



Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 17th December 2021

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Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been such a busy and very festive week in school. Everyone looked ready for Christmas in their Christmas jumpers and very impressive festive headwear. The children have enjoyed making their Christmas handicrafts and I have been amazed at the detail and effort that has gone into these. I do hope you enjoy them too.



I would like to give my sincere thanks to our parents, children and staff for helping to keep the rates of Covid-19 in school down to minimum. I am so pleased we have been able to continue with some, but not all, of our usual enrichment activities such as Stone Age round house experience, tour of the Queen's Theatre, film festival, the year 6 gifted and talented sports event, cross country events, children's Remembrance service, multi skills sport festival and of course the panto



A massive well done to our staff members for enabling us to continue providing face to face education to the children through this challenging half term. I know children at home have been able to access some activities and I have been delighted to see some of your pictures, films and work posted. We hope you enjoyed the Christmas performances on Teams/Tapestry. The children had fun learning the songs and performing for you, it was just a shame we couldn't do this in person too. We were all so excited to see Father Christmas on Thursday, checking his list and making sure he had all the children's wishes ready for the big day. We have even had a visit from the two Christmasaurus' today.



Although we were unable to come together for a Christmas fair this year we tried to offer a small event online. A big thanks to those who supported this. Well done to our worthy winners. (please see page 4). I am pleased to say that our Early Bird Breakfast Club and OV Explorers After School Provision have been a huge success this term and will be continuing in the spring term. If you would like to book a place for your child (please see page 7 for the link).

Our last day is today, Friday, 17th December and we will be back at school on Tuesday, 4th January. The threat of Covid-19 and the new variant will still be ever present in the community. Please could I ask for your assistance again in the spring, especially with the new requirement for adults and children aged 5-18 and 6 months, who have been notified that they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, to undertake daily lateral flow tests for 7 days and to report them to the Government and the School each day (please see page 5 for more information).

All that is left for me to say this year is to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. See you all on Tuesday, 4th January



Fiona Pearce
Headteacher



Star of the Term

Foudation Stage and Key Stage One



Mrs Youll's nomination

Grace for taking part in all our activities with enthusiasm and for consistently being a kind and helpful member of the class.

Miss Cawthorne's and Miss Boundy's nominations

Arthur is an extremely hard working and helpful boy. Arthur is a great friend and always willing to help. Well done Arthur.



Mr Quilter's nomination

Isaac has worked incredibly hard this whole term. He is enjoying the social side of school and is developing some lovely friendships. Isaac is making good progress in his learning; his writing is becoming more accurate and his maths knowledge is developing quickly. I enjoy watching Isaac being 'arty farty' with the craft box, using his imagination and creating wonderful things. Great job Isaac, you are a very deserving star!

Mrs Oldfield's nomination

This person has been an absolute 'cracker' this term, he has continually amazed and impressed all that have worked with him, especially in reading. He has jumped through level after level in R.W.I and has blossomed in confidence. This person never fails to give 100% enthusiasm in all he is asked to do, he can sometimes be a 'cheeky little elf' and makes us laugh all the time. Keep up the fantastic work ALFIE, you are my star of the term. I am super proud of you and all you continue to achieve. I HO-HO-HO-Hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, see you in 2022. Mrs Oldfield.



Mrs Grimwood's nomination

My star of the term is Albie. Albie started the year struggling to come into school each day but he now comes in confidently every morning with a big smile on his face. Albie is willing to have a go at everything even when it is hard. He gives his all every day and it is all done with a cheeky grin. Albie has a mischievous sense of humour and he loves to have a little chuckle! I am so thrilled to see the way Albie's learning has come on. You are a credit to our class, Albie and you show such a fabulous attitude towards your learning. You are an absolute star

Star of the Term

Key Stage Two



Miss Gulliford nomination

Charlotte has grown in maturity and confidence and is a bundle of energy! She is considerate and mindful of those around her- supporting friends and peers with daily tasks, learning and building friendships. Charlotte is full of charisma and her personality shines though. Not a day goes by without Charlotte filling the room with laughter and joy. Her work ethic is simply outstanding. Her charisma and commitment to learning is to be admired, as every single task asked of her is met with perseverance, resilience and a 'can do' attitude. I am immensely proud of how Charlotte has grown into such a fantastic young learner, spreading positivity and happiness. Well done you little superstar!

