

# Orchard Manor School Newsletter

December 2018



## Christmas Wishes and a Happy New Year to you all from the Staff At Orchard Manor School

Dear Parents, Carers and Staff

As we reach the final days of the Autumn term, I would like to thank you for all your support throughout the first fifteen weeks of our new school.

We have had a term filled with activities for our day pupils and borders alike. We have marked the 100 years since the end of WWI across the school through assemblies, lessons and activities such as making war time food, poppy making and discrete history lessons. We have also celebrated Halloween and Bonfire night and now we have slipped into Christmas festivities.

Pupils and staff have helped transform the school with Christmas trees and decorations. The whole school excursion to see Jack and the Beanstalk at the Northcott Theatre in Exeter was fantastic, pupils fully interacting in the experience and even dancing in the isles.



We have been joined by our governors for Christmas lunches and dinner all of which have been amazing. Governors have commented on the lovely atmosphere and great staff pupil relationships. I would like to give a special thank you to the kitchen team who as always provide us with restaurant quality meals.

Our first Parents Evening as Orchard Manor School was a great success. The inaugural Christmas productions will be difficult to surpass. The upper school Pantomime was a fast-paced comedy packed version of Cinderella. It was great to see how much the pupils and staff enjoyed dressing up and taking to the stage. I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who were involved in preparing and delivering it on the night and to all of the parents and carers who came and supported us.

The lower school Christmas show featured all lower school classes in a variety of festive performances that had parents and staff captivated. Thank you to all the staff who helped our pupils to prepare for their time in the limelight and supported them during their performances.

It has been great to see so many parents at these events and we are delighted with the overwhelmingly positive feedback that you have given; many of you describing how you have seen significant positive changes in your child whilst in our school.

We will be finishing our term with a wellbeing day that will feature carol singing accompanied by the Torquay Brass Band. We may even have a visit from a special person in a red suit!

I hope that you find our newsletter an interesting illustration of the things we have been doing in our new school during our first term. Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on the 7th of January 2019. Until then, have a restful holiday.

Best wishes  
Mark Rose—Executive Principal

## 6 Brand New Orchard Manor Prefects

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed six new prefects for Orchard Manor School - for the very first time!

Our young people went through a rigorous selection process which meant that they had to practice some really important real life skills. These included reading and understanding their job specification, putting together and submitting an application for the position, preparing for interview and then going on to being interviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and one of our governors, Mr Charles Wilson. We were delighted that he was able to join us and support this process for the very first time.

Harry, James, Leah, Joshua, Kodi and Owen did fantastically well and were all able to demonstrate that they had the potential to be role models for our younger pupils and support Orchard Manor School. They have now been appointed to their new positions.

Congratulations to you all and well done! We are looking forward to seeing you around the school with your new Prefect Badges and lanyards.



## Operation Christmas Child

This year some classes around the school got ready for Christmas early!

They prepared a shoebox full of Christmas gifts for children in Eastern Europe and Africa who would otherwise not have any Christmas gifts. The shoe boxes were full to overflowing with pens, pencils, colouring books, notepads, hats, gloves, sunglasses, sweets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, cars, dolls and most importantly, a soft toy to cuddle.



At the beginning of November, our boxes joined thousands of others at a depot in Torquay and were collected by the Samaritans Purse charity. They have

begun their long journey and are now winging their way around the world to be ready for children to open on Christmas Day!



Thank you to everyone who contributed to the shoe boxes and we will know in February where they went.

Thank you and Happy Christmas!



Janet Haley - Pine Class

## Orchard Manor School – Examinations

Examinations have moved to Hanbury, on the Upper Site – There are 7 rooms to accommodate all examination needs and access arrangements. Well Done to the Year 11's who started this academic year's exam journey with Functional Skills Maths Level 1 on the 28<sup>th</sup> November. The exam went really well for all the candidates. Good Luck with the results!

