

# Orchard Manor School Newsletter

October 2018



## An amazing day of Celebrations as Orchard Manor School Officially Opens!

We were so lucky to have a beautiful day full of sunshine to welcome Councillor Caroline Chugg (the Chair of Devon County Council), our parents and families, along with other VIPs to the official opening of Orchard Manor School.

The VIPs arrived at midday and welcomed and served drinks by Harry, Aiden, Rhys, Connor and James who were extremely well presented in our new school uniform and blazers. They did a wonderful job of welcoming all the visitors. Lunch was served and time was spent chatting to the Governors and the Senior Leadership Team before the VIPs were taken off for a look around our new school. They had an opportunity to see the Pizza Oven, our Forest School and our Rural Skills area as well as to asking staff any questions they had.

Whilst this was going on, in all the classrooms, there were mini-celebrations happening too. Cakes and soft drinks were enjoyed by all the students to ensure that everyone was included in the party atmosphere.

The families were invited to join in our celebrations later in the afternoon. They were treated to our fantastic Makaton Choir which welcomed the visitors with beautifully sung and acted words to Cyndi Lauper's song True Colours. All of the students involved did a beautiful job and everyone really enjoyed it.

Councillor Chugg then gave a short speech before she unveiled the plaque to commemorate the school's official opening. She said she was delighted to be officiating at our opening ceremony and emphasised the importance of our school in providing specialist Education and Care provision for the whole County. Our Chair of Governors, Maggie Carter, was also here and gave a speech too, which described Orchard Manor School as being progressive and committed to the on-going development of its provision to meet the needs of individual pupils and the demand for



specialist provision places. Then our Executive Principal Mark Rose paid tribute to all of our wonderfully talented pupils and the incredibly motivated and skilled staff and dedicated and supportive parents. He also reinforced the school's commitment to supporting all pupils to become independent, responsible young people who can contribute positively to society. At the end, he thanked the local community for their on-going support and said he is looking forward to building more connections in the future.

Amber Hurdley presented Councillor Chugg with a beautiful bouquet of flowers at the end of the speeches.



Torbay Brass Band provided the musical background and some excellent entertainment for our visitors - whilst they enjoyed coffee and cakes provided by our wonderful catering staff. Everyone really enjoyed themselves, and some of our children and teachers really got into the swing of things and helped play some musical instruments alongside the band. The bouncy castle on the lawn was also very successful. Towards the end of the afternoon we were all given an ice-cream out of the ice-cream bicycle by Harry, Aiden, Rhys, Connor and James. Delicious!



All in all it was a lovely day, and a fitting launch for our new school.

## Year 8 Cake Sale Enterprise



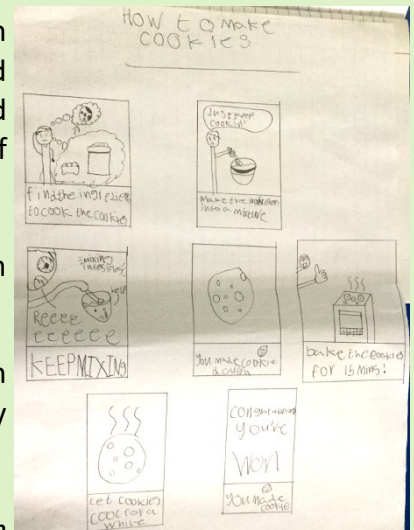
On Friday 12th October 2018, Year 8 held a cake sale as part of an enterprise lesson as the culmination of life skills work, based around money. Our learning journey started with understanding about the banking system and money, which developed into how we could earn our own money.

We completed market research on cakes currently available, designed our own flavours which included orange chocolate, Caramel Biscoff and toffee centred chocolate cakes!

We then had to create ingredient lists to budget, and buy our ingredients from Sainsbury's.

We baked and decorated in an attempt to make as much profit as we could. In the end we managed to raise £63.55. Thank you to everyone that came to buy cakes and supported our learners in their enterprise.

*Amanda Crump, Ceara Gilpin and Emma McGeown*





# Message from The Chair of Governors

As we near the end of the first half term of Orchard Manor School, on behalf of the whole governing body, I want to acknowledge the positive way the new school has developed in a few short weeks.

We can all see some of the changes - in the new uniform, the new signs all round the school and the new names on the buildings. But these obvious signs are only one aspect of what has changed, because in the end a school is all about the people - and there are changes there too.

We have all come together as a new team from two previous schools, with a new Leadership Team, to develop an agreed vision for Orchard Manor which is now displayed around the school. Our vision describes where we want to get to and which we all strive towards. Achieving the vision takes time and tenacity but our mission on a day to day basis is to provide all the pupils of Orchard Manor with the best education they deserve and we will continue to find creative ways to achieve our vision for the school in five years time.

