

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

## Friday, 12th January 2024

[www.ovschool.co.uk](http://www.ovschool.co.uk)

[orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk)



### Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

This week children have been completing assessments and beginning their new topics. The assessments are informal and are a checking tool to make sure the curriculum is being taught correctly. Although we do not have formal parents evenings this term, if you are interested in finding out how your child is doing please ask your child's teacher. Could we ask you to wait until the end of the day as I know you understand how busy morning routine can be.

We welcome a new addition to the year 5 and 6 team this week. Mr Greenslade joins us replacing Mrs De-Ritis as she leaves, slightly earlier than planned, to have her baby in the coming weeks. Mrs De-Ritis will be visiting her class next week to say a proper goodbye and I am sure you will join me in wishing her the very best of luck.

We are continuing to monitor attendance. Some of you may have or will be receiving attendance letters. Please read these and feel free to come in a chat about ways we can work together to improve the attendance of your child. One focus has been on reducing the number of children arriving late into school. In the last month, we have seen an improvement in lateness for 10 children with some being on time every day. A huge thank you and well done to you! We will be sending home a little reward for you to share. Please continue to try and get your child to school every day and make sure they are on time. It is important your child gets a good positive start to the day.

The weather has definitely turned cold this week and we have even seen a few flurries of snow on the ground. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately in this cold weather and comes to school with a warm coat to wear in the playground. If you would like your child to have a hot meal to keep them warm and fuelled for the afternoon check the school menu on page 4.

Have a wonderful weekend.



Fiona Pearce  
Head teacher

#### Orchard Vale

#### Reception and Year 6 Vista Photos

#### Class photos

Monday, 15th January



#### Tempest Photography Visit

Please could you send your child into school in their full school uniform. You may like to provide them with a comb/brush for them to use prior to their photo sessions.

#### Class Photos

Tempest Photography will be visiting us on Monday, 15th January to take class photos throughout the day.

#### Reception and Year 6

Tempest will be taking vista photos of the children in Reception and Year 6 as a memento of the first or last year at Orchard Vale.

Proofs of these photos will be sent out to you once these have been received from Tempest for you to place any orders online.

### Sports for Champion – Friday, 9th February

Orchard Vale will be taking part in the Sports for Champions fundraising event again this year. The aim is to raise money as a school to help support an athlete on their sporting journey.

40% of the total money raised goes to the athlete to help fund travel, competition entry or equipment.

60% of the money raised comes directly back to Orchard Vale to buy new equipment for PE lessons.

Our athlete this year is Jaydon Paddock; a gymnast who has competed at the World Championships.

The children have watched footage of Jaydon's tumbling and are excited to hear more about his story when he comes to visit us in on Friday, 9th February.

During the day the children will have the opportunity take part in a sponsored fitness circuit led by Jaydon, who will EDUCATE – ENABLE – EMPOWER the children, inspiring them to be the champions of tomorrow.

Your child will be coming home with a sponsorship form today, which includes details of the event.

**PLEASE COULD CHILDREN BRING ALL SPONSORSHIP MONEY  
AND THE FORM IN  
BY THURSDAY, 8th FEBRUARY.**



# STARS OF THE WEEK

## The Pink Panthers

Spencer for showing new independence and happily joining in with lots of activities.

## The Curious Corals

My star of the week is Ellie. Ellie has really found her feet since returning from the Christmas holidays. In writing, Ellie has begun using her phonics to come up with her own sentences. She is always up to the challenge of taking her work to the next level and has beautiful letter formation to accompany her fantastic sentence ideas. In Maths, Ellie really impresses me with her partner talk and can explain her understanding of what we are learning to her peers using great examples. She will then confidently feedback these ideas to the class. This week, Ellie has perfected the art of being in the right place at the right time, and it really feels like everything is slotting together perfectly! Ellie, we are so proud of you.

## The Silver Sweethearts

Our star of the week is Ellamena. Ellamena has been fantastic at making good choices. Ellamena has also been working hard on her listening in class and being kind to her friends. Well done Ellamena we are so proud of you.

## The Dancing Red Ravers

Amber is my deserving star this week! Amber is working really hard in class; when things are challenging, she will persevere and strive to achieve. Her writing has been particularly impressive this past few weeks where it is more detailed, more interesting and definitely more accurate regarding spelling. Amber is flourishing in year 2, she is a lovely girl who is enthusiastic and always keen to complete tasks and challenges set. I love having Amber in class because she is a great role model for the younger children. Keep up the excellent work Amber and I am sure you will achieve great things. Mr Quilter x

## The Marvellous Midnight Blue Macaws

My star of the week is Elliott. We cannot begin to put into words how proud we are of the effort and attention to detail Elliott is putting into his work. He has recently moved groups in phonics and I am amazed by the fluidity and confidence that he now shows when reading unfamiliar texts. This week we have been writing about dragons, and I have loved reading the exciting adjectives Elliott has chosen to describe his different dragons. You are such a gentleman Elliott and you never hunt for praise, but today we are shouting your praise LOUD AND PROUD as you are amazing. Keep it up buddy. Super proud of you. Mrs Ox

## The Lively Lilac Learners

Vienna has come back from the Christmas holidays raring to go with her learning. She is doing brilliant learning in her phonics, she is using her sounds fabulously in her writing and she is trying so hard with her maths. Vienna has an excellent attitude to learning and she is also doing all sorts at home, which clearly shows her enthusiasm! Vienna, you are a joy to have in class. You come in with a big smile and a spring in your step. You are a marvellous role model for learning in our class. We are very proud of you!

