

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

19th June 2020

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Return to school



It is lovely to see so many children back in school. As you will be aware, under the current Government guidelines we have to restrict numbers in class to a maximum of 12-15 children to adhere to social distancing rules and our classes are almost full.

Although children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 6 or those with a Key Worker parents are entitled to come into school the numbers of children we can safely accommodate has almost reached the maximum. If your child is not already attending school but you now find you need a place please contact the school office in the first instance to be placed on our waiting list.

Home Alone Children

The Department of Education have had a number of concerning reports from community and housing associations regarding children being left home alone.

There is no law about when you can leave your child on their own, but it is an offence to leave them alone if it places them at risk. As parents, you should use your judgement on how mature your child is before you decide to leave them at home.

Read the government advice on the [law on leaving children unattended](#).

It is important to be aware that you can be prosecuted if you leave a child alone 'in a manner likely to cause unnecessary suffering or injury to health'. If you are at all unsure, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) recommends that children under 12 are rarely mature enough to be left alone for a long period of time, children under 16 should not be left alone overnight and babies, toddlers and very young children should never be left alone.

Reception September 2020 intake



If your child is due to start in our Reception classes this September please could we ask you to return your S11-1 Data Collection application form, if you haven't already done so.

Let's help George celebrate



On Thursday, 25th June George, who is a pupil in our Reception class, will be celebrating the end of his chemotherapy treatment after 1,170 days. Since being diagnosed with leukaemia on 11th April 2017, George has bravely faced hundreds of visits to hospital and 1209 doses of chemotherapy, not to mention all the tests and other procedures he has had to endure. Unfortunately, due to Covid19 he will be unable to visit the hospital ward to ring the bell to celebrate the end of his treatment.

Instead, he will be ringing his bell outside his house at 7pm on Thursday, 25th June.

A drive by for George has been organised by the Barnstaple community to help recognise this milestone for him and his family. A convoy will be forming in the Roundswell retail estate car park from 6pm.

People are requested to remain in their cars. The convoy will drive up to the Cedars roundabout, turn right and pass Sticklepath School playing field where George will be ringing his bell on the opposite side of the road.

Please do come along and help George celebrate by beeping your horn.



George's beads of courage 1 for every procedure.

Online learning—Tapestry/ Seesaw



We know it has been a difficult time for all helping your child access their online learning during lockdown and the extended stay at home. Thank you all for the great effort you have been putting into this. Please do contact the school if you are experiencing any difficulty or have any questions.



Our Teachers/Teaching Assistants are trying very hard to keep our online learning platforms updated and checked at regular intervals.

The Government has provided some advice to parents, which some of you might be interested in. Click on this link: [Help primary school children continue their education during coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

Free school meals to be extended over the summer holidays



Children in England who are eligible for free school meals will receive a six-week food voucher to cover the summer holiday period. A spokesman for the prime minister announced that all children eligible for free school meals during term time in England will continue to be provided for through a 'COVID-19 Summer Food Fund'.

If you are on a low income, you or your family may also be entitled to claim for free school meals.

[The criteria for free school meals is on the government's website.](#)

You can make a quick application online where your eligibility can be assessed immediately, and let you know straight away.

To [apply for free school meals please visit the Free School Meal Portal.](#)

If you have any other queries relating to free school meal entitlement you can email the team at freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk.



These websites have useful advice, questions and answers for working parents on their entitlement during the current Covid-19.

Working Families Advice—making work work for all

[Working Families Advice](#)

ACAS working for everyone

[Holiday and leave during Corona virus](#)



Lifeboats

Watch out for Water Safety Wednesdays

The RNLI has come to the rescue once again! If you're looking for content you can trust for home schooling, we can help. Here you can download videos of our Facebook Live event, and supporting water safety activities, made for 3–11 year olds. It's broadcast every Wednesday at 10.15am on our RNLI Facebook page. Each week our water safety expert, Liam, explores different scenarios and, with the help of some friends, looks at why it is always important to stay safe near water. There are six sessions to support families, teachers and children at home at this time. Look out for more from Liam this summer!

Please remember to follow the Government's latest instructions. Your children can learn from these videos so that when they next visit beaches or open water, they'll be ready and stay safe.

[RNLI Water Safety Wednesdays](#)

[Beach Safety Advice](#)



Education & Learning
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QD

17 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is a few weeks since I wrote to you to explain the Devon response to the Government's plans for a wider return to school. Much has changed since then, and I thought an update on the current situation might be helpful.

In planning the return, schools and parents acted with great care, recognising the importance of school for children, educationally and socially, while also making sure that it was as safe as possible for each child to return. 98% of Devon schools are now open and where possible, providing a wider offer to pupils in Early Years, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6. We have double the number of children attending school compared to national, which perhaps isn't so surprising because our rate of infection in the South West, and particularly here in Devon, is much lower than national.

