

Orchards News

September 2016

Welcome back to the new year. I am so pleased with the way children have settled back into school, and proud of their enthusiasm for learning.

Communication

On the back of this newsletter you will find an **overview** of the year so you can see when whole school events, year group cake sales and class assemblies will be held. We hope this will be a useful document for the front of your fridge.

Topic Weeks will include a fair for parents where the children can show off their learning in specific areas of the curriculum.

Cake Sales will be held on a weekly basis in the CDT Room. Please support the children and school by helping with baking cakes and then buying them on a Friday after school.



Short notice **updates** from trips and quick sharing of photographs happens on our **School Facebook**

Page; to receive these updates you need to like the page. (www.facebook.com/OrchardsPrimarySchool) For more static information about things like policies and governors information please refer to the **Website** (www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk) You will also find copies of the newsletter on the Website.

JEANS for GENES DAY—Friday 23.9.16

At Orchards we 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; they make an annual donation.



Building Works and Refurbishments

Mr Warren has been busy himself and overseeing builders; we now have three lovely new spaces. We have newly refurbished toilets for the children to use during events in the Orange Hall, and new hygiene room and a permanent space for the Wellbeing team.



History Week is coming

Children will enjoy History week from 31st October to 4th November with the theme of Important People from British History. The children will dress up on one of the days as someone from history and there will be a theatre performance for children and a History Fair to share learning with parents. More information to come.

St Augustines WWI Remembrance through Art

I was very proud to take School Council reps to see the artwork children produced in the Summer Term. It was displayed as part of the recent installation and Steve Barclay MP dedicated a Tommy Rose in remembrance of those who died in the wars.



Home learning

This half-term we are trialling a new style of homework which is optional topic-based family learning. These are a selection of practical and written activities linked to children's learning in school that children can do with parents and carers to reinforce and extend what they have learned or will learn during the topic. There are a range of activities and children can choose to complete any they are interested in.

Recent research has shown that there is little evidence to support a link between homework and achievement. However, family learning projects and daily reading with your children has great impact on their achievement in school.

So far this term the feedback from children from across the school and teachers has been very positive. We welcome your feedback as well.



Byron researched some facts about Greek temples at home and used this information to write a fact file and build a Greek Temple!

N. Parker