

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

## Friday, 23rd May 2025

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### Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

This week the weather has been glorious, and it has been lovely watching the children spend time outdoors and having fun! Our picnic on the field was a massive success today; it was great seeing the children from all age groups mingle and play together. Thank you to all staff members for making this happen at such short notice!

We would like to say well-done to the children selected to represent Orchard Vale in the 'Wilcombe Wobbler', a yearly cross-country running event at Wilcombe School, Tiverton. Collectively the children ran beautifully showing great stamina; it's an extremely difficult course! Orchard Vale finished a fabulous 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, what an amazing achievement against such tough opposition! Congratulations to our Years 5/ 6 girls who came first in their age bracket!

During assembly today, we had a visitor from the charity 'School Readers'. We were able to celebrate the money raised whilst also discussing the importance of reading for pleasure. Shortly after half-term, we are hopeful, we can open our new Reading Shed for the children to enjoy at playtimes and lunchtimes.

We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to Miss Birbeck, a volunteer and cleaner who will be leaving us for her dream job at another setting! Orchard Vale would like to wish her good luck for the future.



This half-term has been a really busy one and the children have certainly deserved the half-term. We hope you have a restful break, and look forward to welcoming you back revitalised and ready for learning on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Fiona Pearce  
Headteacher

### Summer Fayre

As we are preparing for our Summer Fayre, we are looking for the following:

Teddies.

Toys.

Tombola Prizes.

Unwanted Gifts & Smellies.

If you have any of the above, please pass them to the office for  
Mrs Manley





# ★ STARS OF THE WEEK ★

## **Mrs Youll's class**

Molly-Mae for showing new confidence and playing nicely with her peers.

## **Mrs Oldfield's class**

My star of the week is Lyndon. Over this past half term I have been so impressed with Lyndon especially in phonics. Lyndon has flourished in confidence in reading, he listens well during our sound session and is quickly learning the set 2 sounds, he naturally and fluidly blends these when reading and is becoming a fantastic reader. I love how proud and confident Lyndon is when he is reading, she will happily read out loud to the group and loves it when he get a big clap from us all for super speedy reading. Lyndon is also my star because he has just been so funny this last two weeks, making lots of adults laugh with his great sense of humour. Lyndon you are a star, well done buddy. Mrs Oldfield x

## **Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class**

Our star of the week is Elijah. Elijah is a star every week. He always tries his best and he is making fantastic progress. Elijah has fantastic ideas for his drawing club and is being more independent with his writing. Elijah is also a fantastic listener and a great friend to others. Well done Elijah you are a super star.

## **Mr Quilter's class**

My star of the week is Thea. What a fabulous week Thea has had. Thea has shown me just how ready she is to be a year 2. Thea has excelled in her writing this week. She has all of her capital letters in the right places, has used some expanded noun phrases and has the most beautiful handwriting. Thea has also taken feedback from the adults in the room and has applied this into her work, she is constantly looking for ways to improve her writing which is great to see. Thea is small but mighty! She is kind to her friends, polite to everyone and is incredibly hardworking. It has been wonderful to see Thea find a love for writing this week and see her creative side. Thea, you are amazing! – Miss Tillman.

## **Miss Huxtable's class**

My star of the week is Vienna-Rae. In our English sessions this week, we have been having lots of conversations about editing our work and trying to improve as writers. As part of our challenge to write letters home, we were thinking about making exciting vocabulary choices. When I read Vienna's, I was so impressed with how much thought had gone into it! She had selected and correctly used a range of adjectives alongside some of the focus words we had discussed this week. It is so nice to see her taking pride in her work and making such thoughtful decisions about how she can continue to improve and grow. Vienna-Rae has really matured into the role of a Year 2 this year and is kind, helpful, and a great learner. Keep it up, superstar!

## **Mrs Grimwood's class**

My star of the week is Riley. Riley has been waiting a long time for this but there was one particular area he has had to work on and this week he finally succeeded. Riley is a confident learner. He is doing well with his reading, his writing and his maths. The one area that Riley has really needed to improve was his transition times and sitting on the carpet. At these moments, Riley tends to get a bit overexcited and likes to entertain the crowd. We had a talk a few weeks ago about targeting this area to achieve Star of the Week. And this week he has made it! It has taken a little while to get this area under control but I have felt a slightly calmer and more settled Riley makes an even better learner. I am so proud of how hard you have worked for this, Riley and so pleased to name you Satr of the Week! Well done!

# ★ STARS OF THE TERM ★

## **Mr Bayliss' class**

Harry has worked hard this week to stay focused on his tasks and demonstrate his full potential. He consistently produces high-quality work and challenges himself in his learning. Harry listens carefully to instructions in class and often shows his understanding by asking thoughtful and interesting questions. Harry has been a great team player, looking out for his classmates and making sure everyone is included in the lunchtime rugby club games this week. Well done, Harry! Keep it up.