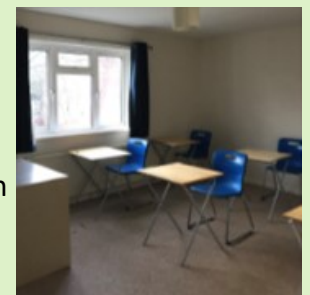
### Key Dates for your Diary

- 8/01/19 – Number and Measure Award Level 1
- 14/01/19 – Statistics Award Level 1
- February 2019 – Year 11 English Functional Skills Level 1 and Entry Level Assessments

More details about examinations can be found on the school website, in the Families' section:

<https://www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk>

Jo Potts—Exams Co-ordinator



## Doing Our Bit for Nature

A class of pupils have been busy at work alongside a newly formed relationship with Teignbridge Council.

The pupils visited Dawlish Countryside Park and were met by Jon, the ranger and two trainees. We were tasked with planting 30 saplings to replace a dying hedgerow. The saplings were Dog Rose and Hawthorn and will grow into a mature hedgerow in years to come.

The rangers informed us that these hedgerows were home to Cirl Buntings, a rare bird around Dawlish, and that what we were doing was really helping the birds. The pupils worked really hard and were eager to ask questions about all that we saw.

We studied fungi, insects and even saw two roe deer whilst we were digging. We all had a brilliant experience working with the rangers and have continued to learn more about our local flora and fauna. We are really lucky to be invited back in the new year for some more conservation tasks.

James Houghton— Forest School Instructor

### Cirl Buntings Fact File



*In winter, Cirl Buntings flock together, but they can be difficult to see as they feed in weedy stubble fields.*

*Reduced daylight hours and limited seed-rich feeding areas make winter a hard time for these birds. The birds will make regular visits to the nearby hedgerows in order to preen and sunbathe after feeding. When they are perched in the hedges they are easier to view and - more importantly - you are less likely to disturb them.*

*Cirl Buntings have a distinctive song and it is not unusual to hear a short burst of song during any month of the year on calm, sunny days. Once you've heard a singing bird, slowly scan that area with binoculars, particularly the tops of nearby scrub and trees.*

*See More at : <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/cirl-bunting>*



## Parents, Staff and Friends Association

**OMS School  
2019 Calendar  
On Sale NOW!  
Only £7!**

Featuring photos of local places, flora and fauna — and all taken by friends of the OMS family.

Yours at the bargain price of only **£7 Each** all proceeds go directly to the PSFA.

Order at Reception or call Graham Tolliday  
01626 862363 x 229 or  
[gtolliday@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:gtolliday@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk)

## Happy Christmas - Here's to a fantastic 2019!!



Two beautiful Christmas trees went up on both sites, kindly donated by Holly (one of our fantastic staff) and her husband. They were decorated by the children whilst listening to

Christmas music and eating mince pies.

The vintage nativity scene came out of its box and was put on the top of the fire place - complete with a blanket of snow. It doesn't matter that there are horns missing from the cow and the sheep's head has seen better days, we love to see the familiar things which remind us of the traditions of Christmases gone by.

It is a time of family and friends, and we would like to wish you all, **a very happy and healthy Christmas and a prosperous New Year!**

# Remembrance Sunday

## Celebrating the Centenary of Armistice Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918



For Remembrance Day we focused on the link between the First World War and Poppies.

Children from both upper and lower school created a poppy display. The creative talents of the children has been inspiring, with no two people's poppies the same. The children have also planted 51 pots of poppy seeds – with an average of 50-60 seeds per pot. Early next summer we should see nearly 3000 amazing poppies in flower.

We have a bed of poppies in the polytunnel, and the children have enjoyed looking at all the different forms, colours and shapes.

Cathy Johnston—Rural Skills Instructor



### Remembrance Reflection



On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November, the Lower School held a short remembrance reflection in assembly.

This was to mark the 100th anniversary of the armistice that brought World War I to an end.

