

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

## Friday, 15th December 2023

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### Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to start by wishing you a very Happy Christmas and take this opportunity to say thank you for an amazing term. Children settled quickly and the term flew by with so many great moments. It has been lovely to see the school at full strength and a complete programme of activities available. This week has been a shining example of that.

We had four amazing whole school performances on Monday and Tuesday. The children absolutely loved performing to full and extremely supportive audiences. Thank you for your wonderful feedback and thank you to the staff who gave up their time to come back in the evening to help make this a brilliant experience for the children.

Mrs Williams and the catering team created a delicious Christmas dinner on Wednesday. It was such a lovely opportunity for the children to come together and enjoy their Christmas lunch with music and laughter. We continued laughing into Thursday when 126 children went to the Queen's Theatre to see the Sleeping Beauty pantomime. Today we celebrated 'Stars of the Term'; congratulations to all those chosen. Every child has achieved so much this year and I know we are incredibly proud of them all.



Today we say goodbye to the children and staff from Holywell School. We have really enjoyed having them at our school and our children have loved making new friends and helping them through this difficult time. They will be moving to new premises in January while the classrooms at Holywell are rebuilt. Thank you for your support in making this such an easy transition for them. I know it has been really appreciated.



Finally, I hope you have a lovely Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you back at school in the new year.

Fiona Pearce  
Head teacher

#### Change of menu for Wednesday, 3rd January

Cheeseburger (100% Beef) in a Bun  
DF

Roasted Stuffed Feta Peppers

Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or  
Tuna

Potato Wedges, Peas & Corn on Cob

Pip Organic Ice Lolly DF

Ham Roll DF

### 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

# STARS OF THE TERM

## The Pink Panthers

Ava has really blossomed this term. She is kind, always willing to help and tries her best at learning time.

## The Curious Corals

Orlando is the sweetest boy who has transitioned into Reception like he's been here forever! He is loved by all, and it is so easy to see why. He is the first to share his toys or comfort a friend who is upset, he is always on hand to help around the classroom, and he works hard in everything he does. Orlando has a great sense of right and wrong and follows school routines faultlessly. His cheeky smile and warm nature keep me, Mrs Golding, and the whole class smiling. Orlando, you are a pleasure to teach! Well done on a wonderful first term in Reception.

## The Silver Sweethearts

Nora is a well-loved member and of our class who has had an amazing first term in Reception. We have particularly noticed Nora's confidence go from strength to strength, she's gone from being too shy to saying good morning to standing up in-front of the whole class singing songs. Nora is always keen to learn and gets stuck into any challenge set. Nora you are the sweetest little girl with the brightest smile, and we absolutely love having you in our class - keep up the good work!

## The Dancing Red Ravens

Ferne works extremely hard in class, and this is evident in all of the wonderful work she has completed this term! She goes above and beyond with her work, always producing work to the best of her ability. Ferne has adapted extremely well with the change in key stage; she has been like a duck to water and is therefore making great progress in her learning. Ferne is my little mate outside of school and has coped well with the slight change in relationship during school times. Keep it up Fluffy Oranges; you are amazing!!

## The Marvellous Midnight Blue Macaws

Since joining year 2 Reggie has grown in independence and resilience. He is now taking himself to phonics every day, joining in with the class and working hard to learn new sounds. We are very impressed with the effort Reggie is making in writing, he has a weekly spellings password which he has to learn to spell and is tested on at the end of the week. Reggie is a delight to have in the classroom and fills everyday with laughter and joy. He is much loved by all and is a very popular member of the school. He was the perfect Pete the cat in our school performance and stole the show with his wonderful walking. Well done for an amazing term Reg, we are all super proud of you. All Hail King Reggie!

## The Lively Lilac Learners

My star of the term is Elodie. Elodie is just such a lovely, kindhearted and gentle member of our class. She quietly gets on with everything and always with such a big smile on her face. Elodie has slowly and carefully strengthened her learning day by day, step by step and she is now doing brilliantly! She has made great improvements with her reading, writing and maths. We have been so impressed with Elodie this term. She has been an absolute star and we are so proud of her. Well done, Elodie.

