

Orchards News

January 2015

Welcome back to our new term. This is again going to be a busy one for the children, with visits for the older children to Thomas Clarkson Academy and Peele school as well as the Residentials for years 3, 5 and 6. Year 4 have theirs in the Summer Term. In the pipeline are Science Week, International Food Day and the Eggstra Factor. We would also like to have more events for families and parents and carers, so watch this space... but also please let us know if you can help us in any way.

Volunteering in School

We run the Time Credits programme in school which is becoming increasingly popular.



For people who volunteer regularly we can also provide a reference if you are applying for jobs at the same time.

Time Credits is a project where you volunteer for an hour to earn a credit note and you can then spend these locally, at various attractions across the country and on certain events in school.

Mrs White is thrilled we have so many volunteers reading with children, but we always need more. Mrs Johnson also organises other earn sessions on a Tuesday afternoon and Mr Warren has times when he has outside jobs such as painting fences. Please ask at the office if you would like more information and they will make an appointment with Mrs Johnson for you.

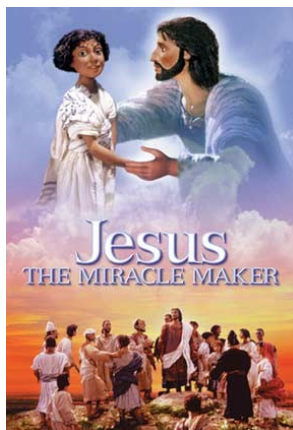
Christian Theme for this Half Term



Our current Christian Theme is **trust** and we will be thinking about this and

how Christians put their trust in Jesus. We will also think about being trustworthy and supporting each other.

As we move towards Easter we will also be watching the film 'The Miracle Maker' which is about Jesus' life and how he taught people to think about their actions.



TCA—Around the World Day



Today we went to Thomas Clarkson Academy to learn about different countries and their languages including; German, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

It was fascinating to learn all these languages because we learnt from different teachers who came from these countries. As well, it was interesting to be taught by different teachers. Also, it was fascinating because it could help us in the future if we go to those countries. In addition, it was helpful to know how to communicate in different countries and with different people.



The most enjoyable thing I did today was to build the Eiffel tower. Also, it was very enjoyable to make our own sculpture out of salt dough. We

built sculptures to remind us about Canada's Carnivale de Quebec. Furthermore, we enjoyed dancing in Spanish to help us learn directions. Overall it was a fun day.

Report by Cedar Class



Christmas Week

Though we continued with English and Maths in the mornings in the week leading up to the Christmas Holidays, the children enjoyed focussing on the Christmas Story and the traditional parties in the afternoon.

I was so proud of the Children in their Christingle Services and in the Coffee and Carols extravaganza as they showed how they have progressed with their singing and vocal projection. They were very clear in the Church as well as the younger children providing a super performance of the Nativity. And of course we can't forget the memorable performance on Heart FM... I know I am biased but I do think ours was one of the best performances!



We have continued to think about the Christmas Story and Epiphany in assembly, and related this to our theme of trust including thinking about how God showed the Jews that he wanted all people to celebrate and know about the birth of Jesus.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

We all wore our Christmas Jumpers to help Save the Children raise funds on Friday 12th December. We also had a design your T-shirt competition with Christmas designs on them. Mrs Ketley judged the competition as an active member of Save the Children. Altogether we raised a fantastic £181 for the charity... which was great that close to Christmas.



International Food Day and Festival

On **Friday 13th February** we will be holding an international food day which will end with a food festival for parents. The event will run from 2.30pm with class experts talking about the country and the food they have cooked. There will also be an opportunity to come, as you will have collected your children, as the festival will stay open until 3.30pm in the Orange Hall. Selected countries are shown below, but may be subject to change at this stage.

We are looking for parents to support the festival by either cooking food from either your home country or a country whose food you cook regularly and we would also like support in running the stalls and cleaning up. This is a Time Credits earn event and we will also fully fund the ingredients. If you would like to cook or help at the festival please see Miss Pettit or Mrs Hooke in Reception Unit 2. We would really like a stall with traditional Fenland food and are also keen to have a Hungarian and Russian stall if anyone from any of these three communities can help.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Country</u>
Acorn	China	Laburnum	Indonesia
Unit 1	Italy	Almond	Jamaica
Unit 2	Kenya	Holly	South Africa
Pine	Lithuania	Lime	North Africa
Willow	Slovakia	Cedar	Poland
Walnut	France	Elm	Greece
Beech	Spain	Year 6	India
Maple	Mexico		

Staffing Update

I am pleased to welcome five new members of staff this term. Mrs Rouse joins us as a member of the Senior Leadership Team and is now the permanent teacher of Holly Class. Mrs Loew-Berry joins us as Teaching Assistant in Year 6, Mrs Burton joins as Intervention Teacher in Year 6 and Mrs Gidney and Miss Brown have joined the Reception Team.

Science Week



Science week is becoming a real tradition here at Orchards and we are pleased to announce this year will be no exception. Science week this year will take place nationally on 16th-20th March.

We are already very busy planning events for this week which will centre around the theme of **'Out of this world...'** During this time children will be investigating Space and the universe.

Once again we will all be looking forward to the Science boffins visiting us and will be expecting some explosions. I am also pleased to share that some year groups will get the opportunity to see the planets in a planetarium during this week. To help your child prepare for this week you could start to research Space - Miss Bridges would love to hear any facts they find out!

Nursery News



The Nursery is expanding! After a successful visit from OFSTED at the beginning of term the Nursery is now able to take two year olds. The family room has been revamped to include a garden themed book corner and a sleeping area for tired twos!

If your child qualifies for a funded two place in a Nursery (you will have received a voucher in the post) or you think you might qualify, then either pop in to see Mrs Ketley in the Nursery or ask to register your child at the main office.

We still have some places for two year olds and if you do not qualify for a funded place you can pay for sessions in the Nursery.

We also have places for children who are three and four years old. The government pays for 15 hours of nursery education for all three and four year olds. The funding begins the term after a child is three.

In the Nursery the children have lots of fun. Children are encouraged to develop their listening and speaking skills through fun play activities. They have the opportunity to make friends, and learn to play together. If you would like to come and look round please phone Mrs Ketley or pop in to arrange a time to come and visit.

Class Assembly Dates

Pine	15th April	Holly	17th June
Maple	1st July	Cedar	29th April
Laburnum	10th June	Elm	13th May
Almond	22nd April	Chestnut	4th Feb

Fastworks



At the end of last term FASTWORKS met in the family room and Nursery. Both children and parents enjoyed having a catch up time together. Plans were made for an end of term party, but unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to limited heating in school at the end of term.

Mandy, one of our community partners, handed out flyers advertising the second cycle of FAST due to begin in the Summer term.

Our next meeting of FASTWORKS will be before half term, the date will be sent out to you by Mrs Ketley soon.



Donation Requests

We would be pleased to have any donations of the following:

- boys and girls underwear age 2-3 and 3-4 years, socks
- trousers both boys and girls age 2-3 and 3-4 years or leggings. We are short of trousers for girls & boys particularly.

Diary Dates

Food Festival : Friday 13th February
February Half term: 16-20th 2015 inclusive
Science Fair: 20th March
Easter : 30th March—10th April 2015 inclusive
Staff Training Day: Monday 13th April
Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May
Summer Half term: 25th-29th May inclusive
Staff Training Day: Friday 19th June
Summer holiday begins 23rd July 2015

Please note all diary dates can be found on the school website in the bottom right hand corner.

N. Parker