Orchard Primary
& PRE-SCHOOL

small enough to care, BIG enough to inspire



Autumn 2 Newsletter

Message from Mrs Bitcon

What an amazing half term we have had at Orchard Primary and Pre-School! It is hard to believe how much we have packed into just a few weeks. As we reach the end of our first half term together, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate all the wonderful experiences our children have enjoyed and share some exciting news for the weeks ahead.

Our children have enjoyed a fantastic range of enrichment opportunities this half term. Trips and visits have included Cotswold Wildlife Park, Bishops Wood, cross-country events, swimming and climbing activities. These experiences help bring learning to life and create memories that will stay with our children for years to come.

It has been wonderful to see how well the children have settled into their new classes. They have embraced new routines, formed positive relationships and worked incredibly hard. We are very proud of the way they have started the new academic year.

Parents' Evenings will take place during the first week back after half term. Please remember to book an appointment with your child's teacher. These meetings are an excellent opportunity to celebrate achievements and discuss next steps in learning.

A huge thank you to our PTA for organising this week's Halloween Disco. Following our recent AGM, new officers were elected and have already planned a year packed full of exciting fundraising and community events. The PTA are always looking for additional support, so please keep an eye on your class WhatsApp groups if you would like to get involved.

As we head into the half-term break, I would like to thank all of our staff, governors, pupils and families for their continued support. Together we have enjoyed a fantastic start to the year and we are excited for all that lies ahead.
Have a wonderful, safe and restful half term, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back soon

Warm wishes,

Sarah Bitcon

Key Dates for Your Diary

Please remember to regularly check the school calendar on our website. This is the best place to keep up to date with trips, performances, sporting events, PTA activities and all the exciting opportunities taking place throughout the year.

HALF TERM HIGHLIGHTS 🌟

- Year 6 Residential to Condover
- Cotswold Wildlife Park visit
- Bishops Wood visit
- Cross-country events
- Swimming sessions
- Halloween Disco
- Mobile climbing wall
- All-weather playtimes launched
- 100% attendance celebrations
- PTA AGM and exciting plans for the year ahead
- Bike to School and Dr Bike coming next half term
- Peter Pan theatre trip and Christmas celebrations ahead

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Community Events & Celebrations
A Half Term of Amazing Achievements

MOBILE CLIMBING WALL

This Friday we are delighted to welcome a mobile climbing wall to school. Every child will have the opportunity to take part. Please ensure children come to school in their PE kit, including trainers and long trousers and waterproof coat so they can enjoy the experience safely and comfortably.

SEND

Mrs White, our SENDCo, is available in school on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. If you would like to discuss your child's needs or access additional support, please contact her via your class teacher or the school office

WEST

We are also pleased to continue our partnership with Fiona, our WEST Practitioner. Fiona works in school every Tuesday and provides valuable support for children and families. Further information about the support available on request.

OTTER PLAY

Our all-weather playtimes continue to be a roaring success. The children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our outdoor provision and this week's rain certainly didn't stop the fun! In fact, many children had an absolute whale of a time splashing and exploring outdoors. Please remember to send a pair of wellington boots into school. As the weather becomes wetter and colder, waterproof trousers and all-weather suits are also highly recommended. Next half term we will be asking for donations of drainpipes, old kitchen utensils and other resources for our mud kitchen area, so please look out for our wish list.
Don't forget to send in coats!

Student Achievement- ATTENDANCE

Congratulations to the many children who have achieved 100% attendance this half term. Excellent attendance plays a vital role in children's achievement and progress. We are incredibly proud of their commitment. Mrs Swoosh will be arranging meetings with families where attendance is currently below 90% so that we can work together to provide support and improve attendance.

Community Champions

Website Update

You may have noticed some updates to our school website. We have resumed adding photographs to our class pages to showcase learning experiences. However, in line with an approach now being adopted by many schools, we will no longer use photographs showing children's faces. As always, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils remains our highest priority, and this approach helps us maintain a strong focus on online safety whilst still celebrating the fantastic learning taking place across the school.

Unders the Weather Form

Thank you to those families who have already used our 'Under the Weather' form on the school website. This has proved to be a very useful way of communicating absences quickly and efficiently. If you have not yet used the system, please take a look on our website.

BIKE TO SCHOOL

Next half term we are excited to begin working with the Bike to School Team. On Thursday 5th November they will be running a Dr Bike session. If you have a bicycle that needs a repair or safety check, bring it along and they will fix it free of charge. We will also be supporting families with purchasing helmets over the coming weeks so that everyone can cycle safely.

CHRISTMAS!

There is lots to look forward to as we head towards Christmas. Towards the end of next half term, our Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils will travel to Birmingham to watch **Peter Pan**, while Reception to Year 3 children will enjoy a pantomime performance in school. Our festive celebrations will begin with the Christmas Fayre on Friday 4th December, followed by many other exciting seasonal events.

Our **School Parliament** would also like to launch a Giving Advent Calendar. Throughout December we will be collecting donations for the local Food Bank. More information will be shared after half term, and we hope families will support this wonderful community initiative.

Contact Us

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Orchard Primary School

Attendance Rewards

Every day counts!



IF IN EVERY DAY FOR THE WEEK



Raffle Tickets

Drawn each half term!



HALF-TERM 100%



Silver

Enamel Badge

100% Attendance



WHOLE TERM 100%



Gold

Enamel Badge

100% Attendance



END OF YEAR 100%



Book Voucher

£10

and Gold 100% Badge



From all children with 100% attendance,

2 children

have a chance to

WIN!



A BRAND NEW SCOOTER!



Attendance Hero

Every day and on time ♡