## **Mrs Johnson's class**

My Star of the Week is Belle. Belle has amazed me this year with her 'can-do' attitude; she always works so hard and completes every task set with determination. Although Belle is full of personality, in lessons she works quietly and conscientiously, always trying to improve her learning and challenge herself. Outside of lessons, Belle is bubbly, cheeky and funny and is a pleasure to have in our class. This week Belle has particularly impressed me with her independent writing, taking on board everything we have been learning to produce a lovely Norse myth! Well done Belle - you are a little superstar!

## **Mr Whapham's class**

Reggie has been an absolute star this week in his phonics lessons! He has joined a new group and showed that he can focus and concentrate during the lessons. He is using his Fred Talk to help him with his sounding out and he is reading in front of the class! Reggie is enjoying reading and enjoying being successful! All the adults who work with you are super impressed with your progress! Well done!

## **Mrs Ledger's class**

My star of the week is Lilly Hooper. She has worked exceptionally hard this week on her writing, and has really impressed us all with her dedication and perseverance.

## **Miss Williams' class**

My Star of the Week is Noah! This week, Noah has really impressed me with his attitude to learning—especially with things being a little out of routine. While school isn't always his favourite place, it's been brilliant to see him so engaged in lessons and producing good quality work. He's also been a positive presence on the playground, playing happily with friends and steering clear of any negative choices. It's also been lovely to see him showing real respect to both staff and classmates, while still being his determined, confident self. Well done, Noah—we're really proud of you!

## **Mrs Scott's class**

Luna is my star this week, as, really, she could be my star always. Luna puts her absolute all into everything she does, and it is a privilege to watch her grow, succeed and shine. No challenge is too big for Luna, whether this is sporting, SATs or, most recently, in her writing, where I have been pushing and extending her to explore how she can write from different viewpoints, with the voices of her characters so noticeably developed. Luna is also just such a pleasure to have in the classroom. Well done, Luna - you are wonderful.



Reading Road Champions

Years 1 and 2

**Congratulations  
to:**

**Leighton**

For completing 25 reads

**Carter**

For completing 50 reads

**Alice**

For completing 150 reads

Intergalactic Reading Challenge

Years 3 and 4

**Congratulations to:**

**Maya**

For completing—Planet 1—Neptune

**Mila Heath**

For completing—Planet 3—Saturn

**Mila**

For completing - Planet 4— Jupiter

**Mila**

For completing—Planet 5— Mars



## Annual Wilcombe Wobbler

Orchard Vale took part in a cross country competition this week at Wilcombe School, Tiverton. The children competed against a range of schools from within Harbour School Partnership. The individual raced positions counted towards a team total and all the children ran brilliantly.

A special well done to Lily-Mae (1st) and Olivia (3rd) who placed in medal positions.



Our Year 5/6 girls won their team race, scoring an impressive combined total pints of just 8!

## Happy Hoppers in Mrs Oldfield's Class

Over the past few months, we have enjoyed learning about and caring for, our class frogs. Last Friday, we were able to release them into our sensory garden. We released three frogs and one froglet. We named the frogs Hoppy, Spot and Tiny. The Froglet was named Nearly - as he was not quite a full frog.

We are checking in on them daily and we all think they are very happy in their new home.





## School Diary Dates

Fri, 26th to Fri, 30th May	HALF TERM
Wed, 4th June	Y5/6 Top Up Swimming Lessons
Wed, 4th June	Wimbledon Parent Briefing
Thurs, 5th to Fri, 6th June	Y3/4—Sleeping with the Sharks
Wed, 11th June	Y5/6 Top Up Swimming Lessons
Wed, 11th June	Reception—Caffyn's Farm Visit
Thurs, 12th June	Olympic Legacy Festival—Park School
Mon, 16th to Fri, 20th	Y5/6 Heatree Residential
Thur, 19th June	Nursery—Exmoor Zoo Keeper visit
Tues, 24th June	Oral Health Visit—Reception/KS1
Wed, 25th June	Y5/6 Top Up Swimming Lessons
Wed, 25th June	Y5—Cricket (details to come)
Wed 25th June	Summer Fayer—4pm to 6pm
Tue, 1st July	Y6 Park School transition workshops
Wed, 2nd July	Y6 Pilton Transition Day

