

# Orchard Vale's Weekly News

## Friday, 31st January 2025

[www.ovschool.co.uk](http://www.ovschool.co.uk)

[orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk](mailto:orchardvale@ventrus.org.uk)



### Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Guardians

It has been lovely to see the sunshine today, hopefully we are through the worst of the storms now. Days are getting longer, and we will get outside more as the weather hopefully improves.

The School Council are encouraging us all to think about our heart health next week. We will come together celebrating Healthy Heart Day on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Council members will be sharing ideas on how to exercise our hearts, eat healthy and be mindful of our well-being. Children are invited to wear red to school on Friday and make a small donation to raise funds towards the maintenance of our Defibrillator. In the two years since the Defib was installed it has been used 3 times for medical emergencies by the community. It is such a valued resource for our families and neighbours in Whiddon Valley.

Once children have been dismissed to parents/carers at the end of the school day they must be supervised at all times by that adult. School staff are not responsible for your children once they have been collected. Children are welcome to use the playground equipment but should be fully supervised by an adult to avoid accidents or misuse. The gates are closed at 3.30pm, to allow Mr Ovey and his afterschool sports clubs to use the playground, so please make a swift exit.

We are aware that some families use the school run as an opportunity to walk their dogs. We ask that dogs should not be left unattended or if they are then they should be tied securely to the rings on the far side of the garage. Please keep your dogs (however friendly) away from the school entrance/exit as some of our younger children find them scary especially if they are noisy.

Attendance monitoring continues and some of you may receive letters about your child's attendance next week. We want to work with you to improve your child's attendance at school and understand any issues that may stand in the way. If you are invited to a meeting, please make sure you attend so that we can facilitate this.

We hope the sun continues to shine this weekend.



Fiona Pearce  
Headteacher

# STOP!

you are now entering a

# nut free zone

please DO NOT bring nuts into this area



**FOODS CONTAINING PEANUTS OR TREE NUTS ARE NOT PERMITTED**

Please can we request that parents and carers assist us in making the school a nut-free zone.

Please do not include nuts in packed lunches/snacks.

Items that should not be brought into school are:

Packs of nuts  
Peanut butter

Fruit and cereal bars containing nuts  
Chocolate bars/sweets containing nuts  
Sesame seed rolls

(Sesame can cause a severe reaction)

Cakes made with nuts  
Nutella/Hazelnut spread

(or other chocolate spread containing nuts)

FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

## Wear Red Day



**WEAR RED TO SUPPORT AWARENESS OF HEART DISEASE.**

**DONATIONS WELCOME TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DEFIBRILLATOR**

# STARS OF THE WEEK

## Mrs Youll's class

Olivia for showing improved independence and making new friends.

## Mrs Oldfield's class

My star of the week is Lyndon. Over the past month we have seen Lyndon really come out of his shell. Lyndon is a sponge to learning, he shows a fantastic level of enthusiasm for everything we do, he is often the first person to pop his hand up to share his ideas. Lyndon has greatly impressed us with his knowledge of sounds in phonics, and he is now working really hard to put these into words during our English sessions. Lyndon you are a little star; it is easy to see why you are such a popular boy in our class. Keep up the amazing work Buddy. Mrs Oldfield

## Miss Cawthorne/Mrs De-Ritis' class

Our star of the week is Ellie- Mae. Ellie-Mae comes to school every day with a great enthusiasm to learn. She always tries her best and works extremely hard. Ellie-Mae is a kind girl who always looks after her friends. Well done, Ellie- Mae you are a superstar.

## Mr Quilter's class

My star of the week is Caleb! Caleb works extremely hard in school. I sometimes forget he is only a year 1 as often his work is of such a good standard. Caleb although quiet in school, has a fun and cheeky personality. He is a great character in class and a really good friend to all! Caleb is making good progress academically; he loves to learn and always shows a good attitude towards the work and challenges set. You are an asset to my classroom Caleb, keep up the hard work Caleb! Mr Q, Miss Snell, Mrs Clarke x

## Miss Huxtable's class

My star of the week is our little miss Margot! Since Christmas, Margot has found mornings tricky and saying goodbye to Mummy can be really hard! This week, Margot has shown resilience in these moments. Even on days where she is finding the morning drop off tricky, she has taken ownership over her morning routine and has been showing us she knows what she can do to distract herself and start her day with a smile. This week, she has also had to adapt with some changes to routine, and I am proud of how well she has coped with this. In learning time, her sitting and listening has really stood out and it has been so lovely to see her so engaged. Armed with her cheeky smile and infectious giggle, we all love having Margot around! Keep going Margot!

