

Orchards News

March 2014

We are all so proud of the children and their amazing learning this term. They have responded so well to the extra-curricular activities such as the Year3-6 residential, our Science and English Weeks. Clubs are becoming increasingly well attended and more children than ever are attending the different breakfast clubs.

New Member of our Administration Team

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Urboniene to our efficient admin team. She will be responsible for some of our new developments including Family Learning. She will also be the person who will make first day absence phone calls, as well as being there to talk to in the morning if you have any concerns or want to leave a message for your child's class teacher. Mrs Urboniene is able to speak in English, Lithuanian, Russian and a little Polish, so should be able to help most parents. She is also able to help all families complete forms.

Parents Meetings

We think the new format worked well for parents. We would welcome any feedback about this either via the school Facebook page or our Website contact us.

Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to all parents who have completed the questionnaires we asked you to fill in at Parents Evenings. We value your feedback, as we are keen to improve all areas of school life. We will begin to put all of the information together from these next week. If you have not yet completed a questionnaire we still have lots of copies available on the Reception desk.

Uniform Update from Governors

We are pleased to let parents know we have responded to the short supply of yellow polo shirts and yellow check dresses. The Governors have agreed to adding red polo shirts and red check dresses to the uniform options. These colours all match with the logo and the green cardigans and jumpers. This means we now have three colours of shirt; white, yellow and red and three colours for the summer dresses green, yellow and red. We hope parents find this extra option helpful when shopping for summer uniform. We are also happy with grey shorts for boys and girls for summer.

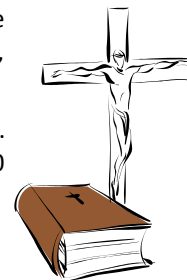


Easter Services by Miss Lynch

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 Easter Service will be held at Orchards School on Thursday, 3 April at 1:15-2:00 in the **Orange Hall**.

Years 2-6 Easter Service will be held at St. Augustine's Church on Friday, 4 April at 9:30 -10:30 am.

We hope you will be able to attend!



Class Assemblies

So you can see your child acting, singing, dancing or whatever they do best we will be having Class Assemblies over the next terms. You should see a lot more of your child than you would in a large Christmas production with two or more year groups. You will be notified of the dates in your child's Year group newsletter and I hope to have the dates of them all for the next whole school newsletter.

Class Photographs

Class photographs went well and we look forwards to receiving the proofs soon.

Anti-bullying Week by Miss Lynch

We are very excited to announce that we will be celebrating 'Anti-bullying Week' during the week of 19 May. In anticipation of Anti-bullying week, children in Years 2-6 will participate in an interactive production, Hope, which tells the story of 3 young children affected by bullying; All of the children will be watching a special production of Cinderella during Anti-bullying Week. School Council will be meeting in the Summer term to discuss more ways that we can celebrate during the week. Watch this space for more information!

School Policies by Miss Lynch

We are in the process of uploading all of our school policies to the school website and as they are reviewed by the Governing Body they will be added. Policies provide you with useful information about our school such as how to go about volunteering, e-safety, behavioural procedures, as well as who to talk to if you have a problem. Visit the website to view the policies currently uploaded: <http://orchards.cambs.sch.uk/school/school-policies.php>.

English Week

Our fantastic English Leader, Mrs White, organised English Week around World Book Day with a roaring theme of Dragons. We kicked off the week watching the film of Cressida Cowell's book 'How to Train Your Dragon' on Friday afternoon, then on Monday morning Louise Aldridge, Children's Librarian at Wisbech, talked to the children in assembly about all of the lovely books she would be reading to the children across the week in the school library, and introduced them to Cyril the Dragon.

During the week is the library was open to all parents to join their children in the library to share a book. As part of the assembly on Monday Louise awarded the three new Junior Librarians their official badge. Louise



commented, "I have had a wonderful couple of days in school. As a Librarian I was so pleased to present the new Junior Librarians with their special badges in assembly. I have also been delighted by how creative the children have been in talking about and designing dragons."

To inspire the older children's writing they participated in drama workshops led by Linda Ekins' Drama and Performing Arts Group. There was a real buzz around school as children talked about books and began creating their own stories. Even the youngest children in school went book mad, and we were thrilled to see when we looked at the books borrowed from the Library that boys are reading as much as girls, which is different to the national picture. I can't wait to read the stories the children write this week!



What the children said: Luke, Year 6, "The production was fun to watch, and it really fitted with the English Week theme of dragons. The cast were spectacular and with no slip ups... it was perfect!"

Jessica, Year 6, "I think English Week is brilliant because we get to learn about dragons. English week lets the little children learn more things and we wouldn't learn about Dragons usually."

Justina, experienced Junior Librarian, "Being Junior Librarian is a big responsibility. Every day as I show up in the library, the box is always filled up with books, which means a lot of children are reading and that makes me really happy... knowing that our hard work, time and effort, which we put into our library, is not being wasted."

Charles, new Junior Librarian, "Being a Junior Librarian has been a privilege. As a Junior Librarian I help out Mrs Jones, the Librarian, by this I mean doing jobs like putting books on shelves, and running errands as well. I have not done anything like it before, but I would recommend it to all, even if you are not a book fanatic. Overall it is great fun and if you get the chance to be one, take it!"

Viktorija, new Junior Librarian, "When Miss called my name to come and be a Librarian I was so happy and nervous. It's really fun to be a Librarian, because you get to know more about books and I like helping people."

Megan, new Junior Librarian, "Being a Librarian is really good fun. After you have done your job for the day you feel really good as you have helped a lot of people!"

Science Week

This year our Science Week has focussed on the rainforest, and it culminated in fantastic workshops led by the Science Boffin this morning and a well attended Science Fair this afternoon. It was great to see so many parents involved in their children's learning



across school, and the children so enthusiastic about everything they learnt. They have loved investigating, researching and building models as well as conducting experiments.



Miss Bridges, our science Leader commented: "A fantastic Science week was had by all! The children thoroughly enjoyed their action packed week which ended with a spectacular performance by "Boffin John!". It was great to see

the children sharing their new found knowledge with their parents at the Science fair!"

Ann Purt, Chair of Governors, visited the school this afternoon to join in with the science fair and said, "I have been instructed about the solar system, the importance of using floss when brushing teeth, the effect of fizzy drinks on bones, and of course the important work that the rainforest does for our environment. I was impressed that the children were able to talk about the learning focussed on the rainforest, but were also very keen to show me other science work completed since the beginning of the year!"



Report by Willow Class on the Science Fair

We went to the orange hall and we learnt about Science. First he showed that hairspray can be really dangerous. It exploded and made a MASSIVE bang! Next he dropped some water onto a chemical and made some pretend snow. Then Amelia and Tommy had a tornado race. The blue water always won the race. Finally we learnt about when the ground shakes. This is called an earthquake. We all enjoyed going to see the Science Boffin.

'It made me jump when it did the big bang' (Lucas)

'It was wonderful to learn about science' (Ethan)

Diary Dates

Break up for Easter: Friday 4th April at 3pm

Staff Training Day Tuesday 22nd April

Return to school: Wednesday 23rd April at 8.30am

Break up for half term: Friday 23rd May at 3pm

Return to school: Monday 2nd June at 8.30am

Staff Training day: Friday 20th June

Break up for the Summer: Wednesday 23rd July

Staff Training Day: Wednesday 3rd September

Return after the summer: Thursday 4th September

October Half term: 27th-31st inclusive

Christmas Holiday: 20th Dec-6th January inclusive

February Half term: 16-20th inclusive

Easter : 27th March—12th April inclusive

