

Orchard Vale's Weekly News

Friday, 7th March 2025

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Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

It has been such a busy week and we have been exceptionally lucky to have the weather on our side for it. Mr Ovey and Mr Whapham ran a highly successful cross-country event for the Key Stage 2 children on Wednesday. Thank you to all the staff involved in making this event happen. The children enjoyed the longer course, and it certainly challenged their abilities. They all participated with enthusiasm and were determined to finish.

Our year 3 and 4 girls took part in a football festival with a carousel of football skills and practiced their teamwork at the Tarka Leisure Centre. They all had a fun time and were brilliant representatives of Orchard Vale. The Year 5 children were extremely fortunate to be invited to Park School to watch their production of A Mid-Eighties Summer Night's Dream. The children were really impressed by the quality of the production and saw some well-known faces in the cast.

A huge thank you to everyone who dressed up yesterday to help us celebrate World Book Day. We had such an amazing day. There was great excitement in the air and the children swapped classes in the afternoon to read to each other. We even managed to squeeze a fancy-dress parade in so the children could see each other's costumes. The Extreme Reading Challenge received a record number of entries and gave the judges a very difficult decision. In my eyes, all the children are winners with their enthusiasm for books and keenness to read.



A final thanks for your patience and the support you showed at the beginning of the week regarding school meals. We have been experiencing staff shortages in our kitchen making it a little challenging to provide a lunch service. This is hopefully now sorted with the service returning to its usual high standard and children continuing to enjoy their dinners.

Fiona Pearce
Headteacher

A colorful poster for an Eco Easter Bonnet Competition. The background is white with colorful confetti and illustrations of Easter bunnies and baskets. The text is in purple and pink.

**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.

Change to online payment method

From the end of April this year we will be moving our online payment system for meals, trips, breakfast and afterschool provision etc. over to the Arbor App.

Parent Pay will not be accessible to you after 30th April.



Please ensure you have activated your Arbor App so that you are ready to go when the payment option goes live.

Please could we ask you to bring all outstanding balances for meals, childcare provision, Little Seeds and Nursery fees up-to-date on Parent Pay before this change over.

Check if your child is eligible for free school meals and additional funding support

All children in reception, year 1 and year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals.

However, parents and guardians are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning.

From year 3 onwards, children whose parents are getting any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment you get for a further 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

How to apply

Apply through the [Devon Citizens Portal](#). This is the quickest and easiest way to apply and will result in you getting an instant decision. Alternatively, call the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

STARS OF THE WEEK

Mrs Youll's class

Arle for starting to embrace forest school activities and doing well saying goodbye to Mum and Dad each morning.

Mrs Oldfield's class

Harrison is the complete package! He is hard working, considerate and resilient. Over the past couple of weeks, I have watched Harrison work hard to improve his handwriting, use set 3 sounds in writing, and he has also really impressed me with his choice of exciting adjectives to describe his incredible drawings. Harrison is a keen mathematician, and he has greatly impressed us with his knowledge of the tens times table. I loved Harrison's choice of character for World Book Day, and he made laugh out loud when asked why he choose to come as James from James and the Giant Peach. "Because I wanted to get my clothes all muddy." You are amazing Harrison! Keep up the great work buddy. Mrs Oldfield x

Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the week is Arlo. We have all noticed Arlo trying hard in everything he does recently. Arlo is making fantastic progress with his reading and writing. He is also trying really hard at listening on the carpet and listening to his friends. Well done Arlo, you are a superstar.

Mr Quilter's class

My star of the week is Isobel! This week especially, I have noticed how independent Isobel has become. She now works unsupported in some areas of the curriculum and is lovely seeing her self-confidence grow! This week Isobel has become an author. She has planned her story effectively and I look forward to seeing what she produces when putting her ideas together. Her writing stamina has improved, and her ideas have been well thought out and full of imagination. Isobel is a kind caring girl and is a delight to have in class. She works hard and always tries her best. Keep up the wonderful work Isobel, you are a superstar! Mr Q x

Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the week is Sienna. Mrs Dunn, Mrs Slee and I have all been very impressed with Sienna this week noticing her maturity and effort to make the right choices. Sienna likes to be trusted to take on responsibility, and she has shown us this week what a thoughtful and hardworking class member she can be. Sienna takes real pride in her learning, and I can always count on her to put in a great level of effort to present her work in a beautiful and neat manner. This week, Sienna has really shone in her friendships. When her friends needed help yesterday, she went above and beyond to make sure they had everything they need without expecting anything in return. Sienna, you have such a big heart, and we love having you in our class. Keep being amazing!

Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the week is Gwendoline. I have noticed lately that Gwendoline is settling down to her learning really well and has increased her quantity. She generally produces work of very good quality but sometimes there has been very little and I am really pleased to see her focusing so well. Gwendoline is an imaginative and creative person, and she has lots of great ideas. It is wonderful to see these all flowing out of her. She is also doing well in her maths and phonics. It is lovely to see Gwendoline coming in to school happily and going about everything with such joy! You are a star; Gwendoline and it is lovely to see you doing such great learning.



STARS OF THE WEEK

Mr Bayliss' class

Bella has been a star this week! She has put a lot of effort into her writing in English and has been excellent at listening and following classroom expectations. Bella is always ready to help out around the classroom, working as a great team player in our class. She has also been very kind and friendly to her classmates, making everyone feel welcome. Well done, Bella! Keep up the great work!

Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Corey. Corey is a lovely boy who has settled well into KS2. This week he has really shown me his determination by talking to me about his times tables. He wants to improve his recall, and we had a long chat about finding ways to remember the facts. He was keen to try this out and spent a lot of time in morning work practising. Because of his hard work, he improved his score for the second week running and I am so proud of his attitude, striving to get better and better to achieve his goal. Corey, you are a true learning superstar! Keep going; never give up!

Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Elana! Elana has had a great week, trying hard in her learning and showing great understanding. It has also been great to see Elana around school with a great, big smile on her face, showing a positive attitude towards school. Keep working hard Elana, you a real star!

Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Cole. He has shown a mature and sensible attitude this week and can be a great role model. He takes his role as sports leader seriously and is a reliable member of the class. He gets involved in lessons and strives to do the right thing at the right time. Well done, Cole!

Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Week is the wonderful Cheryl. I can't believe I haven't given Cheryl Star of the Week yet! She is such an incredible member of our class, and this recognition is so well deserved. Cheryl is an enthusiastic, confident, and motivated learner who always brings a fantastic energy to our lessons. She is eager to contribute ideas, share her thoughts, and engage in discussions with curiosity and excitement. Her passion for learning is truly inspiring! Not only is Cheryl a fantastic student, but she is also a kind, caring, and thoughtful friend to everyone in the class. She always treats others with respect and brings positivity to our classroom every single day. Cheryl, thank you for your hard work, your kindness, and your enthusiasm. Keep it up!

Mrs Scott's class

I have chosen Freddie as our class' star this week, as he always works hard in all subjects, as well as being such a lovely member of our class! Freddie is a caring member of Year 5/6, and I know he has been working hard on this at home too. Freddie has had a great week, this week, with a fantastic performance in our KS2 cross country event! Well done, Freddie - keep working hard.

World Book Day at OV



World Book Day—Extreme Reading

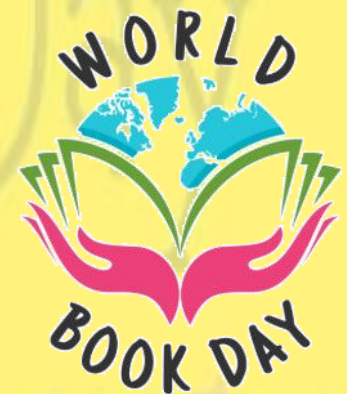
It was wonderful to receive so many entries for the Extreme Reading Competition for World Book Day. Judging the winners was a very hard job.

Well done to the winners:

Little Seeds	Benji	Year 1	Bea Thea L Molly L Hallie P	Year 3	Ruby C Isla B
Nursery	Rowan			Year 4	Renzo
Reception	Ivy F			Year 5	Toby G Theo C
				Year 6	Ella-Rose



World Book Day



Orchard Vale Key Stage 2 Cross Country

On Wednesday, the children in Key Stage 2 took part in a cross country race through the school grounds and around the local estate. You may have seen us whilst you were out and about. Thank you to our staff members who marshalled the course and a huge well done to all the children.

