

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 29th January 2021

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Headteacher's message

Dear Parent/Carer

Whilst thinking about what I wanted to say in my headteacher comment this week, I read this letter from a Headteacher in Lancashire and thought this just hits the nail on the head....

"Today I write to you as a mother first. This week has been tough. Week 4 of the Lockdown and as a parent I have felt the strain this week. My own two children have been sent an immense amount of work from their school and I literally haven't been able to keep up with it. Between juggling my own job, my children's school work and generally surviving a pandemic, I really felt the strain this week.

Times are tough at the moment... our mental health is taking a battering. The dark, cold and rainy/snowy weather hasn't helped so we need to support each other and get through this together.

You are probably wondering where I am going with this...

*Well, my main reason for writing is to say WELL DONE! You are surviving a pandemic! Whatever your personal circumstances, we think you are doing a great job! If your child has had lots of microwave meals, stayed up too late, played too much on the xbox and not finished their school work... THAT's OK! We know our pupils are **safe, loved** and **cared for** and that is the most important thing at the moment.*

We know that we've got high expectations here and we've set a lot of work each week. All we ask is that you do your best. If your best is a quick 30 minutes of reading or times tables here and there That's ok! If you want to do all the work we set... that is ok too! Please do not let school work put any extra pressure on you when you are trying to hold down jobs, earn a living and keep your children safe. Everyone's circumstances are very different and we appreciate that.

Finally, we may be 'closed' to lots of pupils but we are still here emotionally for all of our families. If you need support.... a chat.... a virtual cuppa.... a cry.... we are here!

Take care, stay safe and remember we think you are all doing amazing! "

Have a great weekend.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher



Sad to say goodbye...



Ten weeks have flown by with Erin and Kayleigh, our student teachers from Plymouth University, who have been working with Mrs Lavictoire's and Mrs Oldfield's classes. We wish them well with their studies.

Erin "I hope you are all well and are staying safe during these tricky times! I just want to say, how amazing you all are and how privileged I feel to have been able to work with you over the past 10 weeks! You are all so lovely and I will miss you lots!"

Kayleigh "Being from Barnstaple it has been wonderful to be part of Orchard Vale. Mrs Oldfield's class have been truly amazing and I would love to come back some time to see you all. Take care and stay safe."



Sarah Felgate is our Pastoral Teaching Assistant and is available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday—9am to 3.15pm to offer emotional support/advice to our parents and children during Lockdown 3.0.



Foundation Stage and Key Stage One



Mrs Youll's

George L for good listening and sharing with your friends.

Tommy for all your super home learning.

Miss Cawthorne's nomination

Evie E for trying hard and all of her fantastic work at home.



Miss Boundy's nominations

Holly has been amazing in phonics and maths this week and has been such a good friend!
Well done Holly

Bella's home learning has been fantastic this week and she showed great confidence in doing her sounds! Well done Bella!

Mr Quilter's nomination

Bonnie is star of the week this week because she has tried hard and has been working with greater independence.

She has been great on the playground; co-operating nicely and not falling out.
Well-done Bon Bon, keep it up!



Mrs Oldfield's nomination

My home learner star is George who has really impressed us with his dedication and effort during home learning, even when he is not too keen. His writing is coming on leaps and bounds and he is writing more than ever and this week he has produced an amazing penguin acrostic poem. Keep it up George we are all very proud of you.

My in class learner star is Phoebe who has not stopped this week; she has been on fire. In her writing she is using all her phonic sound knowledge to sound out new words and has been showing more and more confidence in herself when doing this. She has constantly been popping up her hand to answer all the questions asked and has been a very kind and caring friend helping others in their work when they are unsure. Well done Phoebe you are a super star.

Mrs Grimwood's/Mrs Huggins' nomination

Elsie has been stunning everyone in school with her upbeat happy smile every day. She tackles all the work we give her and loves getting stuck into Forest School activities even though the weather has been wet and a little bit cold. Well done Elsie, you are a joy to have in the classroom.



Star of the Week

Key Stage Two

Miss Gulliford's nomination

This week Aiden has shown what it takes to be a super learner. He has shown how amazing his work can be when he has some self-belief. He is a conscientious member of the class and has demonstrated that he is committed to his learning. He has truly worked his socks off and his work is both beautifully presented, submitted on time and completed to the highest of standards. He really has set the bar for home learning and should be beaming with pride.



