

# Orchards News

September 2014 Issue 2

## Playground Development

We are continuing with our development of the back playground and the main focus at the moment is the new Quiet Garden. This area will look a lot like the Early Years outdoor classrooms, but will be for Year 1 to 6 to use at playtime and lunchtime.

In this area children will be able to sit and chat with each other, read a book, play/create models with sand, draw, build with lego etc, and play in a role play corner. Though Governors have supported the funding of this including buying large resources and a large box of lego, there are still more things we would like such as jigsaw, building toys such as duplo and sticklebricks and 'baby' related items for dolls.

If you are able to support with these extra things please pop in a talk to me. This could be fundraising, helping us scour charity shops and car boot fairs or donating your children's old toys. Thanks for your help.

## New Morning Routines

Due to concerns about security in the building in the morning we have reviewed morning routines and think we found a solution.

From Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September children in Years 2 to 6 should go to the front playground. At 8.30am a whistle will be sounded and children should then line up. Their teacher will then collect the class and take them inside. If you have a message for the teacher please either write this down and pass it to them or leave a message with the staff in the front office.

If a child arrives after the class has gone into school and the doors are closed they should then go to main entrance, where Mrs Urbonienne will let them in.

We ask that parents support this change as we have had feedback about building security and this change is to ensure all children are safe and we know exactly who is in the building. We will review this at October half term and would welcome any feedback from



families.

## Theme Days and Costumes

The children continue to enjoy their Theme days. Year 5 have already had a Greek Day and Year 4 had a cake sale to support their WWII day to Stibbington. These days help the children relate their classroom learning into a realistic context and show what they have learnt



so far. Children's writing within their topic is also supported by these days. To help children fully engage with the day we do encourage them to dress up, but recognise this can be tricky for parents. If you have a costume which you are happy to pass to

school to be used by other children in the future please see Miss Ball in Year 5.

## JEANS for JEANS DAY—Friday 19th September

Support this charity which supports scientists in supporting future generations. I know this charity is close to many families hearts. Please wear JEANS, DUNGAREES or denim SHORTS with a sensible top. This is not a general dress up day. Children should be wearing JEANS or uniform. Please support by wearing your jeans and donating a £1 to charity.

Staff will continue to support this charity and wear jeans on a Friday and donate to the charity boxes which can be found on both Reception Desks.



## Message for parents and Carers

At the end of last year and the beginning of this year there have been a number of occasions where adults have used inappropriate vocabulary in front of children and staff. I must remind parents that if you have any concerns related to your child or systems in school that we have a system of support.

Firstly make an appointment to see the class teacher at the end of the school day. Teachers should be with their class at 8.30 am and therefore will be unable to talk to you at that time. If you feel an issue is not resolved the next steps are:

2<sup>nd</sup> make an appointment with the Phase Leader.

3<sup>rd</sup> make an appointment with the Deputy, Miss Lynch

5<sup>th</sup> Make an appointment with Mrs Parker, Head teacher

If you are still not happy you should then approach the Chair of Governors.

Swearing, aggressive behaviour or racist behaviour will not be tolerated anywhere on the school site. We always want to help parents resolve issues, and our focus is to work together as a community to support pupils, so please come and talk to us instead of getting cross.

## Assemblies for Parents & Carers

Harvest Festival—21st October; Christingle 17th December; Easter—25th March

N. Parker