Mrs Johnson's nomination

My Star of the Term is the fabulous Grazynka! When I talked to other staff members in Year 3/4, Grazynka's name just kept coming up. She is such a polite and kind young lady, but also has such a great sense of humour. This term, we have all seen her confidence grow and grow; she now completes errands around school without needing a partner to go with her, and she plays football at playtimes, even if she is the only girl playing (and scores plenty of goals!). She is such a joy for us all to teach and a fantastic member of the class. Grazynka: you are a Christmas star! keep shining!



Mr Whapham's nomination

My star of the term is Lily-Mae. Lily is a great example of a hardworking, sensible class mate who always makes good choices in her learning. She works hard, completes tasks to a high standard and always gives her best. She is a great friend and I am really enjoying seeing her personality shine more and more. Well done!

Mrs Rana and Ms Richardson's nomination

Lexi-Mae is always doing the right thing in the right place at the right time! She is completely self-motivated and can be relied upon to support, encourage and even teach her friends! She never needs reminding, she never makes a fuss when things don't go according to plan and she is always cheerful, smiling, positive and enthusiastic. She is an asset to Year 5!



Mr Boul't's nomination

My star of the term for the autumn term 2021 is Charlie! Charlie has blown me away with his incredible desire to work hard, help others and is genuinely an all-round superstar! He has settled in so well to year 5 and always tries his hardest, always supports others and always wants to progress as much as he can. As a digital leader, Charlie leads the way with supporting across the school with technology, helping teachers and children alike with all sorts of different queries. He is kind, caring and has a brilliant sense of humour, and I am so pleased to have him in our class. Well done Charlie!!

Miss Squire's nomination

My star of the term is someone who has worked tirelessly throughout the term. They don't always shout the loudest but their work is noticed. They joined the choir with a moment's notice for our Christmas spectacular and takes part in reading. She puts loads of effort into everything. My star of the term is Morganna.



Orchard Vale's Virtual Christmas Fayre

Thank you for taking part in the Virtual Christmas Fayre.

Here are the winners:

Hamper - Freddie KO



Sweets - Sophie SR



Green Elf - Kobj TJ
Red Elf - Jensen KO
Pink Elf - Freddie KO
Snowman - Jake MB



Places/Who is this? - Olivia SR

Which member of Staff - Nieve TW

Make a sculpture - Millie TJ

How many words can you make - Jensen MB



Parents to report Lateral Flow Test (LFT) results for pupils at Orchard Vale Community School

From Tuesday, 14 December, a new national approach to daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 is being introduced.

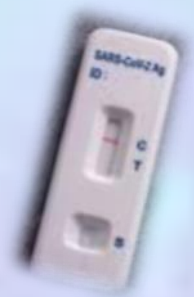
All adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not, should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 will help protect education settings by reducing transmission and will also help keep pupils in face-to-face education.

Once notified by NHS Test and Trace as a close contact, all pupils should

- Take an LFD each day for 7 days
- Report the results through the Online Reporting System at **www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result**
- Report to the school via the form below. **Please report one child per Form.**



If they test negative, they can continue to attend school.

Please complete this form to report your child's Lateral Flow Test results to school.

Devon's Director of Public Health urges us all to bother

As we approach the end of a second year of coronavirus, and in the week that tighter measures are being introduced to tackle a more infectious variant, Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon, reflects on where we are:

"It's easy to become despondent, and to think why bother? The vast majority of us have bothered, and have followed the guidance, heeded expert advice, and rolled up our sleeves to receive the vaccinations.

"So, with case rates rising, and a new more infectious strain of the virus now gathering momentum, it's easy to question why bother.

"We bother because doing so saves lives. We all play a part in this pandemic, and our individual actions add up, and have a wider impact. If we stopped bothering, we would see case rates rising even more so, and consequently more hospitalisations and, tragically, deaths.

"So now, as we're approaching our second Christmas and New Year with coronavirus,

COVID UPDATE

In line with Public Health England (PHE) instructions we are not required to operate a track and trace system within the school.

Main 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.

Public Health England have advised that siblings should also get a PCR test, but unless they are showing symptoms they are allowed to continue to come to school until they receive their result.

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.

