



2017/2018 Term 1b

WELCOME

Welcome to our second edition of the Orchard County Newsletter. We hope that our third edition will be available on our new website and paper copies will be available in the office for those who have difficulty accessing the website or the school app.

SPONSORED WALK

Thank you so much for supporting and encouraging your children. We raised an amazing **£4354**. We have already purchased the Accelerated Reader programme for Primary 5s and storage boxes for the MUGA to store equipment for all pupils to use during break and lunchtime. We have also been in contact with some firms pricing outdoor learning equipment for foundation stage and have purchased a new playhouse for the nursery. We really do appreciate your support so that we can provide a better learning environment for your child/children. Congratulations to our top fundraisers Daisy Douglas, Abbie Willis, Naomi Davison and Lucy Mullen, who all raised £100 and above.



COFFEE MORNING

What a great community morning we had on the 27th September. P7s worked very hard planning, preparing and serving on the day. Thank you to all of you for contributing and supporting this great cause. We raised



£1305 for Macmillan Cancer Support. We really appreciated all those who baked cakes, bought buns and made table arrangements, it was a real team effort and was enjoyed by all.

BOOKFAIR

Thank you all for supporting our school book fair. We were able to get **£900** of commission to buy books for our Accelerated Reader library. The staff are currently being trained in the use of Accelerated Reader.



Bookfair competition winners.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 12th December
Nursery Nativity
9.30 am
- 13th December
KS2 Library van
Christmas Dinner
- 19th December
Christmas Fun
Day
- 20th December
school ends at 12
nursery ends
10.30am
Dates for Term 2
- 4th January 2018
term 2 begins
- 10th January
closing date for
Nursery and P1
applications
- 12th January
2018
Wizard of Oz
dress rehearsal
- 16th & 17th
January
Wizard of Oz
Performance
- 22nd January
P7 transfer
meeting 4pm

NEW WEBSITE

The new school website will be launched in the new year; we have spent a lot of time preparing for this change. Parents will be able to download a school app onto their phone to obtain up-to-date school information such as events, menus, messages and the school calendar. Please be patient while we are in this transition period. Further details will follow.

SURVEYS

Thank you to all parents who returned their survey. We really appreciate your comments and suggestions. The pupils and staff also completed surveys and these will all contribute to the way forward for Orchard County.

WINTER WEATHER

As we enter the more severe winter period, it is important to remember that all children should have a coat with them each day. Hats, scarves and gloves are also advisable as we will continue to maximise outdoor play time. **Please remember to clearly name every item.** Please also refer to our Severe Weather policy booklet (which is on the website) if the weather deteriorates. We will always do everything possible to remain open and any decision to close will always be based on our agreed procedures.



SAUSAGE COMPETITION

Congratulations to Nathan, Kathryn and Oscar who got to bring their sausage recipes to life at M&W meats. They really were all very tasty sausages.



HEALTHY KIDZ



We are delighted to be able to offer the Healthy Kidz programme to all pupils from nursery to P7 every Monday. Healthy Kidz is a fitness programme that encourages physical activity through professional in-school coaching, regular exercise such as the golden mile, good habit building and tracking pupils' performance and progress. Please encourage this at home with lots of outdoor play and activities.

SHARED EDUCATION

Shared Education is when schools of different management types provide opportunities for pupils, staff and the community to engage in collaborative and meaningful learning experiences. We have established a partnership with St Patricks Primary, Annaghmore. The staff have already met and have applied for funding to run activities with pupils from P5 and P6 this year. Pupils will hopefully have the opportunity to work together on areas of ICT and visit each school.

CLOTHING BANK

Just reminding you all that there is a clothing bank to the left side of the school near the kitchen. You can place your unwanted clothes, curtains, bedding, shoes and bags in the clothing bank. When the company collects these they then forward an amount to us for school funds. We again are very grateful for this contribution.