We thought about the soldiers and civilians from all the counties that had fought and died in World War I and World War II as well as all the wars since.



The hall had been beautifully decorated with handmade poppies. The poem 'In Flanders Field' was read, and while music was played all the children laid a poppy petal they had made on the memorial display.

It was very moving to see the children thinking so carefully about the sacrifice made by so many.

Janet Haley — Pine Class



## Sports News



This half term has continued to be busy with both sites continuing Exeter City Football training on a Friday afternoon.

We would all like to thank Exeter City for their involvement in this project as many pupils have really enjoyed taking part. Exeter City will not be back with us next half term but we hope they may join us again in the summer term.



We have also been really pleased to have Steve Pritchard from Devon Cricket joining us on the lower school site for Table Cricket sessions. Pupils from Post 16, Chestnut and Green class have all been learning how to play and score in the game. We are hoping to enter a team into one of the tournaments coming up in the new year.

A special mention must go to Red Class who have been studying a Harry Potter themed project this half term. As part of this project we managed to set up some Quidditch training sessions and games! The pupils looked amazing with OMS 500 broomsticks (swimming woggles !!!) I must say they and the staff all entered into the spirit of the game and we had great fun.



Next half term we will be setting up circuit off some of the Christmas excess and to healthy lifestyles. Some groups will be trying out Archery and New Age Curling while others will be trying Volleyball and Indoor Hockey. We will also be starting a Basketball Club on a Friday afternoon on the Upper school site.

All that remains for me to do is wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



training to try and burn encourage positive attitudes

Fran Fox—PE Instructor

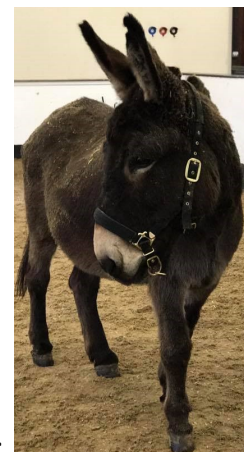
## Donkey Therapy Courage Cup



Abdul attends Donkey therapy with his class regularly throughout the year. Like many of our children, he had never seen a donkey before and called them zebras !!

Initially, he was very reluctant to go anywhere near the donkeys and would watch while his peers interacted with them, and if the donkeys moved towards him, he would run away.

However, through praise, patience and encouragement Abdul gradually began to feel more confident. He began to approach the donkeys. As his confidence grew he started to lead them around the arena by their harnesses. He then progressed to being able to groom them.



In recognition of his fantastic achievement of overcoming his fears, he was presented with a trophy for his courage. Well done, Abdul. We are so very proud of you!

Julie Macfie-Jones - Blue Class

## Harry Potter and Red Class

Over the course of this half-term, Red Class have been studying Harry Potter as our part of the Abracadabra theme down in the Crispin Building in the Lower School.

Harry Potter is a particular passion of mine and I had great fun re-reading The Philosopher's Stone and matching activities to each chapter to create my Medium Term Plan!



Over the half-term holidays, we sent each of the children a Hogwarts Acceptance Letter in the post and Charlotte Moyse and I came into school to transform our classroom into Hogwarts. Thanks to Charlotte's incredibly creative talents and the time she contributed to creating so many marvellous props and decorations for the room, the classroom looked absolutely stunning!

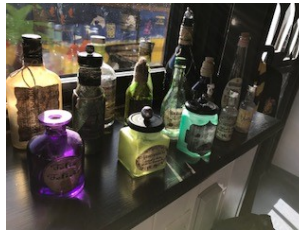
On the first day of term the children walked through the classroom door (which had been decorated to look like Platform 9 ¾!) all dressed in their finest witch and wizard robes with the soundtrack blaring in the background, and looked around wide-eyed at the magical transformation. It is fair to say that they instantly fell in love with their new surroundings!



