

Orchards News

April 2017

Academisation Update

I have been invited to Ely early in May to meet with the Director and other Heads of schools who intend to be part of the DEMAT Academy group and hopefully will have some positive news to share on the next Newsletter.

Year 3 Trip to the Recycling Centre



When we arrived at the recycling centre we were greeted by a horrible smell "It stinks" (Sam, Hawthorn). We then went through the control room into our own classroom for the day. We had a quiz - children 'vs' teachers where we were tested on recycling statistics. Next, we

were shown videos about the recycling process. Afterwards, we all had to get dressed in high visibility jackets and hard hats so that we could go on a tour. We saw piles of rubbish and the enormous size of the recycling centre. We learnt how valuable materials can be - for examples 300,000 aluminium cans are worth roughly £800! Finally, we completed a craft activity making a 'REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE pyramid to take back to school and encourage recycling.

APP ALERT

Please be aware of a mobile phone app called 'Kik' which presents a significant risk to children's safety. A local Head has been contacted by the police this week, who have advised that this social networking site is operated overseas, and people who use it cannot be traced. Therefore it is sometimes used for the wrong reasons. Can I advise parents to check for this APP on your children's mobile phones.



Orchards Funding Update

As a result of the cuts in funding from the Government we are in a position that we need to reduce teacher and TA hours, as well as money for resources and subscriptions. We have only been able to continue to develop the outside spaces because a dedicated team of staff and parents are committed to fundraising.

We will not be able to go ahead with trips this summer if all children have not paid. We are no longer able to visit Snettisham Farm following the cancellation last year and do not want to be in this position again, so have set up blocks of £5 for you to start saving for children's trips. All children will have a trip in the summer term, so it would be great if you could start saving and therefore ensure the trip will be able to go ahead.

Please check your child's ParentPay account and ensure these are always in credit.

Sumdog Update

The following 14 children answered over 1000 questions on Sumdog... in their Easter holidays! Well done children!

Dominika (Hazel), Anya (Willow), Evelina (Elm), Mateusz (Cedar), Adele (Willow), Ciara-Rose (Beech), Deimante (Almond), Gabija (Oak), Bradley (Holly), Livvie (Holly), Aironas (Holly), Emmie (Maple) and Milena (Beech).

The next National Sumdog Contest starts on May 19th for one week. Of course, all of our classes have been entered.

Reception Reading Café

Story Café before Easter. The photos attached are from both the parent and child sessions.



Just before Easter, the Reception team held their first story café for children and parents. We had a short coffee and question session with the teachers, followed by a talk with Miss Kilsby on how to help with reading at home. The parents then joined their children back in the class for a story and craft session. We made Easter baskets ready for our Easter egg hunt.

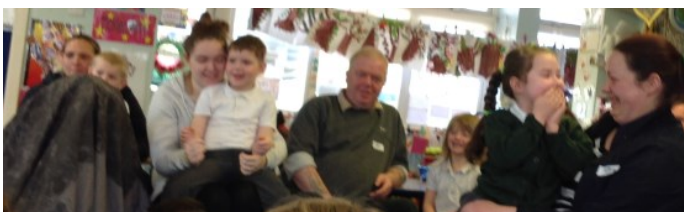
Feedback from parents – It's nice to come and see what the children are up to... We should do more of this... It's not as scary as when you come up for parents evening... Can we have one for the dads? It would be nice to do this with our other children too...

Feedback from children – I like it when my mummy comes to my class... I liked it when mum and dad looks at my work and my photos - I can tell them what I have been doing... I don't want my mummy to go home – I loved her coming to my class today – can she come again?



Our next story café is planned for the 24th May and Mr Laband will be on hand to help us discuss ways to support Mathematics at home.

We also have a dads and dens day planned for the 15th June. Look out for letters coming home soon.



LOST PROPERTY LOST PROPERTY LOST PROPERTY

There is lots of lost property without names including a few coats in the office. Please collect by Wednesday 10th as we have limited storage space.



Children are really enjoying their topic home-work and producing some excellent work. Left is George in Y5 with the Tudor House he made at home.



All children across school have worked hard over the last year, and made great progress. We continue to recognise achievements in assembly; above are children who received a Reading Certificate this week. I would also like to say an additional well done to the children in Years 2 and 6, who have completed extra preparation for the SATs. They are ready to show their learning, and I would like to remind the parents and the children that these help teachers know what they can do well now, and what they need to learn next. These assessments are important, but for that purpose only, and I do not wish anyone to be very stressed about them.

Be positive, be focussed and well rested and do your best. We know you are all great learners, and I can ask no more of you. I just wish you good luck.

N. Parker

DIARY DATES

Weds 26th Apr	Hawthorn Class to Recycling Centre
Thurs 27th Apr	Almond Class to Recycling Centre
Fri 28th Apr	Laburnum Class to Recycling Centre
8-12th May	Year 6 SATs Week
15-23rd May	Year 2 SATs Assessments
Mon 22nd May	Y6 Recycling Workshop
Tues 23rd May	Y5 Recycling Workshop
Weds 24th May	Y4 Recycling Workshop
Sat 27th May	First day of HALF TERM
Sun 4th June	Last day of HALF TERM
Sun 4th June	Tour of Cambridgeshire—cycle race
Tues 6th June	Healthy Lifestyles Day for children
w/b 10/7/17	Moving up days and Reception Home visits this week
Thurs 20th July	First day of the Summer Holidays