

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 24th January 2025

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

We have had another good week with our final group of Year 4 children starting their swimming lessons on Wednesday and the lunchtime/after school sports clubs restarting with Mr Ovey. Today two teams of Years 5 and 6 children represented Orchard Vale at the Park School Sports Hall Athletics Festival and performed brilliantly, achieving joint 2nd place. Mrs Oldfield's class took a short walk today to post the thank you letters they have been writing this week.

Eco Prefects Environmental Review

Our year 6 Eco Prefects, with the guidance of Mr Lowe, our Premises Caretaker, and Mrs Manley, are undertaking a school wide environmental review. There is a major change in the recycling and waste rules from March 2025 for large employers, and from next year, all households.

To find out how eco friendly Orchard Vale is, the Eco Prefects are going visit all classes from Year 1 to 6 and ask a set of questions on 7 topics; healthy living: marine, litter, biodiversity, school grounds and waste. Today at Assembly, they revealed all to the School! Once we have completed the survey, we will choose 3/4 projects to focus on and will report progress in future assemblies. The Eco Prefects' intentions are to steer a course for us all to follow, and once the chosen topics are in action, we would love to hear any suggestions or ideas you might have, as these topics involve all of us in one way or another.



Have a good weekend.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

World Book Day 2025 Thursday, 6th March

We celebrate World Book Day in school supporting the charity's mission to change lives through a love of books and reading.

This year's theme is 'Read Your Way'.

Children can choose whether they would like to dress up as a favourite character, wear your comfortable bedtime reading pyjamas, and so on - however you choose to read!

We will be running the 'Extreme Reading Challenge'. Children can have photos taken of them reading a book somewhere unusual, bizarre or extreme.

They can post these photos on Teams or email them to orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk

Prizes will be handed out in a celebratory assembly. Closing date is Thursday, 6th March.

Access to books

Getting a free £1 book for your child is easy.

Take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for World Book Day £1 book

OR

Use it to get £1 off ANY book/audiobook costing £2.99 or more.

You can find your nearest bookseller at:

[Participating retailers - World Book Day](#)

Check out [World Book Day—For Families](#) for more things to do at home.

We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers.

Thank you.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's
CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

- 1 Encourage journalling**
Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journalling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.
- 2 Make space for reflection**
When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.
- 3 Be visual**
Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.
- 4 Practice mindfulness**
Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.
- 5 Communicate**
Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insights. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.

If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives - from FAQs to downloadable packs. [HereYou.co.uk](https://www.hereyou.co.uk)



STARS OF THE WEEK

Mrs Youll's class

Arlo is our star of the week for settling in well, happily saying goodbye to Mum in the mornings and showing good independence.

Mrs Oldfield's class

Alice has bounded into reception with a love of learning that is infectious. Over the past term and a bit, she has continued to blow us away with her enthusiasm and effort that she puts into all she does. Most recently, Alice has WOWED us with her reading! Alice is growing in confidence, in reading both green words and the trickier red words. We are super impressed with how well she can apply her new skills in her phonics lessons. Alice you are amazing, keep up the great work. We are very proud of you. Mrs Oldfield x

Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the week is Mason. Mason is amazing. Mason is one of the kindest boys in our class, he is always willing to help and look after others. Mason works extremely hard in all subjects and is making great progress with his phonics and writing. Well done Mason, you are a superstar.

Mr Quilter's class

My star of the week is Charles! Charles works extremely hard in school. He applies himself fully and always completes tasks to a good standard. Charles has done fantastically well during testing week; he has shown excellent retrieval skills in maths where he not only scored highly but also solved a few questions that we haven't even covered in class yet; great job buddy! Charles is a pleasure to have in class, he listens attentively and has a good work ethic. Charles is good at balancing work and play which is excellent. Keep up the hard work Charles! Mr Q, Miss Snell, Mrs Clarke x

Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the week is Molly. Molly is a wonderful role model in her class and always follows the routines of the day beautifully. She is always around to lend a helping hand, so much so that I could easily mistake her for a Year 2 rather than a Year 1! I've had lots of lovely feedback from Mrs Owen about Molly's reading this week, and it is lovely to hear what a pleasure she is to teach in Phonics. Molly likes to take things slow and steady in her learning, ensuring she is confident at something before pushing ahead. This is paying off this week. In Maths, she has impressed us by making connections to previous learning in order to work new things out. Well done Molly, you are amazing!

Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the week is Eleanor. It has been wonderful to see Eleanor blooming in Year 1. I am especially impressed with the way she has brought her handwriting more under control. It started very large and a bit wild, but she has managed to tame it and it is now so much neater and smaller. Eleanor is one of those children who just quietly gets on, giving her best, working hard and doing this day in, day out without fail. I have also been very impressed with Eleanor's maths and phonics this week. She has shown me in our 'quizzes' that even though she is very quiet, her brain is working at full speed! Eleanor, you are such a sweet, gentle person and a truly delightful member of our class. You may be quiet but you are a mighty learner. Keep doing all the things you are doing. I am so proud of you. You are a star.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mr Bayliss' class

Henry has had a wonderful week. He has focussed on his learning and has started tasks promptly with a real determination to create quality pieces of work. Henry has shown a mature attitude, managing distractions well and always using great manners around the school. In Lego club Henry has worked hard to build some brilliant projects, kindly allowing lots of other people to join in on his builds. Well done, Henry. Keep it up!

Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Isla. Isla is such a pleasure to teach and has an amazing attitude to her learning. She is resilient, never giving up when she faces a challenge. I love the way that her determination shines through in every lesson as she strives to produce her very best work. It has been amazing to see her confidence grow and grow this year so far. Her enthusiasm for learning knows no bounds and I know that she will go from strength to strength as she continues her KS2 journey. Well done, Isla!

Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Wyatt! Wyatt has worked hard this week during our Year 3/4 testing. He has shown a positive attitude and given his best! He has really impressed me with the level of understanding he clearly has and I would love to see him show this more during our day to day lessons too. You have shown me what a great learner you really are!

Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Seb. He has really tried this week to manage his distractions and I have seen a mature and sensible side to him. He has been very focussed and has shown a great work ethic, really putting in the effort. His attitude has begun to show results in class, especially in maths, where he has had a brilliant week! Well done Seb.

Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Week is the wonderful Alexa! Alexa is a shining example of someone who truly loves school life. She puts so much effort and thought into everything she does, and her enthusiasm and dedication are an inspiration to all. Alexa is not only a hard worker but also a fantastic friend. She is always willing to lend a hand and support others in their learning, showing kindness and patience every step of the way. Recently, Alexa has been working exceptionally hard on her handwriting, determined to earn her fountain pen. Her commitment and perseverance are paying off beautifully, as her handwriting is improving every day! Well done, Alexa – we are so proud of you! Keep up the amazing work!

Mrs Scott's class

I have chosen Lily-Mae S as my star this week, as she is such a lovely member of our class! Lily-Mae works so hard, every day, and we have noticed her becoming more willing to share her ideas, particularly in the mornings with Miss Williams. Lily-Mae is a kind and thoughtful friend and works well with other people; she is keen to support her peers in their learning. It has been fantastic to see her flourish in confidence since returning after Christmas. Keep up the excellent work Lily-Mae!

School Diary Dates

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 (see poster)
Wed, 12th Mar	Park Dance Festival
Fri, 14th Mar	Y6 Rising Stars—Basketball at Pilton Community College
Fri, 28th Mar	Ready Steady Rock Bank Practice
Tues, 1 Apr	Y3/4 Watermouth Castle Trip (details to come)
Fri, 4th Apr	Ready Steady Rock End of Term Concert
Mon, 7th to Mon, 21s Apr	Easter Holidays (Last day of school Fri, 4th April)
Tue, 22nd Apr	Back to school

Week commencing—Monday, 27th January

Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options





LUNCH MENU – WEEK 2

2nd Dec 2024 – 6th & 27th Jan – 24th Feb – 17th Mar 2025



Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bowls, Low Fat Yoghurts, Fruit, Milk and Water available daily. All Special Diets catered for.