Mrs Johnson's nomination

Lettie is our in class star of the week. She has done amazing work in her English and Maths and is always very kind to her friends on the playground. She even reminds Mr Pearce to record his online lessons!

Freddie J is our home learner star of the week. He has engaged really well with all of his lessons at home, especially maths! He did amazing research into volcanic eruptions in Geography this week, going above and beyond. Well done Lettie and Freddie!



Mr Whapham's nomination

Tyrese has been a legend this week! He has worked so hard, listening to the adults supporting him and applying the skills he is learning independently. He has shown a great attitude to his learning and his concentration this week has really impressed everyone! It is so nice to see Tyrese taking pride in his work and wanting to make good progress in his learning. Keep up the hard work, the high level of focus and the interest in your learning. Well done from all of us!



Mrs Lavictoire's nomination

My star of the week is someone who is always happy and willing to help others. She has made immense amount of progress over the time I have been working with her and continues to shine every day. She has been working from home recently and is always accessing the learning and participating in each lesson, whilst also guiding those who are stuck by replying on the chat! Libby you are wonderful, and it has been great to teach you and I wish you all the best in the future in secondary school! Well done!



Mrs Harding's nominations

Well done Lennox, you are my star of the week and a super home learner! Mrs Harding



Mrs Rana's/Mr Boul't's nomination

Year 5 star of the week is Naima!! She's has been working so hard online, completing all her work and brilliantly responding to all the feedback she is given, making her learning progress even further in each and every lesson! Well done Naima, keep up the fantastic hard work!!



Miss Squire's nomination

Alyssa's dedication to learning is incredible and she should be very proud of how well she has continued to be motivated whilst at home. She attends every live sessions, contributes and shares ideas with others, and her work is always completed to a high standard. Well done Alyssa, you are a fantastic role model.



Find a quiet place
in a family room

Turn off TV and avoid
other distractions,
headphones may
help

Bring paper, pen and
all equipment you
might need

Dress
appropriately

Orchard Vale Community School Live Lesson Etiquette

Participate fully in
all activities

Join with your
microphone
muted

Please remember to be
patient, kind and
understanding

Don't eat or drink
during the lesson

Menu for the week commencing 1st February

Week 1

Jan 4th, 18th, Feb 1st, 22nd, Mar 8th, 22nd

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
M – Jacket potato Cheese/beans/tuna	M – Brunch grill, sausage bacon, beans and sauté potatoes	M – Roast chicken, potatoes and 2 fresh vegetables with gravy	M – Minced beef Pie with crispy round pota- toes and peas	M – Breaded fish with French fries and peas
	JP – Tuna/cheese/tuna	JP – Cheese/beans/tuna	JP – Cheese/beans/ tuna	JP – Cheese/beans/tuna
SPL – Sausage roll	SPL – Cheese sandwich	SPL – Sausage roll	SPL – Cheese & onion pasty	SPL – Ham Sandwich
D – fresh fruit	D – Chocolate sponge	D – Fruit smoothie	D – St Clements cake	D – Caty cookie

Years 5 and 6—Tri-Reading Tournament



The children in Years 5 and 6 are taking part in a Tri-Reading Tournament.

Congratulations to the following children who have achieved 25, 50...nights of reading at home:

Mrs Lavictoire's class Florence Isla Chloe-Rose Heidi Jamie Jasmine Kaito Libby Penny Phineas

Miss Squire's class Brooke



Mr Ovey's PE Champions

Mr Ovey has been impressed with everyone positive attitude to PE this week.

Well done to the PE Champions from Key Stages 1 and 2.

Year 1/2- Bella B for excellent effort and enjoyment in live lessons

Year 3/4 - Lilly B for excellent effort in her lessons as well as helping her younger brother in hers also.

Year 5/6 - Elisha T for excellent core strength in her ab circuit



COVID19 School Absence

The national lockdown restrictions are helping bring coronavirus transmission back under control.

Devon County Council have created some useful resources to help you identify the symptoms of coronavirus compared to a cold or seasonal flu and what action you need to take if your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms of coronavirus. [You can find them on our website.](#)

It's extremely important that [anyone with coronavirus symptoms stays at home and gets tested](#) to avoid the risk of spreading the virus to others, including the more vulnerable in our communities.