The number of key worker and vulnerable children attending school has also risen. In many schools, twice as many as before half term and in some, three times more.

The offer available in each school is different as it is based on their risk assessment and the needs of the community they serve. For example, if there are a lot of parents who are key workers it may not be possible for a school to open to more children or additional year groups. For our special schools where many of the children are vulnerable, risk assessments also take account of the individual needs of each child and how these can be managed safely alongside others.

Across Devon, the return to school has gone very well, children and families have been happy and so have staff. In fact, the return has been such a success that Devon schools are now facing a different issue.

Class sizes in schools have been halved, in line with national government requirements with a maximum of 15 pupils in each group: these groups are known as bubbles. The bubbles should be kept apart. Schools' risk assessments have determined the maximum number of bubbles in the school. Your child's school will have shared with you what this will be like in your school.

As more pupils return, **some schools may soon be in a position where they are no longer able to offer places to every child who wants one.** Schools will have reached the limits of the physical space available for the bubbles to be maintained safely. Some schools will have reached their maximum staffing capacity. The Government's priority places vulnerable children and those of [keyworkers](#) at the top. It is possible that some schools could reach capacity with these children alone and no longer be able to make an offer to wider year groups.

We appreciate that this might be frustrating for some families, and potentially very difficult for some. If you need support, talk first to your school to explain the circumstances. We want to do everything we can to support families during what is an extraordinarily challenging time for everyone.

Devon's schools will continue to do everything possible to meet parents' need, government guidelines and public health requirements. Safety will always be the top priority. We will continue to work with schools to help find solutions, but **we cannot ask schools to take additional children if it is unsafe for them to do so.**

I have received enquiries from parents about wearing face coverings on school transport and thought this letter was a good opportunity to let you know that, if your child travels:

- **on school transport provided by Devon County Council, Academy Trusts or schools, even if they are over 11, they are not required to wear face coverings.** This is because social distancing measures have been put in place wherever possible and additional cleaning has been put in place following each journey. However, no one will be prevented from wearing a face covering if parents feel their child can use it safely.
- **on public transport (including that paid for by DCC) young people should follow the latest government guidelines which can be [found here](#).** Guidance published on 15.6.20 stated that **children under the age of 11 do not need to wear a face covering**, neither do those with who have a physical or mental health impairment or a disability that means they cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering.

The Government has provided [helpful information for parents](#) on their website which includes a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions section.

The rapid changes and high degree of uncertainty we are living with can make for a very anxious time for adults and children. Anxiety itself is normal and only becomes a problem when it gets in the way of everyday life. Some children are happy to talk about their worries whilst others find it more difficult and may clam up. There are helpful resources available to support parents and their children on line but I think this [short piece](#) with practical advice is particularly helpful as children return to school. For children who have EHCPs, schools and other involved professionals are working with families to look at how the needs in the plan will be met. More information can be found on the DIAS website: [Devon Independent and Advice Support](#). Young people aged 11-19 can also text a Devon School Nurse on 07520 631 722 for confidential information, advice or support.

Please don't hesitate to talk to your school or any other professional about any concerns you may have.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Dawn Stabb
Head of Education & Learning

Star of the Week

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

Mrs Yorke's nomination

I would like to give a special mention to Mr Ovey please. Since we have returned to school Mr Ovey has, as usual, been leading all children's PE sessions. However in the current situation obviously things have had to be different. Mr Ovey has adapted all of his PE sessions to meet the needs of every child whilst ensuring that he and the children are all following the strict guidelines set by the Government. Every child is able to take part in a PE session each day. It is lovely to see all children enjoying themselves and remaining enthusiastic throughout, encouraged at all times by Mr Ovey's fantastic approach and attitude. ☺



Mrs Youll's nomination

I have two stars of the week:

Dexter for doing some super work and trying hard with his writing.

Ayden for doing some super maths and trying hard with his handwriting.



Miss Cawthorne's nomination

I have two stars of the week:

Malaki for fantastic maths and working so hard at home.

Harry for amazing reading and writing.



Miss Boundy's nominations

I have two stars of the week:

Rory always tries his best and gives everything a go! He has also completed some great bits of writing this week! Well done Rory

Toby has worked really hard at his maths and writing this week! I was particularly impressed with his work on halving! Well done Toby!



Mr Quilter's nomination

Ashton is now back in school and in a different classroom to normal. Not only this but he has had to get used to different teachers too. He has taken this in his stride, he's been working independently and all the staff have been speaking extremely highly of him. Way to go Tuc!