Well done to:

	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Y3/4 Girls	Heidi T	Pippa	Sophia
Y3/4 Boys	Renzo	Arthur L	Arlo
Y5/6 Girls	Lily-Mae C	Olivia T	Sofia
Y5/6 Boys	Freddie E	Charlie	Archie



Park School—Mid-Eighties Summer Night's Dream

On Wednesday, Year 5 were fortunate to be invited to watch Park School's production of "A Mid-Eighties Night's Dream". It was very exciting to see the school hall set up with a stage and seating, and to watch the students performing.

The production combined Shakespeare's text with a medley of well-known songs from the 80s - quite a mix! It was an impressive show, with music, dance and amazing costumes, and it was a pleasure to see so many previous OV pupils taking leading roles. Perhaps it will inspire some of our Year 5s to take to the stage!



Wow Moments

Let's Celebrate



Lily attended her first English Championships in February. Taking it all in her stride!

There were 52 competitors, ranging from age 11 - 13 years old, with Lily being the youngest in the competition.

She placed a fantastic 9th overall on Uneven Bars, and a very respectable 22nd All Around counting a couple of falls.

She is now ready for the British Championships in Liverpool in 2 weeks.

Tidiest
Cloakroom
This week was
Mrs Oldfield's
class

Reading Road Champions
Years 1 and 2

Congratulations
to:

Oliver G Mia

For completing 25 reads

Charlie

For completing 50 reads

Niamh George

Mason Eli S

For completing 75 reads

Caleb Leo S

For completing 100 reads

Tri-Reading Tournament Champ

Years 5 and 6

Congratulations to:

Sasha-Mai

For reaching 25 reads

Megan

For reaching 50 reads

The 100 Club

Well done

to the following children in our
times tables challenge

Layla Cheryl

Gold Award

Toby Jenson P

Rory W Alicja

Silver Award

Theo C

Bronze Award

School Diary Dates

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, 21s Apr	Easter Holidays (Last day of school Fri, 4th April)
Tue, 22nd Apr	Back to school
Wed, 23 Apr	Y2 Tennis Festival—Tarka Leisure Centre
Mon, 5th May	Bank Holiday (back to school on Tue, 6th May)
Tue, 6th May	Y2—Northam Burrows trip
Wed, 7th May	Y1 Multi-skills Festival—Park School
Thur, 8th May	Y1—Northam Burrows trip
Fri, 16th May	Y3 Cricket Skills Festival
Wed, 21st May	Wilcombe Wobbler Cross Country (details to come)
Fri, 23rd May	Aquathlon, Torrington
Fri, 23rd May	Y6 and Reception—National Child Measurement

Week commencing—Monday, 10th March

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



Food to excite
ventrus
Catering for your children's education

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 

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Are you a parent or guardian of a school-age child?
 Help us understand your perspective on mental health support in schools!

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

We are conducting a study to explore parents' and other caregivers' perceptions of the provision of mental health support within the Whole School Approach (WSA), as well as their involvement in mental health support provided in schools.

Whole-school mental health approaches involve strategies and practices that support the mental health and wellbeing of the entire school community, including students, staff, and families, through preventative and universal support measures.

Your feedback will help improve mental health support for students and families.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Complete a short 20-minute anonymous online survey. Share your valuable experiences and insights.

Your participation is voluntary, and all responses will remain confidential.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Your voice matters! This research aims to:

- Support schools in better engaging parents.
- Help reduce barriers to mental health support.
- Foster a healthier, more supportive school environment for children.

Ready to Participate? Scan Here to Take the Survey





University of Exeter

For questions or more information, contact: Anais Ng at yn275@exeter.ac.uk

EASTER ACTIVITY DAYS



Primary Sports and Education North Devon

5-11 YEAR OLDS

STICKLEPATH COMMUNITY PRIMARY ACADEMY

8.30AM-3.30PM

BOOK NOW

Monday 7th April	Monday 14th April
Tuesday 8th April	Tuesday 15th April
Wednesday 9th April	Wednesday 16th April
Thursday 10th April	



HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK!

For More information, contact us :

-  north.devon@primary-sports.co.uk
-  www.primary-sports.co.uk
-  07531530131




ORCHARD VALE SCHOOL CAKE SALE

Raised **£126.52**