

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

## Friday, 17th January 2025

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orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk



### Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

The children have enjoyed being back in school and have adapted back to routines after the Christmas break. We have been busy completing assessments throughout the school to check on progress and ensure the curriculum requirements are being met. Children have enjoyed these and have risen to the challenge showing us their skills and knowledge. A huge well-done to all.

It is lovely to see the days beginning to get longer, however the weather conditions are still very changeable and challenging. Children need to have coats in school and to be appropriately dressed for all weather conditions. Other resources children may need are wellington boots (for forest school), PE kits (especially trainers), and reading books. These are all essential to ensure your child accesses the curriculum fully and has everything they need to be successful.

During drop off and collection times, we have noticed some parents are leaving their engines running with children left alone inside the car. Please could we ask you to stay with your children at all times. If you need to come into school, make sure your car is parked safely and courteously, turn the engine off and bring any children with you. Please note the staff car park is for staff use only and is not a safe place for children to wait or play in. If you arrive early, it is important that you monitor your children and ensure they are waiting safely on the path.

Several parents have mentioned there is a considerable amount of dog faeces on the zig zag path. Please encourage the dog owning community in Whiddon Valley to ensure they clear up after their dogs and dispose of this appropriately.

Starting next week, the Coffee Cabin will be open on Wednesday mornings and afternoons. We are looking for volunteers. If you would like to support the opening of this resource at other times during the week, please contact the school office.



Have a lovely weekend

Fiona Pearce  
Headteacher

### Orchard Vale Class photos

Reception and Year 6 Vista Photos  
Tuesday, 21st January



Tempest Photography Visit

Please could you send your child into school in their full school uniform. You may like to provide them with a comb/brush for them to use prior to their photo sessions.

#### Class Photos

Tempest Photography will be visiting us on Tuesday, 21st January to take class photos throughout the day.

#### Reception and Year 6

Tempest will be taking vista photos of the children in Reception and Year 6 as a memento of the first or last year at Orchard Vale.

Proofs of these photos will be sent out to you once these have been received from Tempest for you to place any orders online.



ventrus  
Multi Academy Trust

**Open Evening - Reception Class of 2025**

**Wednesday 22nd January 2025**

**4pm-5pm**

**Undecided on your child's Reception place? Come and see us for our last open evening!!**

Is your child due to start in Reception class, September 2025?

If so, we would like to invite prospective parents to visit our wonderful school.

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.



# STARS OF THE WEEK

## **Mrs Youll's class**

Ivy, for settling in quickly at nursery, demonstrating good communication and independence.

## **Mrs Oldfield's class**

Skye is amazing, she greets everyday with the most beautiful smile which follows her through the whole day. This week we have really noticed how much effort and attention Skye is giving to her Phonics and Reading sessions. Skye never gives less than 100% and we are now seeing all this hard work pay off, she is much more fluid in her reading and is recognising and using more and more set three sounds in her writing. You are amazing Skye, keep up the fantastic work. Mrs Oldfield and Mrs Owen x

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

Elliot is our star of the week. Elliot always works hard in everything he does. He listens well and asks fantastic questions. Elliot is always willing to help and is fantastic at tidy up time. Elliot is a great friend and always looks after others. Well done Elliot, you are a superstar.

## **Mr Quilter's class**

Ferne has been an absolute super star this week! She is a pleasure to have in class all of the time! Ferne has worked so hard in all areas of her learning this week especially in her Maths which she sometimes finds tricky. Ferne has also put in 100% effort with her rhyming work in English. Her confidence and self-belief has been really evident and I have loved watching her attack her learning with energy and effort. Mr Quilter has unfortunately been off school this week, and we have all missed him. Ferne has really stepped up and been so helpful in helping me while he has been away. She has also been a fantastic, caring friend to lots of children who have found it a bit tricky without Mr Quilter. Ferne is an excellent role model; she is kind, considerate and caring! All attributes that I would expect from a star of the week. You are amazing Ferne, keep up the hard work and you will continue to shine! Miss Snell x

## **Miss Huxtable's class**

My star of the week is Erin. Erin is a consistently hard worker and follows classroom routines beautifully. What has really blown me away over the last 2 weeks is Erin's writing. You can tell Erin is an excellent reader, because her ideas are always crafted like a story. She uses exciting adjectives and punctuation beyond her years to get her ideas down on the page in an engaging way. When I read Erin's work, everyone laughs at me because it makes me squeal with joy! It has also been lovely to see Erin branching out more socially this term and becoming more confident to share her ideas and news in the classroom. Erin, you are a pleasure to teach! Well done superstar.

