

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 3rd December 2021

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

Well done to everyone for getting through quite a tough week. Thank you all for your support in helping us continue the children's education. As you know, we have seen Covid-19 cases rise in school both in children and staff. Everyone has rallied round and we hope we have managed to keep things as normal as possible for the children.

We hope the measures we are taking in school will hopefully slow down any spread of the virus internally.

- Year group bubbles and exercise in separate outside areas. Getting outside as much as possible during the day.
- Reinforce good hygiene – encouraging children to wash hands with soap/water often and for at least 20 secs.
- Using hand sanitiser regularly in class, before breaks, eating and upon entering the classroom.
- Cleaning down surfaces, paying particular attention to those touched often (e.g. light switches, door handles or electronic devices)
- Children reminded to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue or their sleeve (not their hands) when they cough or sneeze. Dispose of tissues into a rubbish bag immediately and wash hands.
- Keeping classrooms and corridors as well ventilated as possible – let the fresh air in.
- Classes eating their lunches in classrooms.
- No group, face to face assemblies.
- Staff must wear facemasks in communal areas and avoid mixing with those from other year groups.

Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 can spread the virus without knowing; this is because they have no symptoms. This makes it even more important that the measures we are taking are discussed with your child and supported at home.

We are looking forward to commencing our Christmas celebrations next week with Christmas dinner on Tuesday. If your child would like to have a Christmas dinner, please ensure you have booked this through the school office and paid for it on Parentpay. Christmas dinner will be eaten in classes.

Friday next week will be Christmas jumper day. The children will be able to come to school wearing their Christmas/festive jumper over their uniform. Although we were planning on the classes sharing their Christmas celebrations with you in person, this now may not be the time. We may have to move these online. Please keep an eye on your child's class teams page for further details.



Have a great weekend.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

COVID UPDATE

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

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.

Star of the Week

Foundation Stage and Key Stage Two

Mrs Youll's nomination

George - For some lovely talking and good listening at carpet time.



Miss Gulliford nomination

Luna is star of the week for keeping everyone's spirits high during a busy week! Her incredible and infectious Christmas spirit has been a joy to have in class this week! Well done

Mrs Johnson's nomination

Dexter is always such a helpful member of the class, but this week he has been invaluable, keeping the adults in Year 3/4 organised, and helping with every-day tasks. He has coped incredibly well with different adults being in the class, and was particularly helpful during our English lessons, supporting other children with their PowerPoint presentations. You have been a total star Dexter - well done!



Mr Whapham's nomination

Emmie is very quickly becoming a real shining star in our class, showing off her witty sense of humour more and more. She always works hard, completing tasks as expected, with maximum effort. She is also an extremely helpful member of our class, supporting her classmates with their work in a very mature and calm manner. Emmie is kind, helpful and hardworking and should be very proud of the start she has made to Year 3. Keep up the hard work, it is being noticed by all!

Mrs Rana and Ms Richardson's nomination

Daisie has shown an increasing level of maturity and independence during the term and is such a sensible and reliable member of the class. She is working very hard and is enthusiastic about all her learning. She is also making good choices in the playground as well as in the classroom. Well done, Daisie!!



Mr Boulton's nomination

It has been incredible to see Flynn's confidence continue to grow and grow with every passing week. He has blown me away with his division work this week, working really well independently and showing he understands how to use the formal written methods confidently. I always love Flynn's wonderful attitude in class, helping others constantly and always without any fuss. Great work Flynn, keep up the great work.

Miss Squire's nomination

Kelsey is my star this week, for her unfailingly fantastic attitude. She has grown in confidence since the beginning of the year and now has a real voice in the classroom, along with an excellent giggle! Kelsey is a wonderful friend and hard worker - everything we could wish for in a year 6. Thank you for being so fabulous, Kelsey, and keep up the great work.



Who Wants The Most Amazing, FREE, Fun and Elf-y Advent Calendar EVER!

This 100% FREE advent calendar is also 'guilt-free' - designed for kids aged 4-11 - with no chocolates in sight!

Awesome new activities EVERY DAY from the
1st December to the 25th.

