

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 4th April 2025

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



## Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

What an amazing day! It started with a brilliant rock concert by the Rock Steady Crew; who treated us to 4 amazing performances. We could not believe how well the children did and how much they have improved since Christmas. What wonderful stars in the making. Thank you also to the parents who came and supported them this morning.

The children enjoyed a lovely picnic lunch. Unfortunately, the weather did not play ball and we had to have our picnic inside, which was a lovely chilled event and enjoyed by all. Finally, the sun came out and the children could all enjoy a slightly longer lunchtime.

The day finished with a celebration assembly recognising our outstanding stars of the term. These children have showed the most amazing attitudes to their learning this term and we are very proud of them all. We were also able to congratulate Lily-Mae who has been selected to join Team GB on the gym Olympic pathway.

We had over 70 entries to our Easter bonnet competition—such a wonderful and colourful collection. Thank you to all those who put time and effort into creating their bonnets and sharing them with us today. You are all stars!

Today we bid a sad farewell to Miss Parkhouse who is leaving us to take up a teaching position in Bristol. We wish her all the very best of luck. We will miss her very much.

A quick reminder to parents of children in Year 3 and 4 to sign up to Bikeability using the online form, if your child would like to take part in this great opportunity (see page 6 for the link)



We hope you have a lovely Easter break.

We will enjoy welcoming you all back on Tuesday 22nd April.

Fiona Pearce  
Headteacher

## Bake a Difference Fundraising

In honour of Bill Tabberner, one of our valued Schoolreaders, we are hosting a bake sale on **Friday 25th April**. If you would like to bake or buy cakes to donate please bring these into the School Office in the morning.

We will host the bake sale at lunchtime and after school. We have a live link for online donations and we will also be able to accept cash donations.

Please do share the link on social media if possible. All funds raised will help raise money towards this invaluable charity that give children the reading skills they need for a brighter future.

If you would like to make a monetary donation please click this link for the [Bake A Difference](#) fundraising page.

## Coming Soon!

After Easter we will be selling Ice Lollies on Wednesday afternoons between 3pm and 3.45pm

The first Wednesday will be 23<sup>rd</sup> April

Look forward to seeing you all there.

Payment is now cash only in the Coffee Cabin.  
We are no longer accepting online pre-payment



## Change to Breakfast Club

When we switch over to Arbor Pay our Breakfast Club will have a flat rate of £3.50 for all attendees.

Our prices for all Wraparound care will be revised for the start of the new academic year in September.

## Change to online payment method

From the end of April this year we will be moving our online payment system for meals, trips, breakfast and afterschool provision etc. over to the Arbor App.

Parent Pay will not be accessible to you after 30<sup>th</sup> April.

Please ensure you have activated your Arbor App so that you are ready to go when the payment option goes live.

Please could we ask you to bring all outstanding balances for meals, childcare provision, Little Seeds and Nursery fees up-to-date on Parent Pay before this change over.



# STARS OF THE WEEK

## **Mrs Youll's class**

Rowan P - you consistently make good choices. You are always kind, try your best at learning time and are a helpful member of our class.

## **Mrs Oldfield's class**

Orlando is a learning machine, he loves to share his facts and knowledge with us, and we love it when he brings interesting things in from home to share. Orlando never fails to amaze us with his determination, enthusiasm and love for learning. He is always striving to be the best he can be and is an absolute pleasure to have in the class. Over this past term, we have really seen his cheeky side, he is always making both us, and his friends laugh out loud, with some joke, funny remark or quick comment, he makes the day brighter. Orlando is always ready for a new challenge, he has now started completing reading comprehension tasks, which he loves and will often ask if he can do more. Orlando you are AMAZING, and a very much deserved... STAR OF THE TERM! Well done Buddy.

## **Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class**

Ruby is our star of the term. Ruby has put in a lot of hard work this term and it has really paid off. Ruby's writing has come on leaps and bounds, and we love hearing and reading her fabulous ideas. Ruby is also storming her way through the phonics groups with her amazing reading. As well as all the hard work, Ruby is also a fantastic listener and a great friend to others. Ruby is a pleasure to have in our class, well done Ruby you are a superstar.