Mrs Oldfield's nomination

I could easily have chosen Elise for star of the week many times for the fantastic work she produces for me, but this week she especially deserves it for being super brave in the hospital, when finding out she has broken her foot. She has not allowed this to stop her producing more amazing pieces of work. My number favourite is Big Stan. Thank you for continuing to make me laugh Elise xx Mrs O



Mrs Grimwood's/Mrs Huggins' nomination

Amelie has really thrown herself into all the home learning tasks and we have loved seeing all the photos and little videos of what she has been up to. Her handwriting has improved beyond recognition and she is now joining up beautifully. We have been so impressed how she has attacked all the maths tasks and stuck with them through to the end.



Star of the Week

Key Stage Two

Miss Gulliford's nomination

Zane has had such a brilliant week in school and has been working so hard on his learning tasks. He has shown great enthusiasm and has shown us how much he really wants to learn. He always smiles, motivates others and brings happiness to the school environment. Keep it up Zane - you are doing so well!



Mrs Johnson's nomination

Heidi has always impressed me with her work ethic and during lock down she has not set aside her positive working attitude. Her learning is always of an exceptional standard and she has impressed me with the different ideas she has for displaying it. She is queen of the posters, which are always bright and colourful and fun to read. Her detailed and well thought out answers in reading comprehension and writing are always such a pleasure to read, showing her deep understanding of the texts. Keep up the hard work Heidi - I appreciate your efforts greatly!



Mr Whapham's nomination

Jenson has been a super star this week! Not only has he completed all his home learning to a high standard but he has been taking some of his tasks even further! He used a kit at home to find out more about circuits and electricity and made a short video telling me all about it! In addition, his art work was fabulous and I know that he is really putting in a lot of effort at the moment! Keep up the hard work Jenson, we are all very proud of how well you are doing!



Miss Squire's nomination

Roxy is my star this week for her fantastic approach to learning. Despite finding it tricky with home learning at times, she has come back into school with a superb attitude and has put effort into all her learning. She has been enthusiastic and worked well as part of socially distanced teams on the Friday maths challenges, and it was great to hear from home that she has been much more positive in general. Keep up this fab attitude Roxy!



Mrs Rana's/Mrs Lowrey's nominations

Anisa is fantastic! She works consistently hard and takes pride in producing her best work. Over the last few weeks, Anisa has really been pushing herself and has produced some amazing topic work as well as high quality English and Maths. Her Harry Potter reading, samba rhythms, chalk art and powerpoint presentation about Iguazu Falls have particularly stood out. Well done, Anisa!



Mrs Harding's nominations

Annalise for consistent handwork and 100% effort in all that she is given to do.
Jessica for working hard to edit and redraft her poem which I really enjoyed reading.



Mr Lewis' nomination

Kyra has been a superstar on Seesaw since the very beginning and consistently engages with her feedback. The effort that she has put into every piece of work is noticeable and all of the teachers that have seen her work, have commented on the high standard of each task Kyra completes. Keep up the amazing work, Kyra!



Mr Ovey's PE at home ideas

Here are a few ideas of fitness/PE activity websites/activities from Mr Ovey that you might like to check out.



[Joe Wicks Kids Fitness](#)— Joe Wicks hosts live PE lessons over YouTube for children at home during the coronavirus outbreak. The classes are specifically designed for all children, from little kids up to secondary school age, although adults can join in as well if they like.



[#ThisIsPE](#) is one of the resources recommended by the Department for Education to support teachers and parents to deliver physical education during the coronavirus lockdown. A new lesson will be added at 1pm on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



[Cosmic Kids Yoga](#). Cosmic Kids Yoga is yoga for kids like you've never seen before. Jaime's aim is to bring yoga and mindfulness to kids all over the world.



[GoNoodle get active at home](#) GoNoodle's goal has always been to help kids be more active while doing the things they love.



We thought the children might like to take part in these virtual games. All the children have to do is record their results in the table on the PDF which is attached to this email and then post their results by following this link. Please ensure an adult monitors this part of registering.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SportshallPentathlon>

You will be asked for the following information

- First Name (s)
- Last Name Initial
- Gender
- Year Group
- Name of School
- Primary, Secondary, Home Education or Special School
- Who is your School Games Organiser?
- Record your best result
 - o Shuttle Run
 - o Target Throw
 - o Vertical Jump
 - o Speed Bounce
 - o Standing Long Jump
- Can we put Devon on the National Sportshall virtual Leader board?
- Media and Privacy Statement
- Email Address to receive a certificate
- Uploading evidence (Photos or videos) is optional

You do not have to upload evidence. You will receive a certificate for completing and uploading on the link!

Full instructions can be found on the attached PDF.

Please submit your results by 5pm on Sunday 21st June

Something to share? What have you been doing?

If you would like to share photos of things you have been doing whilst at home please either send photos/ comments to your class teacher via Seesaw or Tapestry and confirm you are happy for it to appear on the newsletter or email the school on orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk.



