

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 8th September 2023

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/Carers

It was so lovely to see everyone back in school. It has been an extremely positive start to the term, which has been helped by the fantastic sunny days. The children seem very settled, if a little hot and sweaty.

Just a quick remainder on uniform; although we appreciate it is very hot at the moment the uniform for girls is a skirt, yellow gingham dress or loose shorts which end just above the knee. Girls are welcome to wear cycling shorts for PE, however, when they are in uniform cycling shorts must only be worn under a skirt and not, for modesty reasons, on their own.

Orchard Vale's uniform is navy blue and yellow (not grey and white). White t-shirts are permissible for PE. Children should wear sensible, black shoes which support their foot, trainer type shoes are permitted as long as they are black.

Girls: Main Uniform

- Smart navy trousers
- Navy skirt, pinafore, culottes – style is your choice – smart and practical.
- Yellow polo shirt
- School sweatshirt or navy jumper/cardigan - this can be the school logo or plain.
- Dark practical shoes (no high heels)

Boys: Main Uniform

- Smart navy trousers
- Yellow polo shirt
- School sweatshirt or navy jumper/cardigan - this can be the school logo or plain.
- Dark practical shoes.

With the hot weather please could you ensure you send in plenty of drinks, water refills are available in school but children will need their own labelled drinks bottle, apply sunscreen before leaving home and send in a sunhat. If children are able to apply sunscreen you can provide them with some to apply themselves through the day but this should not be shared for allergy reasons.

Class teachers will be sending home more information over the next few days via email and Teams.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the return to school goes as smoothly as possible.

Have a wonderful weekend, enjoy the weather.



Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in education settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we want to take care and to be sure, and are currently working with the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away.

The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed. DfE is offering us access to surveyors who are helping us do these checks quickly.

If we need to put them in place, contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on students is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of students and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

Thank you for your understanding.

Price Changes as from 1st September 2023

We need to inform all parents that, after careful consideration, we are having to increase the cost of:

Breakfast Club - £3.50 per child/per day (£3 for siblings)

After School Club – OV Explorers - £7 per child/per day

School meals - the cost of a meal will be £2.50.

This decision has not been taken lightly, but with the significantly higher costs we are now facing for our gas and electric, along with the food and non-food inflationary costs increasing by over 12%, we are now at the point where we need to reflect these in our price costs.

We fully understand how difficult times are, therefore, we have tried to keep the increase as small as possible. As a nation we are all hoping that food and utility costs stabilise or potentially drop in the months ahead but as a precaution we will be undertaking a further review of meal prices in spring 2024.

The Government has continued to support the Universal Infant Free School Meals project, and this means that all the children, from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can be provided with a school meal free of charge.

If your child is in Years 3-6, they can also have a free school meal if you are in receipt of certain allowances. Please contact the school office for information or help in completing forms.

If there is a difficulty in providing payment for meals, please contact the school office as soon as possible. All queries and requests for support are confidential and we will always work with families to ensure find the best solution we can.

Nursery and Little Seeds fees remain the same.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Orchard Vale needs your help!

Tesco Stronger Starts



We are delighted to inform you that we have been successful in our funding application with Tesco Stronger Starts.

We are in the process of upgrading our existing Forest School area into an accessible outdoor learning and well-being provision. There are 3 grants available, £1500, £1000 and £500. The amount we receive will depend on the public voting for us instore with the blue tokens.

Please could we ask for your help when shopping at Tescos by using the blue tokens, available at the checkout, to vote for Orchard Vale before you leave the shop.

Spread the word

Ask your family and friends to vote for us too.

Voting will commence in stores from
First week in October 2023 until mid-January 2024

Participating stores are:
Tesco Extra – Barnstaple Retail Park
Tesco Superstore – Rose Lane
Tesco Express – High Street

Week commencing –11th September 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
M	Cheese & onion pasty	Chicken & bacon tagliatelle	Roast Turkey and Stuffing	Fish Fingers	Meat feast pizza baguette
V	Spanish omelette	Broccoli & cauliflower bake	Quorn Fillet	Quorn nuggets	Plant based meatball sub with tomato sauce
Sides	Wedges or pasta, sweetcorn & baked beans	Crusty bread, green beans & peas	Roast or mash potato, sliced carrots, broccoli & Gravy	Chips or pasta, carrots & cucumber sticks	Pasta, coleslaw & sweetcorn
JP	Cheese/Beans/Tuna	Cheese/Beans/Tuna	Cheese/Beans/Tuna	Cheese/Beans/Tuna	Cheese/Beans/Tuna or Coleslaw
SPL	Cheese Roll	Ham roll	Turkey and stuffing roll	Tuna mayo roll	Sausage Roll
D	Fresh smoothie	Chocolate brownie	Fresh fruit	Cookie	Pip organic fruit lolly

Low Fat Yoghurts, Fresh Fruit, Bread, Water will be available daily, Milk on request.
Gluten Free/Dairy Free/Vegan menu available on request

Lost Property

We have various items, including winter coats, in our Lost Property area.

Please could we ask you to visit the Lost Property area, in the main courtyard, behind the trellis fence next to the school office to see if there are any items belonging to your child.

It would be helpful if parents/carers could come along and have a look to see if any of the unnamed items belong to your child.