**Week commencing— Monday, 2nd June**

**Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options**

**PLEASE NOTE AMENDMENT TO PACKED LUNCH ON MONDAY AND MAIN OPTION ON WEDNESDAY**

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div> <h3 style="margin: 0;">LUNCH MENU – WEEK 3</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">2<sup>nd</sup> June</p> <p style="margin: 0; color: #e91e63;">Available Every Week - Wholemeal Bread, Salad Bar, Fruit, Low Fat Yoghurts, Milk and Water available daily. All Special Diets catered for.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;">   </div> </div>				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese Topped Sweet Pepper & Sweetcorn Pasta	Chicken & Butternut Squash Curry with Wholemeal Rice	Toad in the Hole	Breaded Fish Fillet	Hot Dog in a Finger Bun
	Quorn Stir Fry & Noodles	Summer Vegetable Crumble	Vegetable Nuggets	Veggie Sausage in a Finger Bun
Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	Jacket Potato with Various Fillings		Jacket Potato with Various Fillings	
Cheese Sandwich (Wholemeal Bread)	Pizza Muffin	Cheese & Tomato Sandwich (Wholemeal Bread)	Ham Bap	Sausage Roll
Sweetcorn & Peas	Mixed Vegetables	Roast or Mash Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetable & Gravy	Chips or Pasta, Peas or Carrot Sticks & Tomato Ketchup	Potato Wedges, Baked Beans & Green Beans
Fruit Crunch Pot	"ABC" Cake	Ice Cream Pots	Cookie & Milkshake	Chocolate Brownie



## Summer Holidays DCC Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

If your child is eligible to benefit related Free School Meals don't forget to check the Devon County Council Holiday Activities and Food Fund program for activities you can try and book for your child in the summer holidays using the HAF code you were given.

See links below:

Devon County Council - [Click here for how to access the programme](#)

Guide on how to book - [Click here to see how to book a HAF session.](#)





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BARNSTAPLE LIBRARY

## MAY HALF TERM EVENTS:

### Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May:

Drop-in Craft Session - 10.00am - 12.00pm - FREE

### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May:

LEGO SPIKE - 2.00pm - 4.00pm - £2.50 Per person  
Booking Essential

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> May:

The Thing About Goats: A Baby Panda Production  
Room 3B - 11.30am & 1.00pm (Run time 30 Minutes)  
£3.00 Per person - Booking Essential

### Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May:

Breakfast & Craft Club - 9.30am - 11.00am - FREE - Drop-in

LEGO SPIKE - 2.00pm - 4.00pm - £2.50 Per person  
Booking Essential

### Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May:

LEGO Builders - 2.00pm - 4.00pm - FREE - Drop-in

The Mushroom Show with Scratchworks Theatre  
2.00pm - 3.15pm - Room 3B - Adult ticket £10, Child ticket £5

To book: Call 01271 318780 or visit Barnstaple Library

Libraries  
Unlimited

## The Mushroom Show

Barnstaple Library 3B | Sat 31 May | 14.00 - 15.15  
Adults £10 | Children £5

With **Scratchworks Theatre**. Explore the fabulous world of fungi, uncovering the scientific superpowers and amazing abilities of mushrooms!



Scan the QR code

Get tickets via Eventbrite, in person at  
Barnstaple Library or tel **01271 318780**



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## May Term Activities

26<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> June

### Family Fun Swims

Inflatables, slides and mats.  
At least one session per day!

### Under 5's Splash

Under 5s go FREE. One hour sessions.  
Weds & Fri AM, Sat PM.

### Mini Water Polo

One hour session for 6-15 year  
olds. Tues PM.

### Monofin & Mermaids

Two hour experience for 6 years plus,  
must meet swim test criteria. Weds PM

Plus our regular weekly  
**Public Swims, Aqua Classes  
& Disability Swim**

More Information  
[smartsimcentre.co.uk](http://smartsimcentre.co.uk)  
01769 572340

**SMART Swim Centre**  
Mill Street  
South Molton  
EX36 4AS

**SMART**  
SOUTH MOLTON AQUATICS, RECREATION & TRAINING

## FINE ART MAY HOLIDAY WORKSHOP!

27<sup>th</sup> &/or 28<sup>th</sup> May 10am-12pm  
£15 per class

Taught by Emmylou, a professional artist,  
students will learn how to create their  
very own masterpiece!



TO BOOK GO TO  
[WWW.AURORASHINEONLINE.COM](http://WWW.AURORASHINEONLINE.COM)  
[E@EMMYLOUART.COM](mailto:E@EMMYLOUART.COM) / 07949293463

**The White Room Creative Space**  
50 Commonmarsh Lane  
Crediton, Devon, EX17 1DN  
07422712894  
[info@whiteroomdevon.co.uk](mailto:info@whiteroomdevon.co.uk)

**THE  
WHITE  
ROOM**  
CREATING THE FUTURE





Here to help with energy advice

**We know the school holidays can be an expensive time.**

Our dedicated energy team can run through tips to help you cut your bills, check your entitlement for benefits or see if you can claim any grants.

**If you're on a prepayment meter, we might also be able to issue you with vouchers to keep you topped up over the holidays.**



01237 879233



[www.citizensadviceetnmwd.org.uk/energyadvice](http://www.citizensadviceetnmwd.org.uk/energyadvice)



Torridge, North,  
Mid & West Devon