## **Mrs Grimwood's class**

My star of the week is Aiden. I was thinking about the journey Aiden has made from the beginning of year 1 until now and it is AMAZING! He has made such huge progress and he has just done it by working and working and working. In particular, this week he has really impressed me with his maths. It is an area Aiden has had to work hard at and there has been much confusion on the way, but this week I can see things are really starting to fall into place and he has been working much more independently and confidently. Aiden, your attitude to learning is just fabulous. You have not given up and you just keep looking forward and pressing on. You are a total star and I am so proud of everything you have achieved. Keep on being such a brilliant learner.



# STARS OF THE WEEK

## Mr Bayliss' class

A big well done to Alfie this week! Alfie has tried incredibly hard to complete harder tasks in our English lessons and to persevere and solve tricky challenges in science. Alfie has shown brilliant classroom expectations, listening well and following instructions carefully. He has put in super effort to be polite, showing good manners around the school. Well done, Alfie! Keep up the fantastic effort!

## Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Hugo. Hugo, I don't think I have ever been asked so many questions in my 18 years of teaching! Your hand is always up and your catch phrase is always 'I have two things to ask'. I love the way your mind works – always thinking deeper about every topic, always wanting to know more. The conversations you bring to the class are always so interesting and often make the other children in the class think about new ideas. You define what it is to be an amazing learner, and I hope you never change! Keep being curious – you are a total superstar!

## Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Heath! Heath has had a great week, showing a positive attitude to learning and really pushing himself in his learning. Heath has had his hand up more and has been actively engaged in class discussions. He has also started to show his jokey sense of humour more and has developed some really good friendships. Keep working hard Heath.

## Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Nori. She is always one of the first to settle down to a task and gives everything a go. She is helpful and considerate to her peers and can always be relied upon to be doing the right thing at the right time. This week she has shown great resilience and coped well with change. Well done, Nori!

## Miss Williams' class

My Star of the Week is the fantastic Olivia H. Olivia has truly wowed me with her resilience and determination during testing. Despite the challenges, she has approached every task with a positive attitude and unwavering focus. It has been wonderful to see Olivia's personality shining through in lessons. Her confidence is growing, with her hand shooting up to contribute thoughtful answers. She's also been spreading smiles and laughter with her peers and the staff, creating such a warm and uplifting atmosphere in the classroom. In her writing, she has produced some fantastic work, taking extra care to ensure her sentences are clear, make sense, and are punctuated correctly. Keep up the excellent work Olivia!

## Mrs Scott's class

I have chosen Spencer as my star this week, although, really, he could be every single week. Spencer is fortunate in that learning does come easily to him on many occasions, however I am proud of him because he is always questioning his learning and pushing himself further. He knows there is always more to learn and ways to improve! Spencer listens carefully to all directed input, evidenced by how he uses words, phrases and ideas from both myself and his classmates in his work - the sign of a fantastic learner. Well done, Spencer, and keep up this great approach to learning - it will take you far.

## School Diary Dates

Tue, 21st Jan	Class Photos / Reception and Y6 Vista Photos
Wed, 22nd Jan	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Wed, 22nd Jan	Sept 2025 Reception Starter Open Evening—4pm to 5pm
Thur, 23rd Jan	Reception Vision Screening Test
Fri, 24th Jan	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Fri, 24th Jan	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics—Park School
Wed, 29th Jan	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Fri, 31st Jan	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Wed, 5th Feb	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Fri, 7th Jan	Ready Steady Rock Band Practice
Wed, 12th Feb	Y4—Group 2 swimming lessons
Thur, 13th Feb	Y5/6—Premier League U11 Girls Football
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)
Thur, 6th Mar	World Book Day (more information to come)
Wed, 12th Mar	Park Dance Festival
Fri, 14th Mar	Y6 Rising Stars—Basketball at Pilton Community College

### Week commencing—Monday, 20th January

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

#### LUNCH MENU – WEEK 1

16<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024 – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan - 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - 10<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> 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 

### Year 3/4 PE—Creative Golf Challenge

The children in years 3 and 4 were challenged to create their own golf course in PE this morning. There were some very imaginative ones. Everyone played a round on each course. Well done everyone.



## 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 whether they would like to dress up as a favourite character, wear your comfortable bedtime reading pyjamas, and so on - however you choose to read!

We will be running the 'Extreme Reading Challenge'.

Children can have photos taken of them reading a book somewhere unusual, bizarre or extreme.

They can post these photos on Teams or email them to [orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk](mailto: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, which could not happen without the support of parents and carers.

Thank you.

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