The children were then sorted into their houses in our Sorting Hat Ceremony: they cut open a Sorting Hat cake and the colour of M&Ms inside indicated which house they

would be in – red for Gryffindor, yellow for Hufflepuff, blue for Ravenclaw and green for Slytherin.

Over the past eight weeks we have been fully immersed in the wizarding world of Harry Potter. In Maths or "Arithmancy" we have weighed pumpkins from Hagrid's Pumpkin Patch, looked at Hogwarts Express train times and timetables, used money to go shopping in Diagon Alley, and measured



the capacity of potion bottles.

In English or "Ancient Runes" we have completed character studies of Harry Potter and Dumbledore, written diary entries and letters home about Hogwarts, written rhyming magic spells, designed our own stones with magical powers and made our own Harry Potter themed board games and Top Trumps cards. In Science or "Potions" we have learnt about states of matter and conducted experiments to test reversible and irreversible changes.



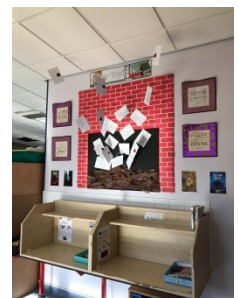
In Art or "Transfiguration" we have made owl collages, Fred and George Weasley Fireworks paintings, chalk ghost pictures, chopsticks crafted into magic

Ollivander wands, lined boxes for our wands, clay trolls, mini Mirror of Eriseds, and a large model Quidditch pitch. In Food Tech or "Hogwarts Kitchen" we have tasted Bertie Botts Every Flavour Beans, brewed up some Butterbeer, and made chocolate frogs, Ghost Fright-Night Fancy cakes and Christmas cakes.



We have had lots of other lovely teachers getting on board with our topic too! James has helped us make broomsticks in Forest School ("The Forbidden Forest"), Cathy teaching us about plants in her allotment in "Herbology", Fran teaching us how to play "Quidditch" on pool noodles in P.E. and Nina teaching us how to cast magical spells using the power of music!

With so many children and members of staff from other areas of the school sharing our excitement, coming to visit us and see our work taking shape, this topic has been a wonderful way for the children to involve themselves with the wider school community.



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Peter was NOT a fan of the 'black pepper' flavoured Bertie Botts Every Flavour Bean!



I take my wizard hat off to the children in Red Class for bringing this topic to life with their incredible enthusiasm and use of imagination. We are so lucky to have such a superb class of witches and wizards!

Jackson and Peter said, "Our topic is one of the best topics we have ever had and I hope we get to do another topic as good as this again sometime."

Jack said, "Our classroom is SO awesome!"

Alfie W. said, "I have loved using my magic wand in role-play games at lunchtime play and will treasure it forever!"

Alex Dweck - Red Class Teacher



Tasting our Butterbeer - Cheers!

## Orchard Manor Panto!



Orchard Manor Upper School saw its first ever Pantomime successfully performed last week by children in Years 6 through to Year 11 and members of staff.

The traditional story of Cinderella was abandoned for the alternative Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes version and added to the mix included Cinders departing for the ball in the Tardis, Ant and Dec challenging Prince Charming to a Bush Tucker Trial and John and Greg from MasterChef challenging the Ugly Sisters to a Pie fest.



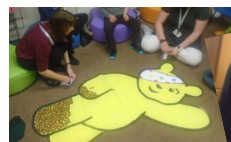
The audience loved it and more importantly our students had the opportunity to display their fine talents in the Performing Arts.

Nina Jarram



### £127.49 Raised for Children in Need

Our art teacher, Nigel, created two giant Pudseys which we filled with pennies to donate to Children in Need. Each class had a great time filling in the spaces with the coppers. We managed to raise a fantastic amount which will be donated to Children in Need. Well done everyone! And a huge thank you to the parents who donated!



