

**Dates for your diary**

1 st -4 th Nov	Half Term
10 th Nov	P1 Shared Ed
11 th Nov	P6/7 Swimming
	P1 Shared Ed - Peatlands
14 th -17 th Nov	Hope for Youth Ministries
14 th Nov	Antibullying Week
	Odd Sock Day
15 th Nov	P5/6 Shared Ed
	P6/7 Shared Ed
17 th Nov	Nursery trip to Planetarium
18 th Nov	P6/7 Swimming
21 st Nov	Nursery parents stay & play 9 - 10.15 am
22 nd Nov	Nursery Big Bedtime Read 6.15 - 6.45 pm
25 th Nov	P6/7 Swimming
2 nd Dec	P6/7 Swimming
	Daily Mile Santa Run
6 th Dec	Christmas Performance 7 pm
7 th Dec	P2 Shared Ed - Navan Fort
9 th Dec	P3/4 Shared Ed - Navan Fort
	P6/7 Swimming
	P1 trip Davagh Forest SE
12 th Dec	Open Day 3.15 - 4.15 pm for prospective Nurs & P1 parents
14 th Dec	Lib van
15 th Dec	Christmas dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
16 th Dec	P6/7 Swimming
19 th Dec	PE Fun Day (all classes in PE uniform)
20 th Dec	Christmas parties (non-uniform)
21 st Dec	School ends at 12 noon (non-uniform)
5 th Jan	Term 2 commences

**P4-7 Christmas Performance****Bethlehem B & B****Tuesday 6th December at 7pm**

In the school hall.

Each family will be allocated 3 tickets for the performance. These will be available to purchase for £5 each, via parent pay, from next week. If you do not need all 3 then these extra tickets may be made available for other families to purchase. The children have been working so hard and will be very busy over the next two weeks. Please assist them with learning any lines and sorting costumes. If anyone has any nativity costumes or props that they no longer require, please send these into school.

School will finish for P4-7 at 1.50pm

that day to enable all pupils to have a rest before coming back to school for the evening performance. Further details will follow.

PTA will be serving refreshments after the performance.

Thank you so much for your support.

Nursery and P1 Admission

Applications for September 2023 are via the EA portal from **Tuesday 10th January to Friday 27th January** at 12 noon. Information on how to apply and the published admissions criteria of schools will be available on the EA website from 13 December 2022.

If you have a child, or know a child interested in a place for nursery or P1 next school year, please complete the form on our website for prospective parents. Click on the link below to complete the form.

<https://www.orchardcountyps.co.uk/surveys/survey-3/>

Our current nursery pupils have already indicated their intentions for next year.



Santa Daily Mile Friday 2nd Dec

All pupils and staff will be taking part in the Christmas Daily Mile.

All pupils may come to school that day in their PE kit with a Christmas jumper and a Santa hat.

PTA Christmas Raffle

The PTA will be selling raffle tickets for **Christmas hampers**. These will be available to purchase, via ParentPay £2 each or 3 for £5. They will also be available to purchase at the Christmas performance.

There will also be a children's Christmas hamper available. P7 will take this around the classes and tickets will cost £1.



Christmas Presents and Cards

The staff are always very grateful for the very kind and generous gifts and cards they receive from pupils at Christmas time. This year, we are very mindful of the cost-of-living crisis and realise that families are being put under financial pressure. With this in mind, the staff have asked that you put the money usually used to buy a teacher's gift or card, towards your own family Christmas this year. Staff would be just as thrilled to receive a lovely handmade card from a child instead with a personal message.

The post box will be out again this year for pupils to post their Christmas cards to each other in school. The P7 posties will be very busy sorting and doing their deliveries!

Family Support and Resources

Please remember if you think you are eligible for free school meals, please contact the Education Authority.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

The Family Support Hub's Newsletter also focuses on the cost-of-living crisis.

<https://cypsp.hscni.net/family-support-hub-newsletter-october-2022/>

Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership

This is a link to a useful reference guide for parents and pupils. It has information on supporting children with additional needs, mental health resources and activities, bereavement resources, educational and play resources & activities. I'm sure every family will find something useful in this resource pack.

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/346/docletter/20221108100106_31_CYP-Resource-Pack-2022.pdf

Award Night

Thank you so much to those families who nominated Orchard County for the 'Key Workers Award'. The staff really appreciated all your lovely comments of support for our school.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct PE uniform on PE days. As the weather gets colder, if wearing tracksuit bottoms, they should be **plain navy** and the school jumper or navy hoodie may be worn on colder days. Remember black shoes should be worn with full school uniform. Girls should wear navy tights with full school uniform and NOT navy leggings and white socks. Thank you.

