



### Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we have been celebrating the wonderful world of books! A variety of activities took place as part of our World Book Day celebrations, including peer reading sessions and the Book Dash, where teachers shared their favourite childhood stories. Children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and assemblies highlighted familiar characters while exploring connections between books and their authors. A big thank you to all staff and parents for helping make this a special day for the children. Learning to read and enjoying books is a vital part of becoming a great learner and we are committed to ensuring that every child leaves us as a confident and fluent reader ready for secondary school. You can support this by encouraging your child to read the books they borrow from school each day and by recording what they have read in their home school diaries.

As well as our six school values, we also create a sense of belonging through having a school uniform. Our green uniforms act as a symbol of pride and togetherness. We hope that having a uniform also makes it easier for parents in the morning when getting ready for school. To be fair to everyone we insist that all pupils wear our uniform every day and we have tried to keep the costs as low as possible to make sure that it is not a financial burden to families. Please remember that all children are expected to wear full school uniform each day. Leggings and sportswear, including jogging bottoms and tracksuit bottoms, are not permitted as part of the school uniform. Children also need a designated PE kit which should be brought in on PE days.

Next Thursday 12th March, we will be holding our Spring Term Parents Evening, when you will have the opportunity to meet your child's class teacher, look at workbooks and discuss the termly report card. You should have received a separate letter inviting you to this, however if you have missed this, please contact our admin team who will book an appointment time for you. Please note that pupils will finish at 1:00pm on this day.

We would also like to thank all families who completed the annual parent survey last term. We received over 650 responses across our family of three schools and we are very grateful for the time you took to share your views. The outcomes from the survey can be found on our school website.

In further news, we are delighted to announce that Ms Wendy will be taking on the role of the Orchard's Learning Mentor. Having been a valued member of our school community and a dedicated Teaching Assistant for a number of years, Ms Wendy brings a wealth of experience to this role.

Many thanks for all your support.

**Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher**

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### Reminders

#### Reading

Reading for 15 minutes each day helps improve reading fluency, vocabulary and concentration!



#### School Shoes

Smart black shoes for school please. School uniform items can be purchased from Mapac. To order, please scan the QR code on the next page or visit our school website for the link.



### St David's Day

This week, EYFS celebrated St David's Day and learned about the importance of daffodils as a symbol of Wales. The children explored real daffodils using their senses, carefully touching the petals and leaves and smelling the flowers!



### Digital Literacy

This term, Year 2 are learning about digital literacy. The children have been exploring the purpose of emails and learned about the key features. They also had the opportunity to compose their own emails and it was wonderful to see them developing confidence!



### Peter Thorpe

Year 5 brought together their learning about Peter Thorpe by creating their final pieces in his abstract style. The children explored vibrant colours and contrasts to make their designs stand out. They showed creativity and confidence in their finished pieces!





## World Book Day

This week we celebrated World Book Day at Orchard. Children came dressed up as their favourite book characters, took part in a peer reading session and shared their favourite books during assembly. It was a wonderful way to celebrate our love for reading!



## JRSOs

The JRSO team have been working hard in collaboration with our music lead Ms Davidson to create a catchy song to help children learn about road safety. They introduced the song to the children during music assembly and are excited to create a video to go with it.



## Key Dates

**Year 2 Rowan Class Assembly**  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10:15am

**Year 5 Poplar Class Assembly**  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10:50am

**Parents Evening**  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March - School closes at 1:00pm

**Year 2 Willow Class Assembly**  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10:15am

**Year 5 Elder Class Assembly**  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10:50am

**Easter Bonnet Competition**  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March

**Year 5 Holly Class Assembly**  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10:50am

**Parents into Learning (DT Focus)**  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 9:05am

**Lower School Parent Reading Celebration**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 9:15am

**Children break up for the Easter holidays**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March - School closes at 1:00pm

## Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space at 9:15am on a Friday. These allow you to meet with other parents as well as to learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	<u>Music</u> : How do we develop children's music skills from Reception to Year 6? (Children can attend this coffee morning)

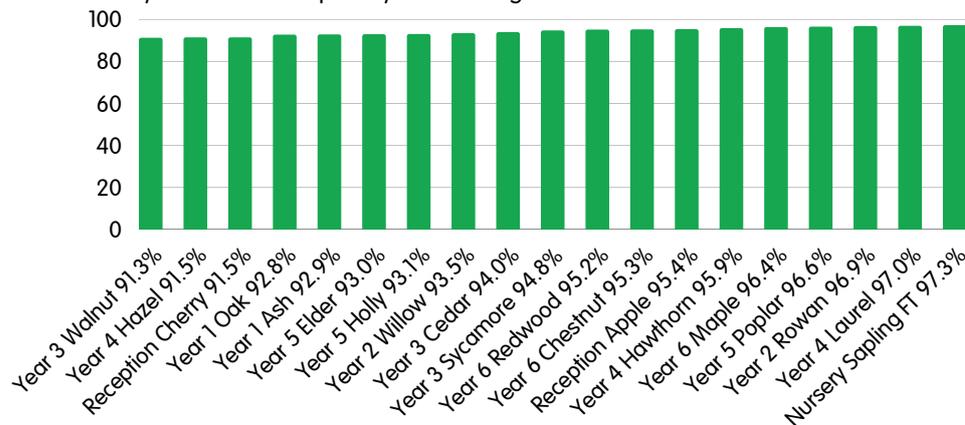
## Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 94.3%.

Well done to Nursery Sapling FT, last week's winners with 97.3% attendance.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



## Term End and Start

The second half of the spring term ends on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 1:00pm. Please scan the QR code to view our 2025 -2026 term dates.



## School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



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