# ★ STARS OF THE TERM ★

## The Energetic Emerald Explorers

Mikey has been a pleasure to teach this term. He has shown exceptional manners since starting the year. Mikey has taken a positive, hard-working approach to all his learning even when facing tricky challenges. His kind, friendly and tenacious demeanour make him a star and role model for our class. Well done, Mikey!

## The Precious Pearl Problem Solvers

I have chosen Freddie as my Star of the Term because of how much he has grown in confidence since September. He always takes such a keen part in class discussions and lessons and works incredibly hard to complete all his task to a high standard. I can always rely on Freddie to be doing the right thing, in the right place at the right time. He is an excellent role model to other children and a good friend to many. Freddie, I love your enthusiasm for learning and I know you are going to have an amazing year.

## The Groundbreaking Golds

Mila has had a wonderful first term in Year 3, showing dedication to her learning and a positive attitude. She has worked hard to meet the standards expected in Year 3 and always produces her very best. She is kind and helpful to staff and has really started to show her cheeky personality in class. She has also worked hard at home, on areas such as times tables to ensure she continues to make good progress. Keep working hard - your efforts are always noticed

## The Jubilantly Jazzy Jades

My Star of the Term is the wonderful Emmie. Emmie is reliable, thoughtful, and full of character; she is a hard-working individual who is always making the right choices in her learning and seeking out any jobs to aid her peers and teachers. Also, she is someone who is keen to represent the school in sporting events and was a key player at the girls' football event a couple of weeks ago. She is a real superstar and always brings a smile to my face with her quick wit and caring nature. I love how her confidence has grown throughout this term and she is showing everyone in year 5/6 her real OV spirit! Well done, Emmie, I am very grateful to be your teacher and I am so proud of the lovely young lady you are becoming. Keep it up!

## The Limitless Lemon Yellows

This term we have seen her grow in confidence, and she has shown great resilience in the face of some testing times. She is kind and patient towards her peers and likes to make people laugh with her stories. We have enjoyed Nori's creativity and imagination this term, she always has a picture or creation she has made to tell us about! I am looking forward to seeing her progress throughout this year, keep it up Nori!

## The Athletic Aquamarines

My star of the term is Spencer: an all-round hard worker, determined performer, marvellous friend and a delight to have in any classroom. Spencer gives everything his all; whether this is in a maths classroom, during a PE lesson, or in rehearsals for his role as Macbeth's hired assassin! It is a big step, moving from year 4 to year 5, but as I said previously in the term, when he earned star of the week, this is something he has truly taken in his stride and has made the most of every opportunity that has come his way. Well done, Spencer, you are a star.

## Well done to:



Well done Lily

A few months ago Lily came up with the idea of making clay bead bracelets for charity, she has since made over 40 bracelets and is close to raising £100!!

She will donating all of the money to The Children's Hospice in time for Christmas.

Ryder would like to share that he attended a karate grading on Saturday and has now been upgraded to a yellow belt. He managed it in only 3 months from his previous grading



**Years 5/6**

### **Tudor Design Technology**

Mrs Scott's class had a great time, earlier this week, creating their own Tudor money pouches, as part of our Design Technology unit on textiles. They had to learn a wide range of new skills, including how to thread a needle!

Here is a photo of our class, with their finished products.

## My Child's First Device

5 Steps to Make Phones, Tablets, and Laptops Safer

You might be deciding to give your child their first phone, tablet, or laptop (or their fourth, fifth – even a new update). This is a big decision! The responsibility and freedom that comes with owning a device is a big step for children – and you! It might even be their first “grown up” responsibility.

As a parent or carer, it's important to remember that even if a child is tech-savvy, they need to be taught how to be tech-safe. We know this can be daunting with various device brands, apps, and settings to choose from. Our online safety experts have created 5 steps to help you make that first device (or brand-new model!) safer for the child or young person in your care.



### Remember!

This is an exciting time in your child's life! You want to be a part of that in a positive way that encourages them to share with you and trust you. If you take the time to teach them, they will be empowered in their online actions and behaviours for the better.



