



ORCHARD C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL BROUGHTON ASTLEY

A small school with a big heart: committed to lifelong learning in a caring Christian environment.



Dear parents and carers,

We have had yet another very busy Spring term!

The end of the term ended on a high as always. The year 3 and 4 performance of “The Pirates versus the Mermaids” was amazing and entertained us all. We all enjoyed watching the travelling theatres productions of Treasure Island which was followed by the twiglets pirate assembly. Parents came to watch lots of class performances – with the Y2 mother’s day assembly making us all cry! We have also had an Easter day where we all learned about the importance of the Easter story in the Christian calendar. We all learned lots of new facts. We have had lots of visitors to the school including the chicks and lambs that were in KS1.

Book Week was a fantastic success starting with a day of dressing up as book characters – they were all amazing! The pictures of the winners from each class are on our website. The Year 6 business school ran the book fayre which raised over a £1000 which meant £529 for us to spend on books for the library and classes. Well done for all of their hard work.

On 14th March we held a Characteristics Fair in the hall and invited parents in to come and have a look at the work children have been doing on building our character muscles. The event was well attended and it was great to see so many of you visit the class displays. Each class set challenges and it was exciting to see the buzz and enthusiasm of so many having a go, especially at year 5 'risk taking' activities. After the fair many parents stayed in the hall to watch Mrs Lang’s presentation on character building at Orchard. Again thank you to everyone who stayed and thanks for the great feedback. For those who were unable to attend there is a special page set up on our website. Go and have a look at why character education is so important and how it helps to shape the lives of the children at Orchard. Look out for further events in the summer term.

<i>Characteristics:</i>	creativity	team player	honesty	resilience
empathy	confidence	pride	curiosity	respect
enthusiasm	belief	risk-taking	independence	positivity

Curriculum

The first half term will only be 18 school days long but we will packing lots of fun filled learning into it. Our topics this term are “Around the World in 18 days” (geography based) and “The Circle of Life” (science based). There will be opportunities at the end of each half term for you to come into school and view the childrens’ work. Further details can be found on your child’s class page on the school website: www.orchardcofe.leics.sch.uk

Our Christian values are THANKFULNESS for the 1st half term and FRIENDSHIP for the 2nd half term. We will be focusing on these through our regular collective worship.

Thank you to all the parents who voted for the school bible quote. There was a huge turn out with 67% of the vote from parents, teachers, children and governors voting for **“Treat others the same way you want them to treat you” Luke 6:1.**

OPA events

The OPA are currently raising money to support the school. The Christmas Fayre raised a £1009 and Y2 class won £180 from the tombola. They have chosen to spend the money on an art activity as the class is very creative and will really enjoy it. This term we have had a disco and today there was coffee morning/cake sale followed by an Easter Egg hunt for the children. The children would like to thank the OPA for their Easter eggs.

Look out for the OPA newsletters which will provide information for upcoming events which include a disco on Friday 21st June and The Big Orchard Camp out on Saturday 6th July. The OPA will hold an Autumn Fayre early in September.

House Points

Once again there has been a fierce competition between the house teams for the cup. Well done McIntosh who won for the Spring term and will be having their treat on Wednesday 1st May – an art and craft morning with breakfast included!

Playground

We would like to remind parents that the children should not play on the outdoor trim trails and bars before or after school. This is because they cannot be supervised by the school and there may not be a trained First Aider on site. The school accepts no responsibility should any accidents occur.

Can we also remind you that parents and children must not ride their bikes or scooters whilst on school premises. There have been a number of incidents where a collision between a bike/scooter and other parents or children has occurred.

Holidays / Leave of Absence

As you know family holidays can no longer be authorised. With the summer holidays coming up can I please remind everyone that if parents choose to remove their child/ren for a family holiday, they have the responsibility to inform the school in writing and in advance, as ANY absence needs to be recorded by school for safeguarding purposes. If you would like leave of absence for “exceptional circumstances” such as a funeral or participation in sporting/music events etc, then a ‘Leave of Absence Form’ **must** be completed and handed in to the school office **prior** to the event to be considered.

School Diary on the website

Please keep up to date with all the events that happen at school by looking at our website. We update our calendar weekly and this is the best way to ensure that you have the most up to date information about events taking place in school. The OPA will also give you regular reminders of upcoming events.

This will be another busy term so please see the calendar dates attached.

I hope you all have a good Easter break!

Ms M. Fieldsend