Henry's painting
by numbers



Grace



James learning to surf



Theo enjoying baking



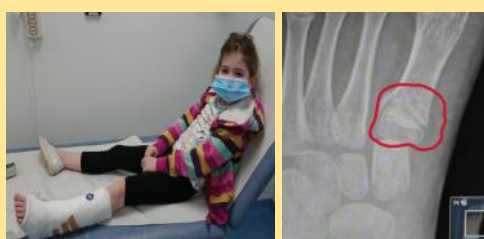
Layla wrote out a wonderfully detailed recipe for Custard Biscuits and then made them. What a wonderful little baker you are Layla.



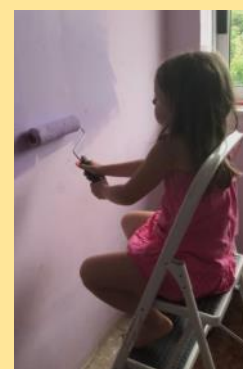
Vinny and Renzo baking



Throughout the month of May, Madison took part in the 3 peaks challenge. To complete the challenge, she had to walk up and down the stairs to the equivalent of 3408 meters!



Our lovely Elise tripped over in her garden and has broken her foot. She was able to send us these fantastic photos of her wearing a mask and being brave and well looked after at the hospital and also this amazing photo of her x-ray! We are hope you make a speedy recovery Elsie xx



Lilly helping with
the decorating



Amelie made spaghetti Bolognese and laid the table.



Elana's made-cupcakes.



Mia's scrapbook of
Lockdown



Mahi baking

Something to share? What have you been doing?

If you would like to share photos of things you have been doing whilst at home please either send photos/ comments to your class teacher via Seesaw or Tapestry and confirm you are happy for it to appear on the newsletter or email the school on orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk.



Alesha's butterflies have hatched.



Sophia stone-



Olivia climbed 3408m for the scouts Three Peaks Challenge



Violet entered the Ridiculous Writers—Amazing Creations competition and had her story published.

In DT this week, our STEM challenge was to make a bridge that would hold a weight.



Logan



Michael



Phineas



Lacey-Rae



Chloe-Rose and

The children created some posters to represent The Golden Rule and what it means to them in their lives.



Harrison



Ruby



Kaito



Lilly-Mai



Jorja

The children have created their own interpretation of The Great Wave off Kanagawa by Hokusai



Ronnie



Flynn



Lauren



George

Year 6 information for parents/children

Transition

Park Community School and Pilton Community College have designated areas on their websites for Year 6 children and parents to get a taste of what you can expect when moving to Year 7.



[Year 6 Park Community School](#)



[Year 6 Pilton Community College](#)

Leavers' Hoodies

The year 6 leavers hoodies now in school. If your child is not attending school at the moment please call the school office to arrange a suitable time for you to collect this.

Wild Days

Wild Days has been created to help you stay positive, by encouraging your kids to go wild while your outdoor options are limited.

Every day they will be publishing a set of structured activities and video content to guide you through around an hour of outdoor learning that you can do in your own green space (in line with government guidance!). Each daily edition has been created for children aged 4-11 by [Earthwatch Europe's](#) scientists and outdoor learning experts, to help you utilise the greatest learning resource out there: nature.

They will have the support of many well-known presenters, naturalists and scientists, who will be contributing videos and activities throughout this project. They're guaranteed to inspire and engage your kids at the time you most need.

Signing up is completely free just click the link and get started. [Wild Days Sign in.](#)



Look out for test and trace scam



We've heard about another test and trace scam, which is also trying to con people into paying for a COVID-19 swab test.

Here's what happened.

A care home manager received a text to say that he had tested positive following a recent swab, and that he needed another test. He phoned the number in the text and was told that he'd have to pay for the test. He was asked for his bank details.

This is a scam, and it was quickly reported to the police.

For avoidance of any doubt, the NHS Test and Trace service will absolutely not:

- ask for bank details or payments
- ask for details of any other accounts, such as social media
- ask you to set up a password or PIN number over the phone
- ask you to call a premium rate number, such as those starting 09 or 087

Text messages will come from NHStracing.

Calls will come from 0300 0135000. You'll be asked to sign in to the NHS Test and Trace contact tracing website.

Devon Family Advice Line



ECL will be launching a new phone advice line for parents and carers across Devon on Monday 1 June. The number for the new service is 01392 949059 and it will be manned from 10 – 2pm Monday to Friday. People will be able to leave a message outside of these hours, or when the operators are all busy.

It will offer advice on a specific issue around their children and their family relationships, including any communication issues or conflict they are having with their partners or co-parents of their children. It is not meant to be a replacement for more targeted work, but just a way to offer people a place to be heard and a few tips on how to deal with a particular situation or to signpost them to an organisation which may be able to help them.