School Diary Dates

Mon, 20th Dec to Mon, 3rd Jan

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Tues, 4th Jan

First Day of Spring Term

Fri, 7th Jan

Virgin Health Care—Nasal Flu Vaccination—Reception to Year 6
(will only be given to children whose parents have registered them through Virgin Care)

Mon, 10th Jan

Year 5—athletics festival

Wed, 12th Jan

Year 4 tennis festival

Thur, 13th Jan

Year 5 swimming lessons

Fri, 14th Jan

Year 3/4—Bikeability level 1

Tue, 18th Jan

Reception and Year 6—Tempest Photography group photos

Thurs, 20th Jan

Year 5 swimming lessons

Thurs, 27th Jan

Year 5 swimming lessons

Week commencing Tuesday, 4th January 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
M	Breaded Fish & Wedges	Brunch, Sausage, Bacon & Scrambled Eggs	Roast Gammon	Beef Burger in a Bap	Mild Chicken Korma & Wholegrain Rice
V	Sweet Potato & Lentil Curry with Sunshine Rice	Vegetarian Brunch	Vegetarian Roast	Quorn Nuggets	Cauliflower Bites with BBQ Sauce & Wholegrain Rice
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	Egg Mayo Bap	Cheese Bap	Gammon Bap	Chicken Salad	Sausage Roll
D	Sticky Toffee Sponge & Custard	Fresh Fruit	Fruit Smoothie	Cookie	Flapjack

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

Nasal Flu Vaccination—Reception to Year 6

Friday, 7th January 2021

If you have signed your child up with Virgin Care to have the nasal flu vaccination this will now take place on Friday, 7th January.

As the original date was cancelled for December some of you may have obtained the vaccination from your doctors or local pharmacist.

If your child has already been given the vaccination please could you ensure you let the school office know.

Early Bird Breakfast Club

Our Early Bird Breakfast Club runs from 7:30am – 8:30am—Monday to Friday during school term time for children in Reception to Year 6.

To use this facility you must initially register your child by following the link below:

Payment is required in advance and paid through Parentpay at a cost of £3 per child, per day (£2 charge for subsequent siblings per day).

[Early Bird Breakfast club provision spring 2022 booking](#)

OV Explorers After School Provision

The OV Explorers after school provision is available for children from Reception to Year 6, from 3.15pm until 5pm.

To use this facility you must initially register your child by following the link below:

[OV Explorer after school provision spring 2022 booking](#)

Payment is required in advance and paid through Parentpay at a cost of £7 per child, per day.

New Science Teacher



On Thursday, 16th December, Mr Boulton's class had a new teacher, Mr Roseveare .

After break that day he was given the opportunity to teach science and healthy lifestyles. He also played hang man (the word being 'gravy boat').

Mr Roseveare had a great time teaching the class.

Whats on at

The Plough Theatre Arts Centre—[Click here](#)

The Queen's Theatre, Barnstaple/Landmark Theatre, Ilfracombe —[Click here](#)

Northam Burrows Country Park will continue to open to vehicles every day (although the toilets and café will be closed on Christmas day). We've put together a holiday I-spy suitable for a winter wander in the fresh air. Printed copies of this activity sheet will be available to collect for free from the café beside the visitor centre which is open daily from 10am – 3pm

Keep your eyes peeled while exploring Northam Burrows. If you spot any of these things then tick the circle.



A dry brown leaf

5 points



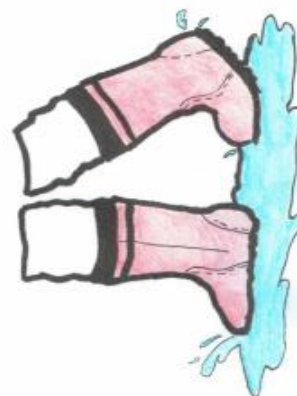
A sheep with a HUGE woolly fleece

10 points



An Oystercatcher

25 points



Someone wearing wellies

15 points



Winter Wander I-spy



photo by Isaac Sparrey

See what you can spot while exploring Northam Burrows



**A horse wearing
a warm winter
coat**



10 points



**A rabbit hole leading down
into a cozy burrow**



20 points



**A flickering flock of starlings
flying together**



20 points



**A dog with flashing lights
on it's collar**



15 points

**How many points did you score
on your walk today?**



- * Have fun
- * Keep well clear of cars
- * Wrap up warm
- * Abide by Covid19 rules
- * Look after each other
- * Don't get lost!

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