## Mrs Grimwood's class

My star of the week is Mia. Mia is my little pocket rocket. She is a bundle of energy and sunshine. She bounds into school every day and bounces through the day. It is rare there is not a smile on Mia's face. Mia is a great learner. She listens well to what is required and is committed to giving her very best. Mia loves to tidy and organise and help. She is often putting things away, sorting and generally whizzing around the classroom. Mia never fails to brighten my day. In term of her learning, she is writing beautifully and is a great reader. Mia has impressed me particularly this week with her maths. She has shown a great understanding of all the content being taught and is applying it beautifully. Mia, you are a fabulous learner and a little explosion of joy every day. Keep doing this brilliant learning. You are fab!

# STARS OF THE WEEK

## Mr Bayliss' class

Maya has worked incredibly hard this week. She has shown outstanding listening skills and ability to follow classroom expectations. She always pays attention to instructions and applies them thoughtfully in her work. Maya takes great pride in presenting her work neatly and carefully in her books, setting a brilliant example for her classmates. Maya kindness and sense of humour make her a joy to have in the class. She has a great ability to make others smile and feel included when working in group activities. Keep up the great work ethic and attitude Maya!

## Mrs Johnson's class

My Star of the Week is Alice. Alice shows everyone in Year 3/4 every week what a kind and caring person she is. She is always ready to help others and support other children when they need a friend. As well as this, Alice works incredibly hard in all areas of her learning. She impresses us all daily with her strong work ethic; always taking part fully in class discussions and activities. Alice, you really are such an amazing young lady, and it is a pleasure to teach you. You are always smiling and ready to learn – what a star!

## Mr Whapham's class

My star of the week is Reggie! Reggie has been working extremely hard the last few weeks, trying hard to focus on his work and complete his tasks. He has also been focusing on his times tables and has progressed on to his 3 times tables as well as beginning to learn division facts to pair with his times tables. Reggie makes everyone smile and is a joy to have in any classroom! Well done!

## Mrs Ledger's class

My star of the week is Darcy. He is someone who can always be relied upon to contribute in class, and this week he has independently been doing some extra reading around our new history topic, and has been keen to share his new learning with me and his peers. Darcy is polite and hard-working, and a pleasure to have in the class.

## Miss Williams' class

My Star of the week is the lovely Louisa! She has shown fantastic improvement in her concentration during lessons, demonstrating great focus and enthusiasm for her learning. It has been wonderful to see her so engaged, especially during our afternoon topic sessions, where she consistently contributes thoughtful ideas and supports her peers. Beyond the classroom, Louisa's bubbly personality and strong leadership skills have truly shone. As an Eco Prefect, she has impressed Mrs. Manley with her sense of responsibility and commitment to making a positive impact. Keep up the amazing work, Louisa – we are so proud of you! Well done!

## Mrs Scott's class

Lilly S is my star this week, due to her determination and focus in learning. Lilly is a very busy member of our school, and will often be found on play leading duty; working as a mental health ambassador; a hall monitor... The list goes on! It has been wonderful to see Lilly throw herself into school life this year, and I can see that she is making the most of everything Year 6 has to offer. Lilly has also been putting equal effort into her learning, and we have seen the outcomes of this in her work. Lilly takes care and pride in what she does, and we love to see Lilly proudly sharing her work. Well done, Lilly - keep it up!

## School Diary Dates

Wed, 5th Feb	Y4– Group 2 swimming lessons
Fri, 7th Jan	Wear Red Day—
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)
Mon, 24th Feb	Water Safety Talk by Tarka Leisure Centre—KS1 and KS2
Thur, 6th Mar	World Book Day (see poster)
Wed, 12th Mar	Park Dance Festival
Fri, 14th Mar	Y6 Rising Stars—Basketball at Pilton Community College
Wed, 26th Mar	Y5/6 U11 Girls Football
Fri, 28th Mar	Ready Steady Rock Bank Practice
Tues, 1 Apr	Y3/4 Watermouth Castle Trip (details to come)
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

