

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 10th January 2025

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break filled with joy, relaxation, and quality time with your loved ones. As we step into 2025, we are excited to welcome our pupils back to school and embark on another fantastic term of learning and growth.

As we return to our daily routines, we are experiencing some chilly weather. Please ensure your children are dressed warmly with appropriate winter clothing, including hats, gloves, and scarves (please write their names in these items). It is important to keep our little ones cozy and comfortable during these colder months.

Safety First

The safety and well-being of our students remain our top priority. Here are a few reminders to help keep everyone safe:

- 1. Morning Drop-Off and Afternoon Pick-Up:** Please follow the designated drop-off and pick-up zones to ensure a smooth and safe process for all. Be mindful of other children and parents and avoid double parking. Please be mindful that there may be Traffic Enforcement Officers around this term.
- 2. Health Precautions:** With the flu season upon us, we encourage you to remind your children about the importance of regular handwashing and covering their mouths when they cough or sneeze. If your child is feeling unwell, please keep them at home to rest and recover.

Winter Safety: Remind your children to be cautious on icy or slippery surfaces. Encourage them to walk carefully and avoid running in these conditions.



We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable term ahead. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

Do you know what this logo means?

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS SYMBOL AROUND SCHOOL?

This means all staff have received specialist training to ensure that they are able to sign-post victims of domestic abuse to support services appropriately and effectively. It lets victims know that there will be a safe place where they can seek information and use a telephone to avoid leaving a trail on their own device.



J9 CHAMPIONS

J9 Champions are given access to an information pack that can be made available to anyone disclosing abuse. The pack has lots of information to aid victims in understanding their rights and accessing support.

STATISTICS

Domestic Abuse currently impacts:

- 1 in 3 women
- 1 in 6 men
- 1 in 5 children

One instance of Domestic Abuse is reported to the police every 30 seconds in the UK.

Domestic Abuse can impact anyone, regardless of age, gender or background. If you are feeling vulnerable or scared of a partner, ex-partner or family member, or are worried about a friend or neighbour, you can ask to speak to a member of staff about J9.



ventrus
Multi-Academy Trust

Open Evening - Reception Class of 2025

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

4pm-5pm

Undecided on your child's Reception place? Come and see us for our last open evening!!

Is your child due to start in Reception class, September 2025?

If so, we would like to invite prospective parents to visit our wonderful school.

Please come to the school entrance where you will be greeted by Mrs Oldfield, our Early Years Lead.

You will be given a brief talk in the school hall prior to having the time to look around all our classrooms and meet our amazing teachers.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Mrs Youll's class

Nursery star of the week is Ruby for being sociable and friendly towards our new children. Well done, Ruby, you have used your imagination and encouraged your peers to take part in some super role play games.

Mrs Oldfield's class

Ellie-Ivy has been on fire this week, she has continually pushed herself to do more, especially in her writing. She has shown much more confidence in what she can do and has enjoyed showing this. In phonics we are really impressed with how hard Ellie-Ivy has been working on fluidity when reading. Well done, Ellie-Ivy, what a fantastic girl you are, keep up the great work. Mrs Oldfield x

Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the week is Doreen. Doreen comes to school every day with a big smile and doesn't stop smiling all day. Doreen is a fantastic friend; she is always looking after others. Doreen works extremely hard in all subjects and is making fantastic progress with her phonics. Well done, Doreen, you are a superstar.

Mr Quilter's class

My star of the week is Elodie! Elodie has come back after the Christmas holiday's and has really shone in all areas of her learning. Her confidence and self-belief has been really evident and I have loved watching her attack writing tasks with energy and effort. Elodie although quiet, has certainly been present in Math's lessons and even when making mistakes Elodie has tackled challenges well and even completed extra work to prove she understood. Elodie is an excellent role model; she is kind, considerate and caring! All attributes that I would expect from a star of the week. You are amazing Elodie, keep up the hard work and you will continue to amaze! Mr Q

Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the week is Macey. Macey has returned from Christmas with the biggest smile on her face and it's been lovely to see how much she has enjoyed being back at school. She has given new challenges a go and has been listening to adults and following their instructions well. Macey has discovered lots of joy in maths, where she's enjoyed using new resources and experimenting with numbers. Macey has taken some ownership over her routine this week, making sure she is following her timetable and doing the right thing at the right time. It has been lovely to see her showing kindness to her friends and making everyone laugh. Well done, Macey!

Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the week is Leo. There are many challenges in the school day for Leo but what I am so impressed with is the resilience and effort that Leo puts in every day. He just keeps trying and pushing forward even when it's hard and I love that! I can see this week in Phonics how Leo is persevering with his reading and it is starting to come together for him. That is brilliant. Leo is becoming bolder in his ideas for writing which is also wonderful to see. Leo, you give so much every day and on top of your fabulous learning, you are such a polite and friendly person. Well done and keep doing this. We are very proud of you.