## Suggested Reading List for Parents—[click here](#)

### Congratulations to Reading road champions

**Bella**

On reaching 50 reads

**Seb Maya Eliza**

On reaching 25 reads

### Congratulations to Years 3 and 4 - High Flyers

**Hollie P**

On reaching 50 reads

### Mental Health Ambassadors

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.



January can be a time for us to recharge our minds and body and make a change. But it isn't easy.

Motivation is often the biggest challenge for people wanting to get fitter and healthier. Focus on today and make it count. Move your body, make yourself a healthy meal, drink lots of water. Focus on the small wins and then go again tomorrow.

Why this dry weather is here, why not try to walk a little way to school. The fresh air does wonders for the mind and body.

Take notice of your senses by thinking of things you can see, hear, and smell.



### LOST PROPERTY

We have already got a large selection of lost property, including coats, drinks bottles, lunch boxes and uniform.

This can be found outside the main office behind the trellis for a week.

If this is not collected it will be sorted and taken to a charity shop for recycling.



Week commencing—Wednesday, 15th January

Please note change of menu on Thursday

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 1				
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct / 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov / 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec / 15 <sup>th</sup> Jan / 5 <sup>th</sup> Feb / 4 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Butchers Pork Sausages & Potato Wedges	Butchers Mince Beef Nachos & Wholegrain Rice	Chicken Stew (New Recipe)	Chicken Goujons	Pork Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Finger Roll
Spanish Omelette	Cheese Pasty & Tomato Pasta	Vegetarian Roast	Vegan Nuggets	Oaty Veggie Crumble & Creamy Mash Potato
Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna	
Baked Beans & Mixed Vegetables	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Mash Potato & Cauliflower	Chips, Wholemeal Pasta Peas, Tomato Sauce & Coleslaw	Fresh Sliced Carrots & Sweetcorn
Fruit Smoothie	Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard	Strawberry Mousse with Berry Compote	Fruity Flapjack	Fresh Fruit
Ham Roll	Cheese Roll	Ham Roll	Tuna Roll	Sausage Roll

## School Diary Dates

Mon, 15th Jan	Tempest—Reception and Year 6 Vista photos and Whole school class photos
Wed, 17th Jan	Year 4—Swimming lessons
Fri, 19th Jan	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics
Wed, 24th Jan	Year 4—Swimming lessons
Fri, 26th Jan	Year 3/4—Groups 1 & 2 —Level 1 Bikeability
Mon, 29th Jan	Year 2 and Year 5—Fire Safety Awareness Workshops
Wed, 31st Jan	Year 4—Swimming lessons
Fri, 2nd Feb	Year 6 Rising Stars—Basketball at Pilton Community College
Fri, 2nd Feb	Years 3/4—Group 3—Level 1 Bikeability
Mon, 5th Feb	Years 3/4—Heatre Parent/Child Briefing Meeting—3.45pm
Wed, 7th Feb	NHS Dental Survey—Selected 5 year olds (parents will have received information)
Thur, 8th Feb	Explore the Orchestra—Years 5/6— Visit to University of Exeter
Fri, 9th Feb	Sports for Champion Day—sponsored day
Mon 12th to Fri, 16th Feb	Half Term
Mon, 19th Feb	Return to school

# TODAY'S : THE DAY

**Skills for Life: it all starts with skills**

Whether you're growing your business, changing your career, or just starting out, it all starts with skills.  
[Start exploring your next steps](#)

Today's the day to start exploring skills and careers information. You can look at your qualification and training options or get career ideas that would suit you.

[Government tool kit](#)

## **Childcare Choices:**

**Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life**

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it.

[Click here to find out more.](#)



Was your child born between  
**1st September 2019 and  
31st August 2020?**

## How to Apply for a Primary School Place in Devon

You can apply online at  
**[www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline](http://www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline)**  
from 15th November 2023 to the 15th January 2024

If you cannot access the school  
admissions website you can get  
more information by calling our  
Education Helpline on

**0345 155 1019**  
or email: [admissions@devon.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@devon.gov.uk)



Even if you have already given  
details to a primary school, you  
must apply for a place through the  
Admissions Team. This is the only  
way to apply; other forms or lists  
held by schools will not count.

**Devon**  
County Council



## SAVE THE DATE

### DAY OF ACTION

27th January 2024

#### Join an organised clean

Keep an eye out for cleans  
happening across North Devon

#### Do your own clean

Get outside, get active and clean  
up as you go

#### Businesses

Organise a clean with or at your  
work from 22nd-26th Jan

#### Schools

Organise a clean with or at your  
school from 22nd-26th Jan

Then send us your stats to win a dryrobe® Advance



@plasticfreenorthdevon  
#cleanseandclean



**dryrobe®**

## COMPETITION TIME!

Win yourself a fantastic dryrobe® Advance by  
taking part in our Cleanse and Clean Day of  
Action

How to enter:

1. Head to an organised clean or do an individual clean in your community on 27/01/24 - all clean locations and times will be published on our website and social media channels.
2. Organise a clean at your school in the week 22/01/24 - 26/01/24
3. Individuals can enter the competition by emailing your name, location of clean, image of clean and age to: [info@plasticfreenorthdevon.org](mailto:info@plasticfreenorthdevon.org)

**EACH ACTION SENT IN = 1 ENTRY INTO THE DRAW!**

If you have access to social media share your action with us by tagging  
@plasticfreenorthdevon and @dryrobe and use the #cleanseandclean

