

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 7th February 2025

www.ovschool.co.uk

orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

After enjoying some lovely days of sunshine, we were definitely caught out with the return of the cold mornings. Thank you to all those parents who were so helpful and supportive on Thursday, waiting patiently while we tried to defrost the locks and helping to spread the grit to make the pathways safe. We have put plans in place to hopefully ensure we do not get caught out again.

Our attendance monitoring has shown that attendance is improving, however, we have noticed an increase in lateness and unauthorised holidays taken in term time. We will be sending home letters to remind you to be in school on time and we will be speaking to the children. If you find morning routines a struggle, please talk to your child's class teacher or a member of staff on the gate. Please remember that holidays taken in term time will be unauthorised and may result in a fixed penalty fine issued by Devon County Council.

Once again, I would like to remind you not to park in the staff car park. There has been an improvement but there are still a few offenders who regular park blocking the emergency exits. Please use the turning circle or park in the allocated parking area on the road. Please be patient, kind and considerate to other road users. The car park is in constant use and is not a safe or appropriate place to wait with your children, please wait on the path, and encourage your children to do so as well.

We have celebrated Happy Heart Day today, organised by our amazing School Council. All the children and staff look fantastic in red, and we have raised £202.18 to support the upkeep of our defibrillator. Thank you to those that have donated toward this



Stay warm this weekend.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

Orchard Vale Group/Vista Photographs



Tempest Photograph Orders

Have you ordered your school Group photo yet?

The closing date for free delivery back to school is Tuesday 11th February 2025.

Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk found in the email sent to you recently.

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

World Book Day 2025 Thursday, 6th March

We celebrate World Book Day in school supporting the charity's mission to change lives through a love of books and reading.

This year's theme is 'Read Your Way'.

Children can choose to do 1 or all of these activities if they wish.

- Dress up as your favourite character.
- Draw your favourite character and share this on World Book Day.
- Make your favourite scene from a book and share this on World Book Day (this can be junk modelled or crafted in anyway.)

In the afternoon classes will be paired with a different class to read and share stories.

Extreme Reading Challenge

We will be running the 'Extreme Reading Challenge'. Children can have photos taken of them reading a book somewhere unusual, bizarre or extreme.

Post these photos on Teams or email them to orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk
Prizes will be handed out in a celebratory assembly.

Closing date is Thursday, 6th March.

Access to books

Getting a free £1 book for your child is easy.

Take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for World Book Day £1 book

OR

Use it to get £1 off ANY book/audiobook costing £2.99 or more.

You can find your nearest bookseller at:

[Participating retailers - World Book Day](#)

Check out [World Book Day—For Families](#) for more things to do at home.

We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day,

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mrs Youll's class

Rosie for showing new confidence and being kind and helpful with her peers.

Mrs Oldfield's class

Arthur has blown our socks off this week with his amazing reading. At times Arthur can doubt how clever he is, but with a little bit of encouragement he soon finds the self-confidence to show his incredible new skills. This week Arthur had the tricky task of matching words that rhyme, he absolutely smashed this task, reading words and recognising which of these rhymed with each other. We were so proud of you Arthur, never doubt yourself buddy. You are a super star! Keep up the great work. Mrs Oldfield x

Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the week is Millie. Millie works extremely hard at everything she does. Millie has amazed us with her recent reading and writing. Millie is also super helpful she keeps our classroom very tidy and always helps others. Well done Millie you are a superstar.

Mr Quilter's class

My star of the week is Jasmin! Jasmin is a quite girl who just gets on with daily life and routines at school. She never fusses and is always on task and following instructions well! I have specifically chosen Jasmin this week because of her learning during English lesson. She has worked extremely hard in this area and her non-chronological report writing has been exceptional. Her work is always neat however this week I have seen a real effort regarding layout, presentation and most importantly spelling! Jasmin is an excellent member of my class, she is kind, caring and a role model for others. Keep working hard Jasmin, you are awesome! Mr Q x

Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the week is Reuben P. This week Reuben has really impressed me with his increasing confidence and engagement in his learning. Although he is usually a quieter member of the class, it has been lovely to see him coming out of his shell more this term. Reading in particular is something that requires a lot of hard work and effort from Reuben, and his determination has been evident this week. He has been actively participating in phonics sessions with enthusiasm, and it has been lovely to see him shining in response to praise. This engagement in his learning was also evident in maths, where he impressed me, Mr Quilter and Mrs Clarke by passing his ten times table test. Reuben is a very sweet boy and it is lovely to see him becoming more invested in his progress. Well done, Reuben!

Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the week is Ayero. Ayero is new to our school this week and he has fitted in just perfectly! He has taken part in everything we have done with joy and enthusiasm, even when he has missed previous parts of the learning. He has been happy and smiley every day. He has made new friends and played beautifully on the playground. He has just been a delight to have in class and I am so thrilled that he is part of our class. Thank you, Ayero, for being a brilliant learner and classmate! You are a complete star!

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mr Bayliss' class

Isaac has really impressed me this week with his focus and dedication to his learning. He has taken great care to present his work neatly and has been very careful in following instructions. Isaac has been fully engaged, showing great work ethic in his lessons, always eager to participate and give his best effort. His commitment to doing his best is fantastic. Well done, Isaac! You should be very proud of yourself!

Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Lola. Since returning to school as a year 4, Lola has consistently shown that she is a hard-working and determined young lady. She is becoming such an independent learner, and I can see her confidence growing, particularly in our reading lessons. Lola is a great role model for other children when it comes to our classroom expectations. She has a mature attitude and is always seeking to improve and further her learning. Well done Lola!

Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Brody! Brody has really impressed all the adults he works with this week. He has been trying his best, putting in maximum effort to all tasks. He has been working hard on his handwriting and letter formation as well as his spelling. It is so great to see Brody's positive attitude to school and the success that follows! Well done!

Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Hollie P. She has been putting in lots of effort in her learning, and it is really showing. She always perseveres in class, and this week has shown lots of resilience, climbing up in the 100 club and asking some great questions in our history learning.

Miss Williams' class

This week, I have chosen Harry as my Star of the Week. Harry has shown an incredible sense of maturity in both his learning and on the playground. His dedication to his work has been truly impressive, with a noticeable improvement in his handwriting and a greater focus on presentation. It's fantastic to see the effort he is putting into his learning, staying engaged, and steering clear of distractions. Not only is Harry working hard in the classroom, but he is also demonstrating kindness and responsibility in the playground, setting a great example for his peers. Keep up the great work Harry!

Mrs Scott's class

My star of the week is the wonderful Luna, who is such a lovely member of our class! Luna works hard in all areas, giving everything her very best. She is a keen sportswoman, regardless of whether this is in PE, representing the school at a tournament or in her role as a lunchtime sports leader, whilst also then bringing all of her energy and effort back into the classroom. She is incredibly conscientious - this week, she was out of school for a netball tournament on Wednesday, which meant she missed our Wednesday history lesson, so she chose to spend her morning work time on Thursday catching up on her missed learning. What a star. Overall, Luna is just such a caring member of our school, and a fantastic role model to all. Well done, Luna - you are a superstar.

Years 5/6 Netball Tournament

Well done to the 16 children who represented the school at Park School's netball tournament on Wednesday.

We took 2 teams of Years 5/6 children who both performed really well against some strong opposition.

Orchard Vale Thunder placed 9th and

Orchard Vale Lightning placed 6th after coming 2nd in their group, out of 16 teams.



Wow Moments

Let's Celebrate



'Mr Ovey asked Freddie to wear the school bib whilst he was running the junior park run on Sunday.'

'Freddie was very chuffed he did his PB at 9.11 and came 5th out of 50.'

School Diary Dates

Wed, 12th Feb	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Thur, 13th Feb	Y5/6—Premier League U11 Girls Football Tournament
Fri, 14th Feb	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Mon, 17th to Fri, 21st Feb	Spring Half Term (last day of school is Friday, 14th February)
Mon, 24th Feb	Water Safety Talk by Tarka Leisure Centre—KS1 and KS2
Wed, 5th Mar	Group of Y5—Park School Mid Eighties-Night's Dreams
Thur, 6th Mar	World Book Day (see poster)
Fri, 7th Mar	Y3/4 Girls Football Tournament
Wed, 12th Mar	Park Dance Festival
Fri, 14th Mar	Y6 Rising Stars—Basketball at Pilton Community College
Wed, 19th Mar	Y3/4 U9's Girls Football Tournament
Wed, 26th Mar	Y5/6 U11 Girls Football Tournament
Fri, 28th Mar	Ready Steady Rock Bank Practice
Tues, 1st Apr	Y3/4 Watermouth Castle Trip (details to come)
Wed, 2nd Apr	Y5/6 Boys Football Tournament
Fri, 4th Apr	Ready Steady Rock End of Term Concert
Mon, 7th to Mon, 21st Apr	Easter Holidays (Last day of school Fri, 4th April)
Tue, 22nd Apr	Back to school








Week commencing—Monday, 10th February
Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options

LUNCH MENU – WEEK 1

16th Dec 2024 – 20th Jan - 10th Feb - 10th & 31st Mar 2025



Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bowls, Low Fat Yoghurts, Fruit, Milk and Water available daily. All Special Diets catered for.