★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

Mr Bayliss' class

Evie has been a star! She always brings a brilliant, positive attitude to our lessons and has a great sense of humour. Evie has been very friendly and kind to others in our class, making them feel included and letting them join in with her games or work as her partner. Evie has been putting in super effort to make progress in her learning and to complete tasks even when they are challenging. Well done, Evie! Keep up the great attitude and work ethic.

Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Amber. Amber has grown in confidence since starting Year 3, and this week she has come back after the holidays more than ready for a challenge! This has been especially obvious in maths, where Amber has been working more independently, working on new calculation methods, and putting her hand up to answer questions. It is wonderful to see Amber beginning to realise her strengths as a learner – keep it up Amber – you are a star!

Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Oscar! Oscar has had a great first week back after the holidays and has shown a real positive attitude towards his learning. He has been joining in class discussions and sharing his ideas. He also worked hard in English, showing good recall of things we covered before Christmas. Keep up this positive working attitude!

Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Archie. Archie has returned after Christmas with a great attitude to learning, and has embraced new challenges. He has shown his mature and sensible side, and has been very engaged in the classroom. Well done Archie, a great start to the year!

Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Week is the wonderful Phoebe! Since coming back from the holidays, she has shown an excellent attitude towards her learning, eagerly contributing thoughtful ideas in class. Her cheerful smile brightens every day, and her kindness and support towards her classmates have been wonderful to see. Phoebe's thoughtfulness and willingness to help others make her a fantastic role model. Well done, Phoebe—keep up the amazing work!

Mrs Scott's class

This week, I have chosen Ella-Rose to be our star of the week, as she has come back to school with the same hard-working attitude she showed us before Christmas. Ella-Rose has continually impressed us throughout this year, with her constantly growing independence and confidence. We are so proud of everything she has already achieved and we are looking forward to everything she has to come. Ella-Rose is a fantastic member of our class, who is always listening and learning. Well done, Ella-Rose, keep up all this great work.

School Diary Dates

Wed, 15th Jan	Y4—Tennis Festival
Fri, 17th Jan	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Tue, 21st Jan	Class Photos / Reception and Y6 Vista Photos
Wed, 22nd Jan	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Wed, 22nd Jan	Sept 2025 Reception Starter Open Evening—4pm to 5pm
Thur, 23rd Jan	Reception Vision Screening Test
Fri, 24th Jan	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Fri, 24th Jan	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics—Park School
Wed, 29th Jan	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Fri, 31st Jan	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Wed, 5th Feb	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Fri, 7th Jan	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Wed, 12th Feb	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Thur, 13th Feb	Y5/6—Premier League U11 Girls Football
Fri, 14th Feb	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Mon, 17th to Fri, 21st Feb	Spring Half Term (last day of school is Friday, 14th February)
Thur, 6th Mar	World Book Day (more information to come)
Wed, 12th Mar	Park Dance Festival
Fri, 14th Mar	Y6 Rising Stars—Basketball at Pilton Community College

Week commencing—Monday, 13th January

Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div> <p style="text-align: center;">LUNCH MENU – WEEK 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">13th Jan 2025 – Please note change to Tuesday/Thursday main meal option</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center; color: #e91e63;">Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bowls, Low Fat Yoghurts, Fruit, Milk and Water available daily. All Special Diets catered for.</p>				
Meat Free Monday	Tasty Tuesday	Roast it up Wednesday	Treat Yourself Thursday	Finish it off Friday
Mac Cheese & Spring Onion Bake	Fish Fingers	Toad in the Hole (Sausage & Yorkshire Pudding)	Chicken Goujons	Pork Meatballs in Rustic Tomato Sauce with Pasta
	Plant Based Meatball Sub with Tomato Sauce	Quorn Fillet	Vegan Nuggets	Veggie Lasagne
Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	
Crusty Bread, Carrots & Green Beans	Potato Wedges, Corn on the Cob & Peas	Roast or Mash Potato, Fresh Broccoli, Carrots & Gravy	Chips, Pasta, Mixed Veg, Beans & Tomato Sauce	Malted Baguette, Carrots & Cauliflower
Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Sausage Roll
Fruit Smoothie	Raspberry & Apple Cake	Custard Biscuit with Fruit Juice	Chocolate Cookie	Ice Cream

Reading Road Champions

Years 1 and 2

Congratulations to:

Seb G
Carter
Lilianna

Thea
Isobel M

For completing 25 reads

Leo

For completing 50 reads

Tri-Reading Tournament Champ

Years 5 and 6

Congratulations to:

Megan Tyler

For reaching 25 reads

Lexi Pa

For reaching 100 reads

Bella

For reaching 200 reads

The 100 Club

Well done
to the following children in our
timestables challenge

Dexter
Bronze Award

Nursery Forest School

This term forest school will now take place every Monday morning instead of Wednesday morning.

If your child attends on a Monday morning, please bring them to nursery wearing their wellington boots and an 'all in one' suit, if they have one.

Our first day of forest school will be on Monday, 20th January.

Parent Portal Update

Please could we ask parents to log into the Parent Portal, Arbor, to:

- Check your contact details. Have you changed your number/email or address recently?
- Check emergency contact names and numbers. Do you wish to delete or add any new contacts?
- Update your child's medical information.