### Week commencing—Monday, 3rd February

Please see website for Vegan/Dairy and gluten free options









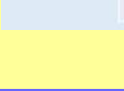



#### LUNCH MENU – WEEK 3

9th Dec 2024 – 13th Jan – 3rd Feb – 3rd & 24th 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
	Mac Cheese & Spring Onion Bake	Chicken Goujons	Toad in the Hole (Sausage & Yorkshire Pudding)	Breaded Fish Fillet	Pork Meatballs in Rustic Tomato Sauce with Pasta 
		Plant Based Meatball Sub with Tomato Sauce	Quorn Fillet	Vegan Nuggets	Veggie Lasagne
	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna		Jacket Potato with Cheese, Beans or Tuna	
	Crusty Bread, Carrots & Green Beans	Potato Wedges, Corn on the Cob & Peas	Roast or Mash Potato, Fresh Broccoli, Carrots & Gravy	Chips, Pasta, Mixed Veg, Beans & Tomato Sauce	Malted Baguette, Carrots & Cauliflower
	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Cheese Bap	Ham Bap	Sausage Roll 
	Fruit Smoothie	Raspberry & Apple Cake	Custard Biscuit with Fruit Juice	Chocolate Shortbread	Ice Cream 

## Chinese New Year Celebrations in Mrs Oldfield's class



新年快乐  
HAPPY  
CHINESE  
NEW YEAR  
2024  
YEAR OF THE DRAGON

Mrs Oldfield's class have had fun this week learning about Chinese New Year. They have made Chinese lanterns and tried some noodles today. Yum!



# Tidiest Cloakroom

This week was  
Mrs Oldfield's  
class

## The 100 Club

Well done  
to the following children in our  
times tables challenge

Charlie James  
Platinum Award

Jake

Gold Award

Mila

Silver Award

Teagan

Bronze Award

## 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](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,



**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.

The poster features a purple border, colorful Easter eggs at the top, and three white rabbits at the bottom. The text is in various colors and fonts, with the main title in large purple letters.

**ROMAR  
SPORTS**

# FEBRUARY HALF TERM HOLIDAY CLUB

Join us for a fun filled  
week of football,  
games, competitions & prizes  
Girls & Boys / All abilities  
Ages 5 - 15 years



**TARKA LEISURE CENTRE 3G**

Monday 17 - Friday 21 February  
9am - 4pm  
Barnstaple, EX31 2AP



[www.romarsports.com](http://www.romarsports.com)

*Kingsley*



# OPEN DAY

**TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 10AM - 3.30PM**

For more information please contact the Admissions Team  
[admissions@kingsleydevon.com](mailto:admissions@kingsleydevon.com)

[WWW.KINGSLEYDEVON.COM](http://WWW.KINGSLEYDEVON.COM)

## DANCING FEET ACADEMY

# LET'S DANCE!

**SUNDAY 2nd MARCH**



**JOINING THE BIGGEST UK DANCE EVENT-  
SPEARHEADED BY ANGELA RIPPON**

**DFA ARE HOSTING AN OPEN DAY  
OFFERING FREE CLASSES!**

*Encouraging everybody, at every age, to embrace the  
joy and benefits of dancing.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US ON:  
[info@dancingfeetacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@dancingfeetacademy.co.uk)

FOLLOW US ON:

Dancing Feet Academy   
 @dancingfeet\_thestudio

## TIMETABLE

**FRIDAY 28th FEBRUARY - DFA THE STUDIO**

3.45pm-4.15pm  
5.00pm-6.00pm  
6.15pm-7.00pm

Pre-Juniors Commercial (age 4-7)  
Senior Commercial (age 13+)  
Junior Commercial (age 8+)

**SATURDAY 1st MARCH- DFA THE STUDIO**

3.45pm-4.45pm

Acrobatics (age 8-14)

**SUNDAY 2nd MARCH- DFA THE STUDIO**

10.00am-10.30am  
10.45am-11.15am  
11.30am-12.15pm  
12.30pm-1.15pm  
1.45pm-2.30pm  
2.45pm-3.30pm

Mummy 'n' Me (age 2-4)  
Beginners Ballet (age 3-5)  
Junior Jazz (age 8+)  
Silver Swans (Ballet for the over 50's)  
Junior Contemporary (age 8+)  
Senior/Advanced Senior Jazz (age 13+)

**SUNDAY 2nd MARCH- THE PARISH HALL, BRAUNTON**

10am-10.45am  
10.45am-11.30am  
11.30am-12.15pm  
12.30pm- 1.15pm  
2pm-3.30pm

'Tap for fun'- Beginners Adult Tap  
Fitsteps  
Beginners Adult Contemporary  
Choreography Workshop (all ages)  
Adult Jazz: SWITCHFRAME Insight  
*(Try some choreography from the latest  
two filming projects!)*

**ALL CLASSES FREE TO JOIN  
LET'S DANCE TOGETHER!**