## Exeter's Clip and Climb!

Wow! What an amazing time we had at the Clip and Climb! We went up to Exeter by car and went out for a meal to KFC to start off with. We really needed the energy as we all climbed so high—as you can see from the photos. We love going to Clip and Climb. Records were set—an amazing 14 seconds for the ascent of one climb and there were some participants who exceeded their own expectations by far. It's an amazing place to learn co-ordination and balance and build confidence. Our young people really enjoyed the experience including taking all the safety guidance very seriously.

Chris Heard — Gala House



## Ohhh No You Didn't!

Wednesday 5 December saw the majority of the students and staff attend a relaxed performance of Jack and the Beanstalk, at Exeter Northcott Theatre. Fifty one staff accompanied one hundred and thirty five students and they were entertained by a Panto full of Heroes, Baddies and a twelve foot high Giant!!



Three of the students bravely took to the stage to join in with singing the traditional end of show song and all three received a Goodie Bag for their trouble. Student comments afterwards ranged from 'it was really funny', to 'I loved all the lights & music' to 'AWESOME !!' Generally, a good time was had by all.

Graham Tolliday—Deputy Head Care



## WarHammer Lunchtime Club!



This half term has seen the start of a new WarHammer Lunchtime club.

This is a game that involves building, painting and then playing games with miniature figures. The game itself is a turn based, dice rolling, strategy game which pits you and the army you have created against another player and their army.



The club has been hugely successful and has included trips to the Games Workshop store in Exeter. Here, students have been shown the intricacies involved in getting the finer details painted on their characters as well as learning how to play the game.

The club is run by Mr Muir every Wednesday lunchtime in the art room.



Mike Muir — Science Teacher

## A New Kitchen and THRIVE Room for Chestnut Class

Last Friday afternoon, Chestnut Class opened it's doors to pupils and staff to celebrate the opening of the redecorated kitchen and THRIVE room.

Over the previous three weeks pupils have painted, filled, sanded and transformed a tired space into a bright, clean and welcoming one. One pupil was particularly instrumental in the work and that was Luke Stanton, his hard work and decorating skills were excellent.

The pupils made cakes, sausage rolls and biscuits to share with the visitors and take them round the newly revamped rooms.

Chestnut staff—Becky, Michelle and Richard are all very proud of the pupils and the new facilities.

Richard Ensor—Chestnut Class



## Penguin Love!



Purple Class were set challenge as part of a mini topic: Penguins. They were each given a little chocolate penguin to take care of for a few days. They were all extremely caring; making beds and toys, being gentle and naming their penguins.

It was lots of fun and they got to eat them at the end! Delicious! Here are some photos of Purple Class looking after their "pets".

Gemma Chave—Purple Class



## Residential News

We have had an extremely busy term, absolutely brimmed full of activities. Everyone had an amazing time at Clip and Climb in Exeter. We had a KFC before just to give us the energy we needed. Our young people all tried really hard to exceed the heights they reached before. It was a really great team effort.



We had an amazing evening at the Residential Christmas Dinner—with a delicious turkey and all the trimmings and we even had a sweet trolley where we could choose our pudding! I can't say that everyone ate their sprouts, but everyone had a really good time telling jokes from the crackers and just being with each other. Christmas jumpers were everywhere and lots of the staff were invited too. There was a real family atmosphere. There were about 46 of us altogether, so well done to the Jubilee Team and helpers for cooking! Everyone left to go back to their houses feeling happy and full!

We went to see the Orbital Ariel Gymnastic Display in Exeter in the Princess Hay shopping centre. There were lots of people about and we saw some fantastic displays. We also had an expedition to Trago Mills where everyone chose their own chocolate advent calendars and we picked out some Christmas Decorations for the houses and a few little presents for Christmas. We came back and decorated our houses and put up the trees which was really good fun. All the residential houses look really Christmassy.