That means if your child, or anyone in your household, has any of the symptoms of coronavirus, no matter how mild, you must keep your child off school and self-isolate your whole household while the person with symptoms gets tested and waits for the results. Just the person with symptoms needs to get tested. If you don't have symptoms, you don't need to get tested unless you are asked to by a health professional, but you do need to self-isolate until your household member gets their results.

REMEMBER to call the school office to advise us your child is self isolating and again once you have the results of the Covid 19 test.

Mrs Huggins and Mrs Grimwood are proud to share these super acrostic poems

Wrap up warm.
Ice is all around.
Noses are red.
Trees are blowing.
Ears covered in snow.
Really cold outside.
by Layla

We are walking in winter
In winter it's cold.
Nights are getting longer.
Treats like hot chocolate.
Eating gingerbread men.
Rolling in the snow.
by Emmie

Walking through the cold.
Icicles falling from the trees.
Nuts roasting by the fire.
Tonight Santa is coming.
Elves being naughty.
Reindeers flying through the sky.
by Lexi Pa

W is for white windy weather.
I is for slippery ice.
N is for nice warm hot chocolate.
T is for trees without leaves.
E is for eating roast dinner together.
R is for resting by the fire.
by Jamie L

Here are some amazing Titanic pictures drawn by Mrs Oldfield's home learners this week.



Isaac



Hollie



Reuben

Mr Quilter's class have made their own owl babies in Forest School. They have been reading the book 'Owl Babies'.



Grace



Jensen



Lilly H

Here is some amazing artwork by Lily-Rose. Lily-Rose enjoys doing art to relax and these pictures make her smile. Well done!



OV Weekend Club Going live today!

Do you find yourself getting bored at the weekend? Missing your friends or being part of a club?

Do you need some easy, fun ideas that you can take part in over the weekend?

Well, here's where the OV Weekend Club can help! Everyone is invited to be part of a new Team, which you will find when you log into your Teams page.

You will find lots of activities that you will be able to take part in, from simple things like colouring to bigger projects like making a life sized paper peregrine!

Simply upload a photograph or sample of the activity to the page that you have participated in! It will be lovely to see how many activities you enter.

To win a special OV badge you need to engage in 5 different activities over the coming weekends. Once you have completed an activity, post it back onto the OV Weekend Club Teams where we will keep a note of your individual achievements.

Obviously, all activities undertaken should be done within Covid regulations, so if you need to be outside, please remember that it needs to be a part of your daily exercise.

New links will be added as the weeks go on – watch this space!

This weekend you can take part in the Big Bird Watch.



Win a bird box

Are you taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Bird Watch this weekend? It would be great if you could complete your survey sheet along with photographic evidence of you taking part, send it into the OV Weekend Club Teams under Birdwatch and you just might be one of the lucky ones to win one of Miss Felgate's handmade bird boxes.

Good luck!

Big Schools' Birdwatch 2021



Orchard Vale have signed up to the RSPB for the children to take part in an award scheme throughout the year.

The first activity is the **Big Schools Bird Count on Friday 29th to Sunday, 31st January.**

This week children have access to a new Team called 'OV Weekend Club' where they can send their findings. Children can use the survey sheet on the next page as their log. Here are some of the challenges:



Wild Challenge - How it works

What makes up the Wild Challenge is up to the children.

There are a range of fun activities to choose from, with bronze, silver, and gold awards to achieve depending on how many tasks they complete.

The activities are divided into two sections:

Help Nature - making our gardens and schools brilliant homes for nature and our outdoor spaces wonderfully wildlife-friendly!

Experience Nature - getting up close and personal with wildlife and exploring the world of amazing nature right under our noses!

They should complete three activities from each section to earn each level of the award. The activity can be repeated as many times as they like as you're sure to discover something new each time. Note that repeat activities will not count towards the Challenge total, even if they do it differently.



Bronze award: You need to complete 6 activities, 3 from Help Nature and 3 from Experience Nature.



Silver award: 6 further activities, another 3 from each.



Gold award: Again, a further 6 , 3 from each.

To complete each activity and move a step closer to getting the awards, children must submit some confirmation to show that it has been done. It could be a photo, a drawing, a video, even a piece of writing, showing, or describing the adventure.