If the clothes are not collected, they will be recycled on the Friday 22nd September

School Diary Dates

Wed, 13th Sep	Allotment Visit with Ms Felgate
Mon, 18th Sep	Y6—6pm and 7pm—Pilton Community College Open Evening
Wed, 20th, Thur, 21st OR Fri, 22nd Sept	Y6—Pilton Open Mornings
Thur, 21st Sep	Y6—Park School Open Evening
Mon, 25th, Tue, 26th, Wed, 27th, Thur, 28th OR Fri, 29th Sep	Y6—Park School Open Day (8.50am to 10.40am)
Thur, 28th Sep	Year 3/4 Cross Country Event—Park School
Thur, 12th Oct	Tempest—Individual and Sibling photos (more information to come)
Mon, 16th Oct	Restart a Heart Day (more information to come)

Wow moment

Darcy wanted to share his amazing achievement over the summer.

In the second week of the holidays, Darcy with the support of his mum and grandad, cycled The Dartmoor Way to raise money for North Devon Hospice. This involved him doing a lot of cycling training since May 2023 to learn road safety, how to ride with full panniers on, and cycling, camping overnight, and cycling the following day.

The Dartmoor Way was a 103 mile cycle over 5 days carrying tent, sleeping equipment, clothes and food, cycling elevations in excess of 1000 feet each morning and afternoon. Darcy raised £1,040 for North Devon Hospice and presented a cheque to the CEO of the hospice last week. He awarded Darcy the 'Queens Award for Voluntary Service'.



Orchard Vale Community School Fundraiser



Saturday 16th September 2023
9:30am – 12:00pm

Woodland Walk &
Kids Treasure Hunt



Fun Quiz

Prizes to be won!



5K Run

Guess the weight of
the cake..?

Or just come along
for coffee and cake!



Venue: OV School Hall, Westacott Road, Barnstaple EX32 8QY

DANCING FEET ACADEMY OF DANCE

NEW CLASSES STARTING
THIS SEPTEMBER:

BALLET CLASSES -
Ages 2 - 7

BEGINNERS TAP -
Age 4 +

BEGINNERS MODERN -
Age 4 +

PILTON, BARNSTAPLE

WANT TO JOIN?
EMAIL:

INFO@DANCINGFEETACADEMY.CO.UK



'I read *The Shadow Monster* to my daughter who struggles with OCD and she cried. What a beautiful and well-written book.' (Lisa C - parent).

'This book should be on every ELSA's bookshelf in every school, in every therapist's and counsellor's bag, in every social worker's kit and hopefully on many parents' bookshelves too.' (Maeve B - Therapeutic Specialist Family Practitioner).

'Brilliant book. I'm using it again and again.' (Alison Waterhouse - author and mental health and wellbeing lead. Founder of Circles for Learning)

'I received my copy this week. I've read the first two chapters to my little guys at bedtime ... we're loving it! Great book (Hannah C - parent)

'This is absolutely Wonderful.' (Karen K - Mental health and Wellbeing Manager)

**TALK/WORKSHOP SUITABLE FOR
PARENTS, EDUCATORS and anyone
else with an interest in mental
health**



Local author and UKCP accredited child and adolescent psychotherapist, Hayley Graham, will be joining us at Barnstaple Library to talk about mental health. Hayley has personal experience of mental health difficulties and many years of experience working with children and adults.

BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

FRIDAY 29th September 11am to 1pm

Free resources

Free attendance

Limited places ... book early



'Through stories, *Shadow Monsters and Courageous Hearts* explores mental health challenges such as trauma, OCD, shame and loss. It provides succinct explanations of the challenges and suggests questions related to the stories to facilitate adults to start conversations with children, to further understanding and nurture compassion.'

PETROC



Are you interested in a career supporting children and young people in a school environment?

Our Supporting Teaching and Learning qualifications will put you on the right track!

Our one-year teaching assistant programmes have been designed to support your learning and help you discover and evaluate your natural abilities and skills within the classroom.

Each week, you will undertake between one and three days of school-based placement*, alongside one day of knowledge-based learning at our North Devon campus in Barnstaple.

This blend of theoretical learning and practical placement will allow you to put your new-found knowledge into practice and develop your skills as a future Teaching Assistant.

Whether you're already employed within the sector and are looking to upskill, or would like a change of career - if you have a passion for supporting children's learning, we'll support you every step of the way!

- Level 2 Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning
- Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning

**If you need any support with securing a placement, our assessors will be happy to help.*

"This course allows me to gain the knowledge needed to become an enthusiastic and encouraging teaching assistant, through work experience and knowledge-based coursework assignments. It has given me the ambition to progress onto university and pursue my goal of becoming a primary school teacher"

Holly, Level 3 Diploma in Supporting Teaching and Learning

For more information, please visit our website, petroc.ac.uk or contact our Advice & Guidance Centre, 01271 852422.

Ofsted
Good
Provider



PILTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPEN EVENING

Monday, 18th September 2023

Headteacher talks at 6.00 pm & 7.00 pm

Open Mornings : 20th, 21st & 22nd September at 9.30 am

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK
PLACES AT OUR OPENING
EVENING/MORNINGS



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW OUR
ONLINE PROSPECTUS.



**THE PARK
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**



PARTICIPATION ASPIRATION RESPONSIBILITY KINDNESS

OPEN DAY EVENTS

Open Evening

Thursday 21st September from 5.45pm

Open Days

25th - 29th September Daily 8.50am - 10.40am



Scan here to book your place
and to find out more