 Meat Free Monday	Tasty Tuesday	Roast it up Wednesday	Treat yourself Thursday	Finish it off Friday	
Mozzarella topped Mediterranean Pasta	100% Beef Burger Bap & Diced Potatoes	Roast Chicken & Stuffing	Crispy Salmon Bites	Beefy Macaroni Cheese	
 Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Veggie Curry with Wholegrain Rice	Cauliflower Bites	Vegan Sausage Roll	Cheese & Onion Pasty with Diced Potatoes	
 Mixed Vegetables	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna		
	Tomato Sauce, Corn on the Cob or Green Beans	Roast or Mash Potato with Fresh Broccoli, Carrots, & Gravy	Chips, Pasta, Peas or Baked Beans	Cauliflower, Sweetcorn & Crusty Bread	
 Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Sausage Roll	
Warm Pancakes with Syrup	Chocolate Cake & Chocolate Sauce	Cheese, Apple & Crackers	Mandarin Jelly	Fruity Lolly	

Tidiest
Cloakroom
This week was
Mrs Oldfield's
class

Reading Road Champions
Years 1 and 2
**Congratulations
to:**

Amelia W-C Reuben P Louie
Faith Jasmin Meadow Liliana
Charlie Bea Jacob Lilly J

For completing 25 reads

Eli S Eli F Mason Margo
Amelia W Niamh George
Lea S Ruby

For completing 50 reads

Eliza Alice S Aria Ben
For completing 75 reads

Tri-Reading Tournament Champ
Years 5 and 6

Congratulations to:

Isaac Hollie G
For reaching 50 reads

Dylan Darcy
For reaching 100 reads

Charlie
For reaching 150 reads

The 100 Club
Well done
to the following children in our
times tables challenge

Spencer Lily-Mae C

James Dexter

Gold Award

Spencer Dexter Jake

Silver Award

Mila

Bronze Award

Mrs Oldfield's class Thank You Letters

The children in Mrs Oldfield's class have been writing thank you letters to their families this week.

On Friday, they walked down to the post box to post them. Watch out for these at home.

It was a very chilly walk so they all had hot chocolate to warm themselves up when they got back to school.



Year 5 and 6 Kilimanjaro talk



This week, Mr Squire came in to talk to Y5 and 6 about Kilimanjaro. He organises expeditions to climb the mountain and had lots of knowledge.

At the Kilimanjaro talk, we learnt the fastest climb is 6-7 hours, (up and down) but the average time is 7-8 days. The porters carry 25kg of luggage, and you have to drink 5l of water a day. The oldest person to climb Kilimanjaro was 82, and the youngest was 5 (they had special permission!) If you are planning to go, you normally have to be 10 to climb to the top. If you're younger than 10, you can only climb half way. The climate at the start of the climb is savannah, where civilisation lies. Then, as you start climbing you arrive at the tropical rainforest, with animals galore! As you ascend higher, you go into moorland, with barely any animals, and specially adapted flora. When you make it to the top, you enter the arctic ice, which can reach -25 c, and is home to little animals and plants.

Did you know? Kilimanjaro is a volcano, and it hasn't erupted in 2500 years, and you can walk it with your hands in your pockets, and it is the largest single mountain in the world.

Written by Noah Le and Theo

Years 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics



Well done to the 12 year 5/6s who took part in the sports hall athletics today.

They took part in events such as long jump, chest throw and relays! They were placed joint 2nd overall.

Well done to all.





DAY OF ACTION Organised Cleans

25th January 2025

Come and join the Plastic Free North Devon team for a day of community cleans across North Devon and Torridge

Any action taken can be entered into a competition to win a dryrobe!

Barnstaple
Rock Park
Sticklepath Hill

Ilfracombe
Wildersmouth
Lee

Braunton
Crow Point

Torridge
Instow
Sandymere

Croyde
Croyde Beach

Woolacombe
Mill Rock

Click [here](#) to find out times and locations starts for each clean and how you can enter the dryrobe competition!



info@plasticfreenorthdevon.org
@plasticfreenorthdevon
#cleanseandclean



PRELOVED BABY & CHILDREN'S SALE



**SUNDAY 2ND
MARCH
2PM - 3.30PM**



ROUNDSWELL COMMUNITY CENTRE



PRELOVED
ITEMS FROM
BIRTH TO
TEENAGERS

TOYS
CLOTHES
BOOKS
& MORE

SAVE MONEY ON HIGH QUALITY, PRELOVED ITEMS

BAG YOURSELF A BARGAIN

BOOK A STALL & MAKE SOME MONEY

£10 FOR SELLERS & £1 ON DOOR FOR ADULTS, CHILDREN FREE

FREE ENTRY AFTER 3PM

INTERESTED IN BOOKING A TABLE? CONTACT LOUISE LINCOLN

07871 951439 OR LOUMOIR@HOTMAIL.COM OR

SEARCH FACEBOOK FOR 'NORTH DEVON PRELOVED BABY & CHILDREN'S SALES'