Challenge awaits!

Take up any of the activities in class forest school or outdoor activity to help towards our school's challenge.

Orchard Vale has signed up to the RSPB special 20th
anniversary year of the
Big Schools' Birdwatch 2021!
Friday 29th to Sunday 31st January



How to take part

You can do this anytime starting on the Friday through to the Sunday.

If you can, encourage birds to come to your chosen spot by feeding them during the week leading up to the Birdwatch. You can get ideas for making feeders at [rspb.org.uk/foodandwater](https://www.rspb.org.uk/foodandwater).

Take yourself to a quiet spot, for as long as possible, ideally an hour, some distance from the feeders or where you might see birds. Use the attached sheet to simply count and record what you see. Once you have completed the survey download it onto teams under RSPB.

What did you see?

How many birds of the same kind did you see at the same time?

House sparrow

| saw



Blackbird

| saw



Blue tit

| saw



Robin

| saw



Starling

| saw



Chaffinch

| saw



Woodpigeon

| saw



Magpie

| saw



Your name

For more information, visit: [rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch](https://www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch)
The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207070, in Scotland SC037664.
Drawings by Mike Langman. 207 0208 10-21.



ITM012565

Lockdown lunches

Easy, low-cost recipes for speedy lunchtimes



Cheap eats for lockdown weeks

[Click here to access change4life](#)

Free school meal vouchers to spend? Struggling for meal inspiration with the kids at home at the moment? We've got you covered with our simple lunch ideas.

Complete with its own shopping list, each set of recipes contains 5 easy, tasty lunches for around £15. Check out 3 weeks' worth of recipes now, plus ideas and inspiration for ways to keep lunchtimes fresh until they can go back to school:

- [week 1 planner](#)
- [week 2 planner](#)
- [week 3 planner](#)
- [more lunch ideas](#)

You can also sign up for the Change4Life newsletter today to get loads of extra tips and ideas to help keep your family happy and healthy.





Devon Libraries Online Services

If you are unable to access our online resources and need to borrow physical books, Barnstaple Library is open for Choose & Collect. This service is currently strictly by appointment to make sure everyone stays safe. Again, we have boosted our collections of children's Beginner Reads to support those children learning to read, and we have also increased our non-fiction collections in some libraries to support some popular topics from the school curriculum.

We have lots of resources for families which will be helpful to support home schooling. We have an extensive selection of information books for children along with junior fiction. We have preselected goodie bags of board and picture books which can also be collected by appointment.

Library membership can be obtained online via this link [Devon Libraries](https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/) and this will enable you immediate access to the services we offer.

These services are all delivered following a COVID secure and contactless procedure.

We are encouraging customers to time their collections with other essential journeys, for example a food shop or collecting medication.



Reserve items online - <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/> and make an appointment made to collect.



If you would like to arrange to collect a bagful of books handpicked for you by our library staff, then please contact: Barnstaple Library on 01271 318780 or email barnstaple.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk.



In the absence of real-life events in our libraries, we have put together a programme of digital events for children which are posted on our Facebook pages. These include a weekly Bounce & Rhyme session and events during the school holidays,

including the Barnstaple Library
<https://www.facebook.com/BarnstapleLibrary>
and Devon Libraries pages
<https://www.facebook.com/Devon.Libraries>



Digital Library for children

We have been increasing our catalogue of eBooks and eAudiobooks for children including our Beginner Reads collection. This means that families who do not currently have access to books from school can find new things to read via their laptops, tablets, eReaders or smartphones.



Digital Library for adults

In addition to eBooks we have free access to eMagazines and newspapers and other digital resources such as Ancestry Online.



Oxford Owls banded reading books

Our [free eBook library](https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) has been created to help children aged 3–11 to develop their reading skills at home.

As well as much-loved characters such as [Biff, Chip and Kipper](#) and [Winnie the Witch](#), you'll also find some great [non-fiction eBooks](#) to help your child explore their world. We have also added some books used in schools, such as [Read Write Inc.](#) and [Oxford Reading Tree](#).

All our eBooks are free to use, but you will need to register or log in to read your book. Please note, our eBooks are not optimised for mobile phones and are best viewed on a computer, laptop, or tablet.



Hands



Face



Space