It's healthy, educational and most of all is
FULL OF FANTASTICAL FESTIVE FUN!

[Click this link to start the fun.](#)

Lost Property

The pile of misplaced clothing is mounting up again in school.

Please encourage your child to look for lost items in the Lost Property area, on the Key Stage Two landing.

Foundation and Key Stage One children—please mention any missing items to your class teacher and they will endeavour to repatriate them with your child.

Please remember it is always easier to locate items which have your child's name in, so please label everything that they wear.

Any unclaimed, unlabelled items will be donated to charity in the spring term.

DONATIONS WANTED

We are beginning to think about Christmas and would be grateful for any donations of:

Jam jars (empty and clean)

Hamper items:

Smellies for both adults and children

New toys

Bath Bubbles

New hair accessories

Biscuits

Non-Alcoholic Wine or Beer

Savoury biscuits

Christmas food in tins

Games again adults and children.

Candles

Perfume

Jewellery

Chocolates

Tin Meat

Cordial Juice

Soap

Talcum Powder

Craft kits

Christmas Pudding

Cheese with a long lasting date

Sweets

School Diary Dates

Tue, 7th Dec

Whole School Christmas Dinner

Thur, 9th Dec

Year 6 Swimming Lessons

Fri, 10th Dec

Xmas Jumper Day - donations in aid of Edukid

Mon, 13th Dec

Key Stage One—Christmas celebration

Tue, 14th Dec

Foundation—Christmas celebration

Wed, 15th Dec

Cinderella Panto at Queen's Theatre

Mon, 20th Dec to Mon, 3rd Jan

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Tues, 4th Jan

First Day of Spring Term.

Week commencing 6th December

Christmas dinner is on Tuesday.

Please make sure you have pre-booked this with the school office.

	Monday	 Tuesday 	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
M	Toad in the Hole, Creamy Mash with Gravy	 Turkey , stuffing balls , pigs in blankets .	Chicken & Vegetable Pie with Creamy Mash Potato	Salmon Fish Cakes	Beef Lasagne & Garlic Bread
V	Spinach, Pepper & Mozzarella Pasta Bake	Vegetarian roast		Quorn Nuggets	Roasted Vegetable Bolognese
Sides	Sliced Carrots & Peas	Seasonal veg , roast and mash potato and gravy	Sides - Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Chips, Tomato Sauce, Beans & Sweetcorn	Cabbage & Peas
JP	Cheese, Beans or Tuna		Cheese, Beans, Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Cheese, Beans or Tuna
SPL	Egg Mayonnaise Bap		Ham Bap	Chicken Salad	Sausage Roll
D	Fresh Fruit	 Biscuit or Chocolate Cracknell or Ice cream or Christmas pudding	Iced Sponge	Cookie	Flapjack

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

Devon County Council's Free School Meals holiday voucher scheme – Christmas Break 2021

About the scheme

Devon County Council is supporting families of children who currently receive free school meals during term time with supermarket vouchers to help buy food during the Christmas Break.

Usually, each child is issued with a £15 voucher per week, however this is being doubled for the Christmas scheme, with an extra one-off £30 supermarket voucher. This means that you will be receiving a £60 voucher per child for the two-weeks to help with the additional financial pressure the festive period can bring. These vouchers can be used at the following stores; Sainsburys, Tesco, Morrison's, Asda, Aldi, M&S Food and Waitrose to purchase food over the Christmas Holidays to replace the meals your child would have received at school during the day. Please note that Tesco/Morrisons/ALDI vouchers can only be used in-store.

If you have more than one child entitled to free school meals, you should receive a unique code for each child, as the holiday vouchers are issued separately.

Getting the vouchers

Devon County Council has partnered with an organisation called Black Hawk Network to help us distribute these vouchers as quickly as possible via their 'Select' website because they have lots of experience managing voucher schemes like this and are working with several other local authorities too.