PLIMSOLLS FOR PE

We have been having problems with black marks on our hall floor which are very difficult to remove. We have discovered that these are being caused by some brands of black plimsolls such as Tesco- F&F, Next and M & S. The **only** black plimsolls that are not causing black marks on the floor are **George, Clarks and Doodles**. Please keep this in mind when you are purchasing new plimsolls for your children.

WIZARD OF OZ The KS2 pupils are busy rehearsing for our production which takes place on 16th and 17th January. Please encourage your child to keep learning their lines. Costume details will be given out before Christmas and tickets will be on sale week beginning 8th January.



CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to our P6/7 cross country team who competed in the NI Athletics event at Palace Stables on Friday 1st December. Both teams came 7th out of thirteen. A special mention to Ben Walker and Hannah Hayes who both were in the top ten. It was very muddy but our dedicated pupils ran on even when they had lost both their shoes! A special thanks to Mrs McCluskey who shares her expertise and prepares the team for the competitions. Thanks also to all the parents who came along to support the team.



SECRET SANTA

We will again be running our Secret Santa scheme in each class. Remember each boy (within the class) should bring a wrapped gift into school for another boy (amounting to no more than £5.00) by **Friday 15th December**. Each girl should do the same for another girl. On the last day of term every child will then be presented with a gift. Our aim is to ensure every single pupil feels cared-for and popular at Christmas and significantly reduce pressure and costs for parents to buy numerous gifts.

PTA

Thank you to those parents who have shown an interest in starting a new PTA. Mr Crawford and I attended the PTA NI conference in November and we hope to be ready to set up a meeting in January.

ROOTS OF EMPATHY

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based classroom programme that has shown significant effect in reducing levels of aggression and bullying among school children while raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy.

We are very grateful to Miss Leonard (our P6/7 classroom assistant) for delivering this programme to P6/7 each week. We would also like to thank the Harty family for bringing baby Charlie along each month to meet the class, I know the pupils look forward to this and are learning a lot from the programme.



TENNIS

P3 AND P4/5 tennis club will have an extra session with Mr Ballantine on **Friday 8th December** during school. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit with them.

SCHOOL ARRIVALS AND PICK UP

Please remember pupils should not be left on school grounds before **8.40am**. Parents can walk their younger children to the black gates each morning and then encourage them to continue to their relevant door on their own.



PARKING

Please drive carefully in the school grounds and park in the designated parents' parking area in front of the MUGA. Parents should not be parking in the school kitchen carpark, this is for kitchen staff and delivery vehicles only. Please leave the bus stop clear and do not park at the front of the school around the roundabout. Remember the disabled spaces are for those who genuinely need to use these. The lowered kerb area in front of the nursery is an ideal place for dropping pupils off, so please do not park over this area or leave your car here unattended. Thank you for your assistance with this.

MUSIC PAYMENTS If you are paying the P5 Musical Pathways contribution in three instalments, the second fee of £25 is due on Monday 8th January 2018.

SCHOOL PENS

School pens are still on sale in school at a cost of £2.50. They are navy and silver and are black ink ballpoint pens and would make a good Christmas present.



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

We are planning a Christmas Fun Day on Tuesday 19th. December. We plan to have carol singing around the Christmas tree outside and hopefully we will have a special visitor calling and some other Christmas activities. We would like all pupils to come wearing their Christmas jumpers and hats (no uniform) and bring a donation of at least £1 to contribute to the Save the Children Jumper Day. Wednesday 20th is also non uniform and school ends at 12 and nursery at 10.30 am.

MS OFFICE

If you are planning on purchasing any new personal device including tablets, MS Office is available free with a C2K username (all pupils in school have this) on up to five personal devices. Follow these 4 easy steps:

1. Visit <http://portal.office.com>
2. Enter C2kusername in the format auser123@c2ken.net (each child has one of these)
3. At the next box enter (a) your c2k username auser123 and (b) password
4. Download the version of MS Office you require
- 5.

TWITTER Remember to keep up to date with what's going on in school by following our twitter account [@OrchardCountyPS](https://twitter.com/OrchardCountyPS)