## **Mr Quilter's class**

My star of the term is Niamh! Niamh is a wonderful year 2 role model to those in her class. She is always quick to complete tasks and will always give 100% effort in her learning. Niamh has grown in confidence this term; she has become more outgoing and I now feel I am truly getting to know the cheeky, fun loving character that Niamh is! Niamh also shares my love for Harry Potter so we always have something to chat about. Niamh you are wonderful! You work hard, listen attentively and for these reasons you are making excellent progress! Keep being you Niamh and you will achieve great things not only this year, but your entire time here at OV! Mr Q x

## **Miss Huxtable's class**

My star of the term is Louie. Louie is a lovely boy with an amazing attitude towards school. Louie has amazed me with how much progress he has made since Christmas and across the year. It's been so rewarding to see Louie's reading improve and develop, and he is now flying through the phonics scheme. The other day, Louie was reading an unfamiliar book to me, and he displayed such confidence when decoding and self-teaching new, trickier words using his phonics skills. Nothing is too much trouble for Louie, he is always bouncing around with a smile. I know he works incredibly hard at home, always bringing in homework or little bits of writing. It is all contributing to the bigger picture of progress that he has made this year. Louie, your positivity, enthusiasm and love for learning make us all very proud! You are a star.

## **Mrs Grimwood's class**

My star of the term is Jessica. Jessica is a fabulous member of our class. She is a great learner, she is a fantastic role model and she is a kind and gentle friend. She is the whole package! Jessica is a great writer and I have seen her writing improve in both quality and quantity this term. She is an excellent mathematician and understands new concepts quickly. Jessica is a strong reader too. In class, Jessica gets on with her learning quietly and always gives her all. She is the best! Thank you, Jessica for all you bring to our class. You are a star and I am so proud of you!

# STARS OF THE TERM

## Mr Bayliss' class

Mila has worked incredibly hard this term, putting in outstanding effort in all her lessons and always bringing a positive, hardworking attitude to school. She has consistently followed our classroom expectations and is always a great friend, looking out for others. Mila's positive attitude and role model behaviour have made her stand out in Year 3/4. Well done, Mila! Keep up the fantastic work!

## Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Term is Eddie. Eddie is such a superstar learner and I could not be prouder of how he has grown in confidence this term. Eddie can be a real worrier, but he is now starting to embrace challenges with a new maturity and a great attitude. As well as being an amazing learner, Eddie is also such a kind, friendly and hardworking boy. He is so supportive to other members of the class and is always so helpful and enthusiastic. Eddie always amazes me with his knowledge of history; he knows so many dates of important historical events which I love chatting to him about! Eddie, you bring kindness and energy to the classroom and you are a pleasure for us all to teach. Keep up the excellent work and effort!

## Mr Whapham's class

Sophia is my star of the term. Sophia is a wonderfully hard worker, who tries her very best in every lesson, every day! She has flourished so far this year, listening well in class and taking every opportunity to improve her work. She is focused and her confidence has really grown this year in KS2. She is also a great friend and never hesitates to help and support those around her. A cracking term - you should be proud of yourself!

## Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the term is Kornel. Kornel is such a kind-hearted, thoughtful, and considerate person who truly makes a positive impact on everyone around him. He may not always seek the spotlight, but he truly deserves it! Kornel is always polite, with a fantastic sense of humor that brings a smile to everyone's face. You can always count on him to be in the right place at the right time, and he is a great friend to so many people. He's truly a standout member of our class, and I'm very happy to award him Star of the Term!

## Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Term goes to someone truly special – Ellie. I have had the absolute privilege of teaching Ellie for the past three years, and what a journey it has been. Watching her mature, grow in confidence, and come into her own has filled me with pride. Ellie is one of those quiet stars – she might not always be in the spotlight, but she shines so brightly in everything she does. Kind, caring, and thoughtful, Ellie is the sort of person who is always looking out for others. Whether it's helping a classmate, supporting a member of staff, or simply offering a warm smile, she's someone who makes our classroom a better place just by being in it. Her hard work and determination this year have stood out to so many. The progress she's made in her learning has been fantastic, and her growing self-belief has been a joy to witness. Ellie never gives up, even when things are tricky; her resilience and attitude to learning have wowed staff time and time again. She now contributes ideas with confidence, takes challenges in her stride, and approaches everything with positivity and perseverance. Keep believing in yourself, keep working hard, and keep shining bright – because you are, quite simply, amazing.