- To get your vouchers you will need to visit a website called 'Select' (www.select-your-reward.co.uk) and input your unique code. You will then be able to choose your preferred supermarket and add your vouchers to your basket.
- Please then checkout of the 'Select' website by providing an email address for them to send you your chosen supermarket vouchers electronically. There is no option to receive physical vouchers by post.
- Once you have received the vouchers to your email inbox, you can save them to your phone or tablet to use online (depending on the supermarket) or show at the checkout in store. Alternatively, you can print the vouchers off to give to the cashier.

What if I need some help?

If you have not yet received your Christmas Voucher, please follow the steps below:

Until the 17th December	Please contact the School your child attends before they break up for the Christmas Break. Please note, that if the school are responsible for issuing the codes and you do not contact them before they have broken up, you may not receive your code until they return in January.
Until the 24th December	Any problems with your codes, please contact the Free School meals team at: freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk
Until the 3rd January	For any urgent queries whilst the School and the FSM team are out of the office, please contact the Customer Service Centre on 0345 155 1019

If you are struggling to get your vouchers because you don't have access to the internet or a mobile device to receive and store the vouchers on, and don't have any friends or family to help, please contact Devon County Council's education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Arrangements are in place to support you if you cannot shop, either in store or online, at one of the supermarkets where the vouchers can be spent. Again, please call Devon County Council's education helpline on 0345 155 1019.

Further information

If your child has siblings attending school in a neighbouring authority (for example Plymouth or Torbay) who are also receiving free school meals, the local authority their school is located within will have arrangements to support them over the holidays. If you received a voucher code for the October half-term and haven't used it to get your supermarket vouchers via Black Hawk's 'Select' website yet, please do so by Tuesday 11th January 2022. Once this date has passed, the scheme will expire, and we will not be backdating any payments.

More detailed information about the free school meals holiday voucher scheme, including how to use them and what to do if there's a problem, is available on Devon County Council's website. Please visit devon.cc/holidayvouchers or www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/free-school-meals-holiday-voucher-scheme.

There are also some useful FAQs on the Select website along with contact details for any technical support if you have a problem using the codes and accessing your vouchers. Please visit www.select-your-reward.co.uk.

If you're experiencing severe financial hardship, support is available. Please visit devon.cc/support or www.devon.gov.uk/coronavirus-advice-in-devon/document/support-for-people-and-families for information about how to access local financial support, where to find foodbanks and community larders and what to do if you're on a low income and need to self-isolate.

Finally, if you have received this message in error, please let us know by calling 0345 155 1019 or emailing freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk so we can make sure this vital support gets to the right family.



Dear Parent/Carer

We are running a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) funded programme at Pilton Infants' School during the Christmas holidays. The HAF Programme is funded by the Department for Education and children who are eligible for benefit related Free School Meals (FSM) are given the opportunity to access rewarding activities alongside healthy meals during school holidays. It is part of the work that Marcus Rashford (Manchester United and England Footballer) has been promoting to ensure all children get these chances.

Children will have the opportunity to take part in a range of games and sports, for example Nerf gun battles, football, hockey, tennis, dodgeball, dance, cricket and tri-golf as well as art and craft activities. Children will also receive a hot meal for lunch.

Venue: Pilton Infants, Abbey road, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU.

Dates: (Children can attend one or more than one day)

Monday 20th December

Wednesday 29th December

Tuesday 21st December

Thursday 30th December

Times: 8.30am – 3.30pm

Cost: The programme is free of charge for your child.

Booking: <https://www.primary-sports.co.uk/events/2021/12/20/haf-pilton-infants-christmas-holiday-camps>

Food: Children will receive a free hot meal, drinks, snacks and fruit each day. Parents will be emailed a menu two weeks prior to the sessions starting and will need to let us know if their child would like a hot meal by responding back to our email. Children not wanting a hot meal need to bring a packed lunch. Children should bring a refillable drinks bottle.

What to wear: Comfortable clothes for being active such as shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings with a T-shirt, jumper and trainers.

A warm waterproof coat as some activities will be outdoors unless the weather is extremely poor.

If your child has been to one of our previous holiday camps and won a prize, they should bring this back to get points for their team! If they won a wrist band at the last holiday camp, they can bring this one back to get points!