1

### Do your homework

Make sure your home environment is secure and ready for your child to be online. Many major broadband providers offer age restriction settings so check with your provider to ensure these restrictions are put in place.

Many retailers offer free Parental Controls to their customers. You can find Parental Control walkthroughs on most popular provider websites.

Check the device's brand website for simple walkthroughs of where to find privacy settings on your child's specific device.



2

### Set up the device with your child

Taking the time to sit down with your child and set up the device together will help you both get to know how the device works, allow you to implement SafeSearch filters on search engines, and set up in-app purchase restrictions. You can use the device settings to set up agreed upon restrictions, like Screen Time and App Limits.



Explain why these settings are important to protect children and young people from online risks and that these restrictions will be lifted when they are old enough. Ensure your personal account is set as the Parent account and make sure your parental control PIN number is secure and random.

3

### Discuss and agree on healthy phone and device habits

Once the device has been set up, take the time to agree on some healthy rules and boundaries for how they will use the device. This can include rules like when and where they can use their device, screen time allowance and which apps are allowed to be used.



Be realistic on what will work in your household. If your child has friends with different rules, remind them that what works for one family might not work for another! As the parent or carer, you are responsible for the way your child uses their device and they will need guidance, especially if this is your child's first independent responsibility.

4

### Check-in with your child

Check-in with your child about their device use. It doesn't have to be a big sit-down conversation! Informal chats over the dinner table, in the car or while watching television as a family can have the biggest impact. Ask questions like, "Tell me about your favourite app! Why do you like to use it?" or, "How has your device helped you today?".

Online safety is never a one-off conversation – it's a continuing dialogue. Show your child that you're interested in their responses and thoughts to foster an environment of openness and trust between you and the child in your care.



5

### Keep Yourself Informed

We live in a digital world that changes daily. The most responsible thing you can do in keeping your child's device safe is to keep yourself informed.

Stay alert to trends and threats that they may be exposed to. With many companies beginning to offer “kid” versions of their platforms, knowing what is safe and what is suspect will help you make the best decision for your child. Luckily, we have some excellent resources to assist you that are reliable and relevant. Visit our website and social media pages.



**NEW MENU—Week commencing—Wednesday, 3rd January**  
**Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cheeseburger (100% Beef) in a Bun DF	Jumbo Fish Fingers (New)	Chicken Goujons with Tomato Pasta
Roasted Stuffed Feta Peppers	Vegan Sausage Roll	Sweet & Sour Quorn with Noodles
Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna	Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna	
Potato Wedges, Peas & Corn on Cob	Chips, Wholemeal Pasta, Peas, Tomato Sauce & Coleslaw	Sweetcorn & Green Beans
Pip Organic Ice Lolly DF	Date & Rice Crispy Cake (New Recipe)	Apple Cake
Ham Roll DF	Tuna Roll	Sausage Roll

## School Diary Dates

Wed, 3rd Jan	First Day Back
Wed, 10th Jan	Year 4—Swimming Lessons
Wed, 10th Jan	Reception 2024 Starters—open evening—4pm to 5pm
Mon, 15th Jan	Tempest—Reception and Year 6 Vista photos and Class Photos
Wed, 17th Jan	Year 4—Swimming lessons
Fri, 19th Jan	Y5/6 Sportshall 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
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
Mon 12th to Fri, 16th Feb	Half Term
Mon, 19th Feb	Return to school



**ventrus**  
Multi Academy Trust

## Orchard Vale Community School

### Reception Class of 2024

Is your child due to start in Reception class September 2024?

If so, we have space for your child in our wonderful school!

We are holding an open evening on Wednesday 10th January  
4pm-5pm

Please come to the school entrance where you will be greeted by  
Mrs Oldfield, our Early Years Lead.

You will be given a brief talk in the school hall prior to having the  
time to look around all our classrooms and meet our amazing  
teachers.

We hope to see you there!





BARNSTAPLE  
TOWN COUNCIL

FREE  
CHRISTMAS  
RAILWAY CRAFTS

16TH-20TH DECEMBER | 10AM-2PM  
@THE SHAMBLES