## Mrs Scott's class

I have chosen Ella-Rose as our class' star of the term, as I am so proud of her resilience and independence. I know that there are many parts of school life that Ella-Rose finds tricky, but she has shown how she can and will unflinchingly try her best, no matter what, and I am regularly amazed by her. Ella-Rose is certainly a lovely member of our class, a careful listener and a good friend, but it is this exceptional approach and focus that pushes her above and beyond. Ella-Rose, I am so proud of you and everything you have accomplished so far - keep working hard and being you.

## Years 5 & 6—Boys Football

Our under-11 boys took to the pitch in a highly competitive football tournament, facing off against 20 other teams. Representing Orchard Vale with pride, determination, and teamwork, both of our teams—Orchard Vale City and Orchard Vale Argyle—gave outstanding performances throughout the day.

At the end of the tournament, both teams secured strong finishes, with OV City placing ninth and OV Argyle finishing eighth. Every player showed incredible effort, resilience, and sportsmanship, making Orchard Vale extremely proud.

A huge well done to all the boys—you played with heart and represented our school brilliantly!



## Bird Feeders

KS1 made bird feeders in the forest school.

Although a little messy, hopefully it will encourage more wildlife into the site.



## Easter Egg Hunt

The children in Miss Huxtable's class had an egg-citing time with their Easter Egg Hunt this week.



## Easter Baskets

During a morning of cooking Miss Huxtable's class had fun making Easter nests.



## Reception's ssssspecial visitor

We have ended our life cycles topic this week with an exciting visitor to our Reception class. Portia (Lyra's mummy) very kindly brought in their corn snake and some other exciting eggs.

The children loved getting to know Dribbles the snake. They enjoyed feeling her scales and asking lots of questions. We found out about what she eats and what her eggs look like.

The children also got to hold a massive Ostrich egg and examine a very interesting Mantis egg. The children loved the visit and are now all keen to get their own pet snakes. Thank you Portia.



## Years 3&4 visit to Watermouth Castle

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, Year 3/4 visited Watermouth Castle. The children explored the house and were amazed at some of the old-fashioned appliances, especially a hand-operated washing machine! Next, they ventured into the dungeons; many excited screams could be heard as they were surprised by rattling doors and ghostly figures!

Once outside, the children enjoyed a musical water show, and then set off to explore the grounds. They had their choice of a number of rides including the spinning cooking pots, sealion boat ride, lazy river, taboggan run, rocking boats, carousel and more! There were also a selection of outdoor play areas to enjoy and the children loved finding gems in the sand in The Mining Village. Each child also earned a gold coin after 'panning' for gold in the Gnome Village! A fantastic day was had by all of the children and adults.

We were so lucky with the weather, and the children behaved brilliantly.



## Years 3&4- Learn to ride a bike

### Learn to ride a bike with Bikeability

6th - 9th May - Years 3&4

We will be hosting the Bikeability Level 1 course in May for interested children in years 3&4 ([about Bikeability.](#))

If you would like to sign your child up for the opportunity to learn to ride their bike safely please complete the link below.

[Bikeability Registration Form](#)

This is a free opportunity. Please be aware that your child will need to bring their own roadworthy bike along with a helmet. The course will take place in the school playground.

Mrs Manley will notify you if your child is successful a place.

Devon County Council SEND Offer

Please click this link to learn about

[Autism and us](#)

