination

Lily-Mae continues to work incredibly hard in all she is asked to do. She is especially impressing us in her work during her phonics sessions, Lily-Mae is also starting to link her learning and using the skills she is learning in all areas.

Well done Lily-Mae you are a star keep, up the amazing work. Mrs Oldfield



Mrs Grimwood's nomination

My star of the week this week is Eddie. Eddie has made a brilliant start to y1. He is a quiet and hardworking member of our class, always in the right place at the right time and getting on with things. He has worked especially hard this week on writing some simple instructions and securing his adding in maths. Eddie is a kind and gentle person and is also a wonderful friend. Keep doing what you are doing, Eddie. You are fabulous!

School Diary Dates

Thurs, 2nd Dec	Year 6 Swimming Lessons
Fri, 3rd Dec	Rec—Y 6—Virgin Health Care - Flu Vaccinations
Tue, 7th Dec	Whole School Christmas Dinner
Thur, 9th Dec	Year 6 Swimming Lessons
Fri, 10th Dec	Xmas Jumper Day - donations in aid of Edukid
Mon, 13th Dec	Key Stage One—Christmas celebration outside late afternoon (details to come)
Tue, 14th Dec	Foundation—Christmas celebration outside late afternoon (details to come)
Wed, 15th Dec	Cinderella Panto at Queen's Theatre
Mon, 20th Dec to Mon, 3rd Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Tues, 4th Jan	First Day of Spring Term.

Please note the menu has changed for next week.

There will be no school packed lunches on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

Week commencing 29th November

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
M	Breaded Fish & Wedges	Brunch, Sausage, Bacon & Scrambled Eggs	Roast Chicken	Beef Burger in a Bap	Mild Chicken Korma & Wholegrain Rice
V	Sweet Potato & Lentil Curry with Sunshine Rice	Vegetarian Brunch	Vegetarian Roast	Quorn Nuggets	
Sides	Peas & Sweetcorn	Baked Beans & Hash Brown	Roast Potatoes , Fresh Broccoli, Sliced Carrots & Gravy	Chips, Tomato Sauce, Peas & Sweetcorn	Carrots
JP	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna
SPL					Sausage Roll
D	Sticky Toffee Sponge	Fresh Fruit	Fruit Smoothie	Cookie	Flapjack

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

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 Guliford's class Luna 25

Free parent Christmas wreath making workshop



We would like to invite our parents to join us for a free Christmas wreath making workshop with Miss Felgate.

Tuesday 14th December

9.30am - 11.00am

In the Coffee Cabin

Mince pies and hot chocolate will be provided.

Places are limited so please email orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk (for the attention of Annabel Porter or Sue Manley) by Friday, 3rd December if you would like to reserve a place.



Let's Celebrate

Has your child done or achieved something outside school that they and you are proud of?

We would love to hear about it.

Please email your picture and a brief explanation to orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk

FOR THE ATTENTION OF MRS MANLEY.



Ella-rose wanted to donate her hair to poorly people so i sat down and had a chat with her and explained how it all works and she then decided to grow her hair and decided to have 12 inches cut off for little princess trust and raised £150 for the charity alongside donating her hair



Christmas Holiday Activity and Food Fund



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

Tuesday 21st December

Wednesday 29th 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 text/phone on 07789954068.

Kind regards

**COOL TO BE ACTIVE...
FUN TO BE FIT**

www.primary-sports.co.uk

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: 1176092



This Christmas we would like to support our local charity

Over and Above

They are looking for resources for the Dementia patients.
We have a large purple box next to the door at School Office.

Suggested items they are looking for are:

Playing cards - both normal size and large print ones.

Dominoes

Pens

Colouring pencils

Colouring book

Picture books, various ones, gardening, farming etc.

Cuddly toys - NEW only please.

Fidget spinners

Squashy stress balls

Connect 4

Draughts and similar board games

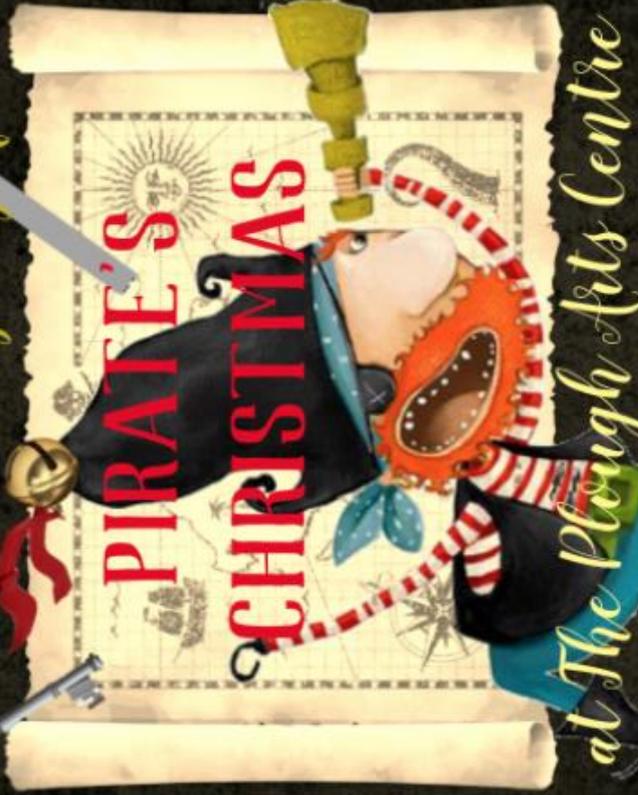
Thank you in advance for your donations.

AN ESCAPE ROOM ADVENTURE

ESCAPE KIDS

1 HOUR - 10 CLUES & PUZZLES

unlock the mystery!



at The Plough Arts Centre

SOLVE THE CLUES TO FIND THE PIRATE
SMUGGLER'S CAVE FULL OF STOLEN CHRISTMAS
PRESENTS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



BOOK YOUR 1HR ADVENTURE

OPEN TUES 21, WED 22, THURS 23 DEC 10AM - 5PM

WED 29, THURS 30 DEC 1PM - 5PM

£25 PER HOUR, MAX 10 PEOPLE

FAMILY FUN, SUITABLE FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN WITH ADULT TO HELP!

the plough
ARTS CENTRE

double barrel productions

NORTH DEVON
LEISURE CENTRE

SWIMMING LESSONS

Book now and Pay £0 until January

We hope that your child has enjoyed the swimming lessons with their school and has progressed.

Learning to swim is an important life skill that every child needs to learn.

To carry on with this progression your child has made, we are offering free swimming lessons in December when they sign on to our swimming lessons at North Devon Leisure Centre.

The membership will also give your child free swimming in public sessions

If you would like to talk more about this or sign up for lessons please contact us on 01271 373 361



SWIMMING
LESSONS



Learn to Swim
Programme



LeisureCentre.com