If you have any questions related to any of the above please contact us on north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk or telephone on 07789954068.

Kind regards

**COOL TO BE ACTIVE...
FUN TO BE FIT**

www.primary-sports.co.uk

Christmas Holiday Activity and Food Fund

All sessions must be booked in advance.

Places are limited.

**To book or for more information: 01271 318780
barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk**

Monday 20th December 10-1

Festive crafts, games and activities followed by lunch with Jack the Elf. Suitable for children 5-8 (children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer and lunch will be provided for them).

Tuesday 21st December 10-1 or 12-3

Spend either the morning or the afternoon in the FabLab. You will design and make decorations for an apron to take home. There will also be other fun activities. Sophia the Elf will be joining us for lunch and the morning and afternoon group will be eating together. Suitable for children 5-12 (children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer and lunch will be provided for them).

Wednesday 22nd December 10-1

Festive crafts, games and activities followed by lunch with Jack the Elf. Please note the activities will be different to those offered on Monday 20th as you may wish to attend both. Suitable for children 5-8 (children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer and lunch will be provided for them).

Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/carer



Registered charity Number: 1170092

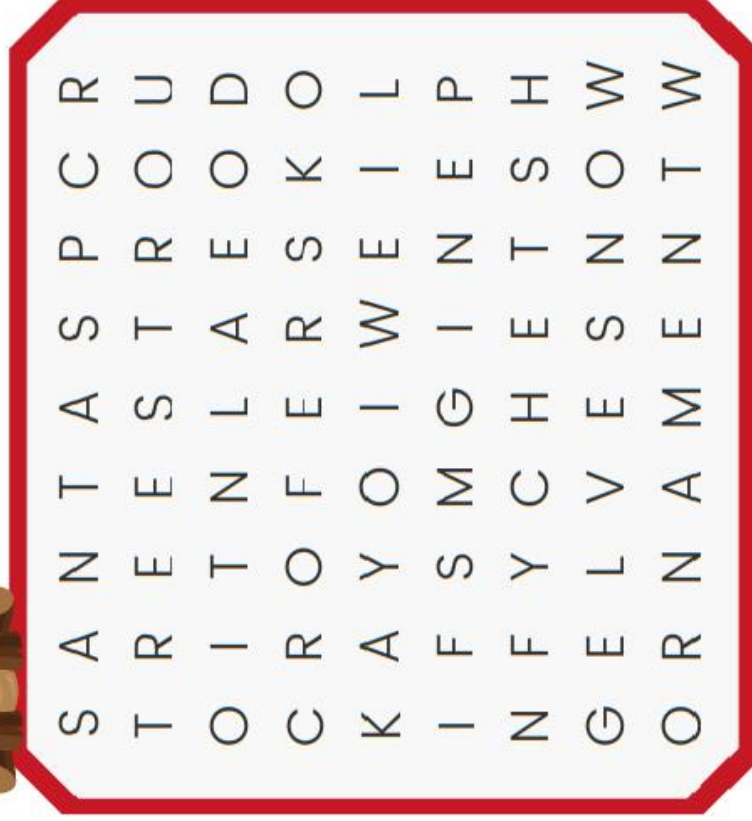


Name: _____ Date: _____



CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Circle words in the puzzle below



Santa stocking snow toys
elves tree cookies ornament
Rudolph star present sleigh

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY FESTIVE ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER

- Christmas Craft Activity 10am - 12pm
- Lego Builders 2pm - 4pm

SATURDAY 11TH DECEMBER

- Christmas Craft Activity 10am - 12pm
- Lego Builders 2pm - 4pm

WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER

- Last Wednesday Bounce & Rhyme of 2021 10.30am - 11am
- Stories Under the Tree Followed by Hot Chocolate with the B.F.G's (Barnstaple Friends Group) 4.15pm - 5.30pm

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER

- Last Thursday Bounce & Rhyme of 2021 10.30am - 11am

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER

- Last Friday Bounce & Rhyme of 2021 10.30am - 11am

SATURDAY 18TH DECEMBER

- Lego Builders 2pm - 4pm