## School Diary Dates

Mon, 7th to Mon, 21st Apr	Easter Holidays (Last day of school Fri, 4th April)
Tue, 22nd Apr	Back to school
Wed, 23 Apr	Y2 Tennis Festival—Tarka Leisure Centre
Fri, 25th Apr	Y5/6—Tag Rugby Festival
Fri, 25th Apr	Cake Sale in memory of Bill Tabberner
Tue, 29th Apr	Y6—Pilton Community College—Virtual Welcome Evening
Mon, 5th May	Bank Holiday (back to school on Tue, 6th May)
Tue, 6th to Fri, 9th May	Y3 / 4 Bikeability
Tue, 6th May	Y2—Northam Burrows trip
Wed, 7th May	Y1 Multi-skills Festival—Park School
Thur, 8th May	Y1—Northam Burrows trip
Fri, 16th May	Y3 Cricket Skills Festival
Wed, 21st May	Wilcombe Wobbler Cross Country (details to come)
Fri, 23rd May	Aquathlon—Torrington
Fri, 23rd May	Y6 and Reception—National Child Measurement
Fri, 26th to Fri, 30th May	HALF TERM

**Week commencing—Tuesday, 22nd April**

**Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options**

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 1				
21 <sup>st</sup> April – 12 <sup>th</sup> May – 9 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> June – 21 <sup>st</sup> July – 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct				
Available Every Week - Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bar, Fruit, Low Fat Yoghurts, Milk and Water available daily. All Special Diets catered for.				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Margherita pizza	Pasta Bolognaise	Sausages & Yorkshire Pudding	Breaded Fish Fillet	Spanish Chicken with Diced Potatoes
	Bean Chilli & Rice	BBQ strips	Vegan Sausage Roll	Super Duper Noodles
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings		Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	
Egg Mayo Sandwich (Wholemeal Bread)	Crispy Salmon & Salad & Mayo Wrap	Tuna & Cucumber Wrap	Ham Sandwich (Wholemeal Bread)	Sausage Roll
Pasta, Sweetcorn & Fresh Carrot Sticks	Peas, & Carrots	Roast or Mash Potato, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Chips or Pasta, Baked Beans or Peas & Tomato Ketchup	Corn on the Cob or Green Beans
Pancakes & Syrup	Fruit Jelly	Frozen Yogurt	Iced Farmhouse Cake	Banana Flapjack



## Want to make a difference in your community and to the education experience of local children?

Orchard Vale Community School - part of Ventrus Multi Academy Trust - is looking to recruit governors.

You do not need to be an expert in education; we would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of schools.
- Can give a few hours of their time each month during term-time.
- Has an inquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school.
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgments.

A full induction and associated training will be provided. If you are interested, please get in touch for an informal chat by contacting the Headteacher: [orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk) or telephone 01271 375074.



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Come and join our

# Easter adventures

Sat 5 April to Mon 21 April

Take part in one of our Easter trails at Arlington Court, Lorna Doone Valley, Heddon Valley, Baggly Point and Woolacombe.

**£3.50**  
per trail

Includes trail sheet, activities and a chocolate egg or allergen-friendly alternative.

Find out more at: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/easter](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/easter)

# EASTER HAF

5-11 YEAR OLDS

9.00AM-1.00PM  
EXTENDED  
OPTIONS  
AVAILABLE

**EASTER HAF ACTIVITY DAYS AT EDEN PARK ACADEMY**

**-MONDAY 7TH APRIL  
-TUESDAY 8TH APRIL  
-WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL  
-THURSDAY 10TH APRIL**

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO BOOK!

**PRIMARY**  
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For More information, contact us :

[north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk](mailto:north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk)

[www.primary-sports.co.uk](http://www.primary-sports.co.uk)

07531530131



# HAF EASTER ACTIVITY DAYS



Primary Sports and Education North Devon

5-11 YEAR OLDS

STICKLEPATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

9AM-1PM

Extended options available

**BOOK NOW**



Monday 7th April  
Tuesday 8th April  
Wednesday 9th April  
Thursday 10th April

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HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND

For More information, contact us :

[north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk](mailto:north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk)

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EGGSCELLENT

# Easter

FAMILY FUN

CASTLE HILL GARDENS

FRIDAY 18TH APRIL

## BUNNY HUNT

Face Painting  
Inflatables  
'Ozzy D' Magic Shows

Garden Trail  
Chocolate Prize  
Food & Drink



£8.50 Adults / £4.50 Child

Under 5s free  
Additional charge for face painting & bouncy castle

CASTLE HILL GARDENS, FILLEIGH, BARNSTAPLE, EX32 0RH  
[www.castlehilldevon.co.uk](http://www.castlehilldevon.co.uk)