There have been a few birthday celebrations this term, too. We went to KFC to celebrate and then came back to the house to have birthday cake. The Dungeons and Dragons game has been really popular this term too. Some of our young people get together almost every evening to play for a while. They are becoming real experts. We have done so much this term. We try to do something different every evening. We have been swimming and bowling, had trips to the cinema, we have had trips out to have fish and chips, been for walks into town and all sorts of things. Once a week we have a Social Night which happens at each of the houses in turn. We go to visit the other houses and have a meal, listen to music, play games and have a great evening all together. It has been a really great term and we are looking forward to more fun in the New Year!

## Welcomes and Farewells

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all our new staff to Orchard Manor School. We have several new starters who have joined or will be joining the Orchard Manor Team. We would like to introduce **Babar Coughlan**, who started officially on the 10 of December after being with us for nearly 3 months with an agency—she liked it so much she decided to stay! She will be working in the Finance Department and will you will also see her on reception. **Julie Coulls** started on the 17 of December as a Finance Administrator, she is part-time and is available until 2.30 pm, Monday to Friday. **Megan Barr** will start on 7 of January 2019 as a Child Care Officer and will be working with the Residential Team in Jubilee.

We would also like to wish **Teresa Dudman** all the very best for her future. Teresa has been with us in Ratcliffe and now Orchard Manor for 24 years so she has seen some amazing changes in the school. Teresa has been part of our Admin Team and has worn many hats over the years, latterly working in Finance. She has co-ordinated reviews, organised parents evenings, kept the student data up to date and she has even been the Chief Honey Maker and Bee-Keeper for our Orchard Manor Bees. We will miss her and her dry sense of humour, her cheery smile along with her commitment to the school, and we would like to thank her for all her work over the years. Good luck with your new adventures Teresa, you will be missed, but we wish you well.

## Stonewall Bronze School Champion Certificate for Orchard Manor School



This term saw Orchard Manor receive the Bronze School Champion certificate from Stonewall. The Bronze Stonewall School Champion award gives recognition to schools tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and celebrating diversity. They also enable schools to effectively benchmark their progress and give direction to their ongoing work in this area.

They aim to let all lesbian, gay, bi and trans people, here and abroad, know they're not alone. Stonewall believe they are stronger united, so partner with organisations that help create real change for the better, including school, colleges and the workplace. They have laid deep foundations across Britain - so the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi and Trans) community can continue to find ways to flourish, and individuals can reach their full potential.

They are there to support those who can't yet be themselves. More information can be found at [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk)

Alex Caven—Teacher

## Football at the Emirates Stadium London - Arsenal Vs Blackpool - Carabao Cup we won 2:1!



As a reward for good behaviour in school some of the residents requested a trip to the football in the Emirates Stadium in London—the home of Arsenal Football Team. 9 children and 4 staff drove up to London in 2 cars, loaded with goodies and treats for the journey.

We left at mid-day and got to our destination in North London after following a magical mystery tour from “Mr Sat-Nav”, which took us through the centre of London in the middle of the rush hour— the sight seeing trip took in The Ritz on Piccadilly, we saw the cherub on top of Piccadilly Circus, we passed the Harrods store in Knightsbridge, saw the fantastic cars and hotels on Park Lane and went past other famous landmarks. The young people were wowed with the fantastic cars, the famous red buses and the hustle and bustle of all the people and rush hour traffic in London. We managed to catch a Congestion Charge en-route too— which wasn't in the plan!

We eventually found a parking place in Islington, and then we made the 25 minutes hike to the stadium, stopping to replenish the food banks with a delicious cheeseburger burger from a street stand—13 Burgers and Chips! The queue was massive thanks to us!

We found our seats and watched the match which was amazing. The atmosphere in the stadium was fantastic and when we scored the roars from the crowds around us was deafening!



It was a quiet journey on the way home, we had two cars full of exhausted but extremely happy young people, and the adults had had a great time too. We arrived back at school at 3:30 in the morning! It had been a long day. Needless to say, there were lie-ins for the children the following morning.

It was an amazing trip, and a big thank you goes to the staff who made it possible. The young people had an excellent day and will remember the experience for a long time to come.

Kelly Spencer—Spartan House