Parents will be able to amend their own contact details and request that medical information be updated.

If there is any information you are unable to amend yourselves please email orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk with full information.

WARNING—Parking Enforcement Officers may issue drivers with a parking notice if they are parking on Westacott Road.

Please see below for permitted parking times/area.




Parking only permitted on Westacott Road between these times.



Parking is only permitted on Westacott Road between the bollards, after Kingfisher Drive and before Larkspur Gardens/Kestrel Way.

Note the  END sign.

In RED ZONE on map. 



Orchard Vale Community School,
Westacott Road, Whiddon Valley,
Barnstaple, Devon EX32 8GZ
T: 01271 375074
E: orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk
W: www.ventrus.org.uk

9th January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Parking Enforcement on Westacott Road

Following recent complaints sent to Local Counsellors/DCC Highways, Traffic Enforcement Team, by concerned families/residents of Whiddon Valley, we have been advised that Parking Enforcement Officers may be operating outside the school.

Please be aware the only permitted parking zone on Westacott Road is that area after the bollards between Kingfisher Drive and Larkspur Gardens/Kestrel Way (please see the attached poster). Parking in this zone is limited to 8.30am to 9.15am and 3pm to 3.45pm only. Parking in any other area on Westacott Road is not permitted.

Should drivers choose to park in any area other than the permitted one you may be liable to receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

If you need to drive your child to school, please could we ask you to park in the designated zone or in one of the residential roads. Please park responsibly and considerately to avoid any disruption to our neighbours.

Thank you for your help in keeping the approach to the school a safe place to be for our children and families.

Yours faithfully,

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

WANTED!

Could you donate any of the following items to the school.

We are looking for:

Old pots and pans.



Metal toy cars.



Toy prams or pushchairs.



Roadworthy bicycle for age 8-10.



NHS Pharmacy First Service

NHS Pharmacy First Service ([walk in or online information](#))

NHS service being provided by pharmacies across England for children and adults

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment?

Accessing the service may mean they can help children feel better and back to school as quickly as possible.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local Boots pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Common condition

Earache
Impetigo
Infected insect bites and stings
Sore throats
Sinusitis
Uncomplicated urinary tract
Shingles

Patient eligibility

1 to 17 years
1 year and over
1 year and over
5 years and over
12 years and over
16 to 64 years
18 years and over

The individual will see a pharmacist in a private consultation room. The pharmacist will provide advice and, if clinically appropriate, offer to supply treatment for the condition*. If treatment is provided, an electronic message will be sent to your GP surgery so their health record can be updated.

*NHS Pharmacy First Service: In pharmacies in England only. Subject to availability. Treatment is subject to suitability assessment. Normal NHS prescription charge rules apply.

Should the pharmacist be unable to help, they will direct the individual to their GP surgery or other healthcare professional, as appropriate.

With the ever-increasing pressures on the NHS, particularly during these busy winter months, it is important to us, as a community pharmacy, that we do all we can to provide support.

ask your pharmacist

Libraries
Unlimited

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

FEBRUARY

Half Term Events:

Monday 17th:

Roald Dahl and the Imagination Seekers

Showings starting at 11.00am AND 1.00pm

Adults: £5.00, Children: £2.00 - Booking essential.

Tuesday 18th:

LEGO Builders

2.00pm - 4.00pm - FREE - Drop-in - Library Foyer

Come and make a LEGO creation that we can put on display.

Wednesday 19th:

SPIKE LEGO Workshop

10.00am - 12.00pm - £2.50 Per child - Suitable for ages 8+

Booking essential

Have fun creating with robotic LEGO!

Thursday 20th:

Breakfast & Craft

9.30am - 11.00am - FREE - Drop-in - Library Foyer

Join us for some yummy breakfast and a fun craft!

Friday 21st:

Duo Tutti

11.15am - 12.00pm - FREE - Drop-in - Library Foyer

A classical music concert for kids & their grown-ups.

Saturday 22nd:

LEGO Builders

2.00pm - 4.00pm - FREE - Drop-in - Library Foyer

Come and make a LEGO creation that we can put on display.

FOUNDATION HUBS

TASTER SESSION
5 DECEMBER 2024
PARK COMMUNITY SCHOOL
EX32 9AX
5:30 - 7 PM



DEVON CRICKET
FOUNDATION

WEDNESDAYS

8 JANUARY - 5 FEBRUARY 2025
& 5 MARCH - 2 APRIL 2025

7 PM - 8:30 PM

Open to all state school girls Years 6 - 10*

*Players in the Devon Cricket Performance Pathway are **not** eligible.

Sign Up



For more information contact
martin.brice@devoncricket.co.uk
01392 262509 / 07939 015663
or visit: www.devoncricket.co.uk/mcd-hubs

NORTH DEVON GIRLS' HUB

VENUE

Pilton Community College
Chaddiford Ln
Barnstaple
EX31 1RB