	Meat Free Monday	Tasty Tuesday	Roast it up Wednesday	Treat yourself Thursday	Finish it off Friday
	Margherita Pizza	Big Brunch, Sausage, Bacon & Omelette	Roast Chicken & Stuffing	Fish Fingers	Beef Lasagne 
	Jacket Potato with Tuna, Beans or Cheese	Veggie Brunch Sausage & Omelette	Cauliflower & Broccoli Bake	Vegan Nuggets	Cheese & Onion Pasty 
	Pasta & Mixed Vegetables	Tomato, Baked Beans, Mushrooms & Hash Browns	Roast or Mash Potato, Carrots, Cabbage & Gravy	Chips, Pasta, Sweetcorn, Peas & Tomato Sauce	Garlic Bread, Green Beans & Corn on the Cob 
	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Sausage Roll
	Strawberry Mousse with Fruit Coulis	Fruit Cocktail & Ice Cream	Carrot Cake	Fruit Lolly	Flapjack 

Tidiest
Cloakroom
This week was
Mrs Oldfield's
class

Reading Road Champions
Years 1 and 2
Congratulations
to:
Ferne Lauren Aiden
For completing 25 reads
Hallie
For completing 50 reads
Caleb Hendrix Eleanor
For completing 75 reads

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Take your £1 book token to your nearest bookseller and swap it for World Book Day £1 book
OR
Use it to get £1 off ANY book/audiobook costing £2.99 or more.
You can find your nearest bookseller at:
[Participating retailers - World Book Day](#)

Check out [World Book Day—For Families](#) for more things to do at home.

We're very much looking forward to celebrating World Book Day,

ECO
EASTER BONNET
COMPETITION

Create an environmentally
friendly Easter Bonnet!

Drop your entries to the
school hall on the morning
of
Friday 4th April 2025.

Prizes will be awarded in
celebration assembly.



Classroom Experience and Information Events

Event Information

This is an opportunity to gain classroom experience and find out more about SWIFT Teacher Training, our route into teaching, courses and PGCE.

These events are based in one of our partner schools where you will be looked after by an experienced Campus Lead, who will be your host for the session.

Activities could include:

- a guided training walk with the campus lead and school staff
- introduction to observing lessons and different styles of teaching
- seeing how specific subjects are taught
- engaging in learning conversations with colleagues
- learning more about the SWIFT Teacher Training programme
- questions and Next Steps

Who

Educated to degree level; recent graduates, career changers, returners to work; teaching assistants, anyone interested in teaching.

To book

Online booking form [HERE](#)
Or contact: Jo Turnbull
Email: jo.turnbull@sw-ift.org.uk
PLEASE BOOK BY **Wednesday 26 February 2025**



Time and Venue

Phase | Primary/Secondary

SWIFT Teacher Training | North Devon | Pilton Bluecoat C of E Academy | Wednesday 5 March 2025 | 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Pilton Bluecoat C of E Academy | Abbey Road | Barnstaple | EX31 1JU

Although this is a primary school setting, we welcome anyone interested in secondary school teaching, as the information sharing will also include applications for secondary school training, and the Campus Lead can discuss this option further on the day. Any school experience is worthwhile, and a primary school experience will help you to understand the starting points for students in the secondary phase.

Further Information

You can find out more information about future classroom experience and information events [HERE](#).

www.swiftteachertraining.org.uk



BUMPER HALF TERM

SATURDAY 15TH - SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY



Help us to celebrate the Tivvy Bumper's 90th birthday with fun family activities around the museum

Craft sessions

Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th February
10 - 12 Drop in.

£3 per child with paying adult (£2.50 per child with museum member)

Plus: dressing up, train toys and more!

Normal admission applies. Accompanied kids go FREE!

TIVERTON MUSEUM
of Mid Devon Life

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00-4:00
www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk
Beck's Square, Tiverton EX16 6PJ
01884 256295

 
FOLLOW US
@TivertonMuseum
Registered charity 1181976

ENGINE-EERS

FRIDAY 21ST FEBRUARY



Go behind the scenes for an exclusive view of our iconic steam engine from trackside and find out more about the engine through photographs, video and an object handling session.

10.30am – 12pm

Booking essential

£5 per child.

Recommended for age 7+ (normal museum admission applies).

Plus: Design and make a birthday badge to take away with you.

Must be accompanied by an adult

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