

## OPEN DAY- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 3.30 – 5.00 pm

Next Monday we plan to have an open afternoon for any new parents to come and have a look around the main school and nursery. This will give prospective parents a chance to view our facilities, meet our pupils, speak to the staff and get a flavour of the Orchard County community. Please pass this message on to your friends and neighbours who maybe have no contact with our school yet. A number of P7 pupils have volunteered to help on Monday afternoon.

## NURSERY AND P1 DIGITAL ADMISSIONS

If your child is due to start nursery or primary school in September 2019, you need to apply online at the Education Authority's website [www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk) from **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January at 10am to Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 12 midnight**. The admission criteria for Orchard County will be available on the EA's website from 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## WELCOME

We extend a special welcome to Mrs Adamson who is covering Mrs Neill's maternity leave on a Wednesday and Thursday. We are also delighted that Miss Barnes is now teaching five days a week, two in P7 and three in P4/5.

## GREEN FLAG

Congratulations to our Eco club and committee, Miss Barnes and Mr Crawford who have worked hard over the last year to achieve our second green flag. The pupils monitor our electricity use, promote recycling and educate other pupils about global issues. The judges were very impressed with the pupils' knowledge and enthusiasm. We are very proud of their achievements.



## ROAD SAFETY COMPETITION

Our P5 and P6 classes recently entered the Road Safe NI safety poster competition. Six of our pupils were amongst the twelve winners. They each received a framed copy of their winning poster along with a £10 Rushmere voucher. Congratulations to Lily Neill, James Farquhar, Jackson Neill, Toby Irwin, Emily Taggart and Alfie Walker.

## AQE

Best wishes to our three P7 pupils completing their third AQE test on Saturday. They have worked so hard in and out of school. A special thanks to Mrs Allen who led them through this process in school.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 30<sup>th</sup> Nov  
Cross Country
- 1<sup>st</sup> December  
3<sup>rd</sup> AQE
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec  
Open Day 3.30-5.00pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Craft Fair 6.30-8.30pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Nursery trip to Planetarium
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Nursery Nativity
- 13<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Christmas Dinner
- 14<sup>th</sup> Dec  
Christmas Jumper Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> Dec  
P2/3 assembly
- 20<sup>th</sup> Dec  
(non uniform)  
Party Day
- 21<sup>st</sup> Dec  
(non uniform)  
School closes at 12 noon
- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan  
Term 2 begins

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Congratulations to Ben Robinson who received a bronze medal for third place at the Flahavans Primary School Cross Country competition. The team were competing again today at Armagh.



## SWIMMING

Congratulations to Emily Taggart and Ryan Johnston who represented Orchard County at the Swim Ulster Schools' Cup and qualified for the Irish Minor Schools' Championships. We are very proud of your achievements.

## SHOWJUMPING

Well done to Alfie Walker who represented Orchard County at the Schools' Show Jumping and got a brilliant double clear.



## KNIT AND KNATTER GROUP

P7 girls have welcomed a number of more experienced members into their knitting group each week. They have had speakers showing them examples of various knitting materials and finished products. The girls enjoy this time of conversation, tea/juice and biscuits as well as getting expert tuition. A special thanks to all the ladies who have attended and assisted the girls each week.

## RUGBY and FOOTBALL

Please remind your child to come prepared for these clubs with tracksuit bottoms, trainers, school hoodie or jumper, as well as their indoor kit. The coaches try to go outside if at all possible. Collection from after school activities for P1-3 is at the usual collection point at the back of the school.

## TENNIS

P2/3 and P4/5 continue to enjoy tennis each Monday afternoon. There is NO TENNIS on MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER as Mr Ballantine is unavailable. The sixth and last lesson will take place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019.



## GUITAR

New and experienced pupils continue to enjoy guitar lessons with Mr Cruise each Wednesday afternoon.

## NSPCC

We were delighted to have the NSPCC in school last month speaking to all pupils about staying safe. An online safety workshop was also provided for parents. This was very useful and it introduced and explained many of the apps and games that our children should and should not be using.

## MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING



An amazing £1333 was raised by our Macmillan coffee morning organised by P7. They really enjoyed planning the event and serving everyone on the day. They would like to thank all those who supported this lovely community event.



## CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

This year again we are going to support Save the Children by taking part in their Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December**. All pupils can come to school in a Christmas jumper and bring a donation for Save the Children.



## SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Thank you to all those P7 parents who joined us for assembly on Monday, it was lovely for you to share in our morning worship. We realise that many parents are working so please do not feel under any pressure to attend our class assemblies, the invitation is simply there if it suits you.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS



During Monday's assembly we said a special thanks to Mrs Roberta Brownlee and Mrs Ruthanne Neill who have completed their term of office as a school governor. Both these ladies have served on our board of governors for many years and have steered the development of our school. They have given up many evenings for the benefit of all the pupils at Orchard County. We are very grateful to both these ladies and we will miss their great experience. I know they will watch closely how the pupils of Orchard County continue to flourish.

We are delighted to officially welcome Mrs Carolyn Davison, Mr David Bell and Mrs Maxine Davidson onto our new reconstituted Board of Governors. We sincerely thank them for volunteering.

## SHARED EDUCATION

Our P4/5 have now completed their joint project on Castles. They made fantastic models and are looking forward to a trip together.

P1 – P3 continue to focus on developing play indoors and out. They have made good use of their many new resources such as a sandbox, xylophone and outdoor building blocks.

P5-7 will commence their coding project in term 2.

Staff from both schools continue to meet regularly for training and project planning.

## BOOKFAIR

Thank you to all the pupils and parents who supported our book fair this year. There was a great selection of books and we sold **£1315.60** of books and earned **£789.36** commission. This commission will be used to buy more books for our Accelerated Reader Scheme. Pupils in P5 and P6 currently read from this library and complete an online test when they have finished. This is really encouraging some of our reluctant readers and they are now showing more enthusiasm for reading.

Congratulations to our five book fair competition winners:

P1/2- Georgia Murray, P2/3- Ruby Murray, P4/5- Carla Blair (absent from picture), P5/6- Ellie-Mae Stewart and P7- Jessica Bell. They were all able to choose a free book from the fair.



## NURSERY SPONSORED WALK

The nursery pupils and parents enjoyed a nursery walk and get-together at Loughgall Park. A huge thank you to all our parents who supported our sponsored walk to raise funds for the purchase of a new construction shed and tools for outdoor play. It was lovely to have an opportunity for parents to get to know each other and for pupils to enjoy a play date too!



## PTA

Special thanks to our PTA for organising a fantastic GLOW PARTY, it was a great success and raised funds for new school resources.

We are very grateful to our PTA who donated £1000 for outdoor play for P1-3. We were able to purchase scooters and two storage sheds for the outdoor equipment. Please continue to support the PTA as their focus for this year is to replace the interactive boards in the classrooms. They continue to plan a number of events for the pupils and parents.



## CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR - Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Dec 6.30-8.30 pm

The PTA plan to hold a craft fair with lots of Christmas stalls and activities in school on Wednesday night. The fair will start with the choir and community singing at 6.20pm at the P1-3 covered area at back of the school. Choir members should enter school via the yellow KS2 cloakroom door and meet in Mr Crawford's room before going to sing. Choir members can wear Christmas hats and jumpers and may bring a torch.

Parents are asked to come around the back of the school to participate in the singing and to welcome Santa to his grotto.

After the singing, the choir will return to Mr Crawford's room where their parents can collect them, to then enjoy the fair together. **All children need to be accompanied by an adult at the fair.** Entrance to the fair will be via the two resource area doors at the back of the school. Visitors/parents arriving after 7 pm may enter via the front door.

Admission is free for primary school pupils and **£3 per adult** and this includes refreshments.

There will be a number of craft stalls in the hall, P1/2 room and resource area. Refreshments will be served in the P7 room. There will be musical entertainment from pupils playing their instruments throughout the evening.

There will be a Santa Experience in the P2/3 room. Pupils will be able to write a letter to Santa, make reindeer food and get to visit Santa in his grotto. The cost for all of this will be £5 per child, if you have more than one child, these children can have the Santa Experience for the reduced cost of £3 each.

There are a lot of great prizes, raffle tickets will be available to purchase at the fair.

Please come along and support the PTA and enjoy a great community Christmas evening with your children.



## PARTY DAYS

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec will be party day in school. This will be a non-uniform day and pupils may bring a contribution of food (crisps, biscuits, sweets) for a class party instead of a healthy break that day.

## SECRET SANTA

We will again be running our Secret Santa scheme in each class. Each boy (within the class) should bring a wrapped gift into school for another boy (amounting to no more than £5.00) by **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## REMINDER

The password to access school policies on the website is **apple1**

## WINTER WEATHER

As we enter the 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.**







