

Dear Parents & Carers,

This week we have been celebrating families week and we have been learning about how families can be different, but all offer the same love. We are very proud of the diversity in our school and this was a great opportunity for children to share their experiences with each other, learning lessons about tolerance, similarities and differences along the way.

It is also most definitely gardening season again and children have been busy planting and sowing in our fantastic school garden. We look forward to our traditional home grown vegetable and salad sale later in the term. As well as eating healthily, it is also very important that children are well rested for school each day and ready for a day of learning. Make sure that they go to bed early enough to have a good night's sleep and that they don't have the temptation of televisions, tablets, phones or games consoles to keep them awake at night. Seemingly innocuous games can present risks if not monitored and children can be put at risk through contact made as a result of online gaming. We teach children the risks of being online but it is important that you monitor your children's use of the internet and how they are connecting with the outside world to make sure that they are safe. Netware is a parents' guide to the social networks children and young people use. Stay up to date and keep your child safe in today's digital world by visiting www.net-aware.org.uk/ and keep a close eye on your child's online activities.

Please look out for the dates on the back of this newsletter or on noticeboards. We are running a number of parent drop in sessions, to which everyone is invited. These sessions are informal and intended to provide you with top tips on how to support from home as well as up to date information on what the school is doing to support your child in being safe, healthy and happy at school. **We look forward to seeing you!**

Thank you for all of your support

Ms Rachel Davie
Headteacher

Mr Stephen Hall
Executive Headteacher

YEAR 1 GARDENERS

Year 1 classes took part in gardening workshops with our resident gardener Cassie. They learned about the parts of plants and Cassie even introduced them to photosynthesis and pollination! The children tasted roots, stems, fruits, flowers and seeds. They also learnt to identify the names of the fruits and vegetables and sowed some sunflower seeds.

Year 1 will now be watching carefully to see how they grow.



MATHS WORKSHOPS



The parents of Nursery and Reception children enjoyed the recent Maths Workshop. They discovered a range of practical activities to support children with their mathematical understanding. After the

workshop, parents had the opportunity to visit the Early Years classrooms. They supported their children to solve addition calculations using number lines and to solve more Numicon problems. Thank you to those of you who were able to join us!

TIMESTABLES

Our Year 5 times table ambassadors have been spending time with Year 3 teaching them times tables using a range of strategies such as quick recall and identifying missing numbers on a number line. The children are enjoying the partnership learning experience.



BE ON TIME AT FIVE TO NINE! PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON TIME SO THAT CLASSES ARE NOT INTERRUPTED.

DEBATE MATE REGIONAL CHAMPIONS



We are very pleased to announce that the Orchard Debate Mate Team successfully competed against other schools to win Round Two of the Urban Debate League and be crowned regional champions. The children were commended on achieving high scores as a result of their oracy skills. The points will now be added to the overall scores and the children are excited to find out if they will be invited to the national championships—watch this space!

YEAR 5 MAYAN WORKSHOP

Year 5 enjoyed a workshop linked to their Mayan topic and got to experience Mayan food and Mayan culture first hand. They used corn and corn meal to make tortilla wraps as the Mayans would have done, and a salsa to go with it. To do this, they used vegetables that the Mayans would have grown. The children learned about the importance of maize and cacao and the uses that it had in Mayan times - they even used it for medicine!



SUMMER TERM COFFEE MORNINGS

As well as our **Friday morning stay and read** sessions for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, all parents are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which

Date	Focus
Friday 10 th May	Homework Support: Make a reward chart and develop strategies to manage and support at home
Friday 17 th May	Reading: How to support and engage reluctant readers
Friday 24 th May	Maths: How to access online Maths learning platforms (Mathletics and Timestables Rockstars)
Friday 5 th June	Speech and Language: How to use technology to support communication and language
Friday 14 th June	Safer Community: Including preventing gang violence
Friday 21 st June	Handwriting and Spellings: Strategies to support your child's handwriting and spelling
Friday 28 th June	No Coffee Morning – Sports Day
Friday 5 th July	Geography: Develop enquiry skills and learn how to be a geographer in the local area

Key dates

Summer Term 2019

Half Term Holiday:

Monday 27th May (Bank Holiday) to Friday 31st May

Keeping Healthy Week (including sports day):

Starts Monday 24th June

Parents Evening:

Thursday 4th July

End of Term Finish Date:

Friday 19th July at 2pm

Autumn Term 2019

Start Date:

Wednesday 4th September

Half Term Holiday: Monday

21st to Friday 25th October

Children Start Date:

Monday 28th October

Parents Evening:

Thursday 28th November

End of Term Finish Date:

Thursday 19th December

Spring Term 2020

Start Date:

Monday 6th January 2019

Work & Enterprise Week:

Week beginning 20th January

Half Term Holiday: Monday

17th to Friday 21st February

Staff Training Day:

Monday 24th February

Parents Evening:

Thursday 26th March

Finish Date:

Friday 3rd April at 2pm

See our website for up to date events.

You can also follow us on Facebook & Twitter!

ATTENDANCE

Children have only 190 school days in a year so coming to school everyday makes a real difference! Whole school attendance for last week was **96.17%**

Well done to Olive Class, the weekly winners with 100%