Health

As we move into the colder weather, we are expecting children to get the usual colds and viral infections. Please assess your children carefully, you know them best and know if they are fit for school. In many cases, children with colds will be well enough to attend school and continue their learning with little or no interruption to their education. We would just ask that you remind them of good respiratory hygiene. In other cases, for instance, where they have quite a heavy cold or a flu, they may need to take a day or two off to recover.

Please refer to the '[Guidance on Infection Control in Schools](#)' for advice on whether your child needs to be kept at home following an illness or period of vomiting etc. this is a very useful poster to refer to. You will find it on the website- Parents' Area- letters.

https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/346/docletter/20221117112805_32_Guidance_on_Infection_Control.pdf

Children should not attend school if they appear unwell or have been vomiting. If your child has had diarrhoea and/or vomiting the recommended period to be kept away from school is **48 hours** from their last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.

Covid If a child tests positive for COVID-19, they should **stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days**. This starts from the day after they did the test. Children and young people tend to be infectious to others for less time than adults.

Assemblies Hope for Youth Ministries

We were delighted to have Colin Tinsley in school this week from Hope for Youth Ministries. The children had four fun filled assemblies with Bible stories, verses and singing. There are lots of videos and photos on our website.

AQE

Best wishes to our two P7 pupils who will be sitting the AQE over the next three Saturdays. They have worked so hard, and we are very proud of them.

Drop Off and Pick Up Reminder that **no child should be left unattended in the school grounds before 8.40 am**. We have noticed some children being dropped off at 8.30 am. Staff are not on duty until 8.40 am.

Please remember that parents' parking is to the left as you come through the gates and along the front of the MUGA. Please do not double park or abandon your car around the roundabout. Staff parking is at the front of the school and around the roundabout. Please share this information with anyone that collects your child, as we have noticed some grandparents and childminders parking in the staff areas.

PE Fun Day

Sportscity have offered all pupils a free 'PE Fun Day' on Monday 19th December. All classes will participate in a range of activities that day. All pupils should come in their PE kit.

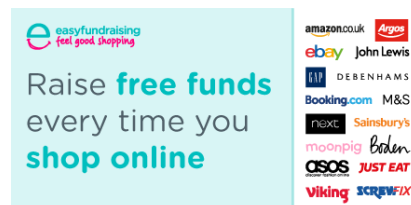
Cash for Clobber

Please continue to use the clothing bin to put in bags of clothing/textiles that you no longer need. The PTA then receives a cheque following collections.

Easy Fundraising

Please consider raising funds for the school via the PTA's Easy Fundraising online service. Shopping doesn't cost you a penny more, but as you make your Christmas purchases online, shops make a donation to the PTA. All you do is register (it's good to select the "Donation Reminder" option) and start shopping. Please give it a go and encourage your friends and family to do so too - it is free money to benefit the children of Orchard County Primary School and Nursery! Please register by clicking the link below:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orchardcountyprimaryschoolpta/>



Once you have joined, the next time you shop online, start at [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and log in. If you shop with your phone or tablet you can download the [easyfundraising app](#).



After School Activities

Term 1b Extra-Curricular Activities (7th November-16th December) 5/6 weeks



Tutor/Coach	Day	Dates	Time	Activity
*Sportscity Coaching	Monday	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th Nov 12 th Dec (5 weeks)	1.50 - 2.45pm	P2 & P3 Dance (girls & boys)
*Sportscity Coaching	Monday	7 th , 14 th , 21 st , 28 th Nov 12 th Dec (5 weeks)	2.50 - 3.45pm	P6 & P7 Dance (girls & boys)
Mrs Neill	Tuesday	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th Nov (4 weeks)	2.50 - 3.45pm	Choir P4-7
Miss Wilson	Tuesday	8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th Nov 13 th Dec (5 weeks)	2.50 - 3.45pm	P5-P7 ECO Club (non choir)
*Sportscity Coaching	Wednesday	9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th Nov 7 th , 14 th Dec (6 weeks)	1.50 - 2.45pm	P2 & P3 Football (girls & boys)
*Sportscity Coaching	Wednesday	9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th Nov 7 th , 14 th Dec (6 weeks)	2.50 - 3.45pm	P5-P7 Football (girls & boys)
Mrs McCluskey	Thursday	10 th , 17 th , 24 th Nov 1 st , 8 th Dec (5 weeks)	2.50 - 3.30pm	P7 Cross Country
Miss Emerson	Friday	11 th , 18 th , 25 th Nov 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th Dec (6 weeks)	2.50 - 3.45pm	P6 & P7 Speech and Drama

Thank you once again for your support to all the staff.

J McMillan, Principal

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