Thank you and best wishes

*Maggie Carter*

Chair of Governors

## ORCHARD MANOR SCHOOL VALUES



## Orchard Manor School Mission Statement

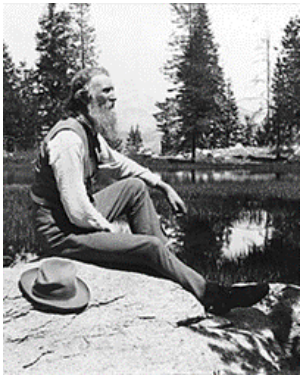
Our pupils are at the centre of everything we do and we consistently strive for high quality education and care. We understand their individual needs and the importance of positive mental health and well-being ensuring that they can reach their full potential, be happy, safe and included in school and the community. We enable them to express themselves in the knowledge that they are listened to and that theirs is the most important voice. Together, we support them into an adulthood which is as independent as possible.



# The John Muir Award

With the help of James in Forest School, Pine Class have been working on the John Muir Award. This is to encourage us to discover a wild place, to explore it, to help conserve it and to share our knowledge with others. We have been discovering amazing things about our own school environment, building dens, picking up litter, feeding the birds, making a bug hotel and lighting camp fires.

Our journey of discovery has also taken us to Yarner Woods where we saw beautiful birds, fantastic fungi, terrific trees and a silvery stream. We have just started to write a poem to share and we will put that in next term's newsletter.



John Muir



Janet Haley, Pine Class Teacher

# Life for Children in World War II



Pine class have been learning about World War II. We investigated why the war started, listened to Mr Chamberlain and made a newspaper about the start of the war. We are finding out how the war affected the lives of children.



We have learned about the Blitz and what it was like to be in an air raid shelter – we have made a model Anderson Shelter in our classroom and when the siren sounds we go into the shelter, taking a small box of things we think will be important. We found out lots of interesting facts from a lady who lived in London and went to bed in an air raid shelter every night for months!



We are also learning about children who were evacuated from the book *Carrie's War*. We want to know where children were sent, who they went to live with, what did it feel like to be so far away from home, how would you feel if nobody wanted to take you home with them?



During the war there wasn't much to eat so we are going to investigate how much

food a child would have to eat each week. Not a lot!

Janet Haley, Pine Class Teacher



# Vision Statement for Orchard Manor School

*This vision statement was created in September 2018 by all staff and Governors of Orchard Manor School. Its intent is to showcase the ambitions we have for our school and indicate our position five years hence – September 2023 - and therefore will provide a backdrop to planning, decisions and target-setting.*

*Like all philosophies, it will be revisited and reviewed when appropriate.*

## Environment

The physical environment is stimulating and complements the individual learning journeys of all pupils. We are working and learning in a safe, welcoming, calm and supportive environment with access to a well-maintained site which is one linked campus with extended and state-of-the-art facilities. These include numerous outdoor zones (Forest school, reflection areas, sensory areas, age appropriate play areas, horticulture and animal husbandry), a Sports Hall suitable for theatre productions, a school café and shop, library and a vocational centre. There is a Specialist Hub for professionals including therapists for speech and language, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, Thrive, counsellors and school nurse. The eco-friendly school campus is utilised by other schools – both mainstream and specialist providers.

## Pupils and parents

Our pupils are valued, safe, happy and are engaged in the school community supported by their EHCPs to learn and achieve. Pupils access their appropriate curriculum at the highest possible level, contributing their voice to choices and are safe experiencing positive mental health. The uniqueness of each child or young person is recognised and they leave Orchard Manor equipped to engage as independently and confidently as possible in adulthood. All students contribute to school life through positive engagement with peers and staff and have developed ownership of the school. We celebrate their successes via weekly and family ceremonies and have a positive relationship with all parents through clear and open communication involving them in a range of activities and occasions.

## Our staff

We all have a sound knowledge and understanding of the impact of all individual needs, are well supported and trained. We are highly motivated and skilled, supported with our own health and well-being. We feel trusted, respected and proud of the school community. Each staff member is valued, safe, and communication is clear and open across all areas, understanding our voice is heard. Our training is relevant and intelligent allowing us all to feel empowered and valued within the school community and wider educational landscape.

## Community

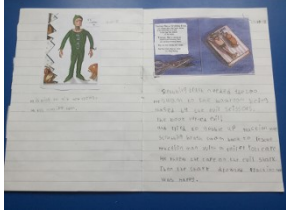
The local and educational community are proud of our school as we maintain strong links promoting access to our facilities for a range of groups. Our pupils access the wider community and experience numerous opportunities to be involved in the world of work, business and local initiatives. We use our Youth Club to forge new friendships in and out of school and host social events for the community.

As a centre of national excellence for specialist education we take pride in our responsibilities and strength.

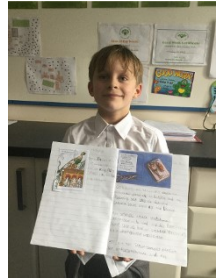
# Good Work and Pupils of the Term!

We are celebrating some of our young people's good work from this term:

George Harbron has settled in class really well and is making great progress with his writing this half-term. We have been enjoying books by Mini Gray. George has been writing all about Traction Man.



Evie Wallace has also settled in well this term and has completed some writing about Traction Man which has been written by Mini Gray, our author this term in Purple class.



Leah James has been doing some fantastic drawings.



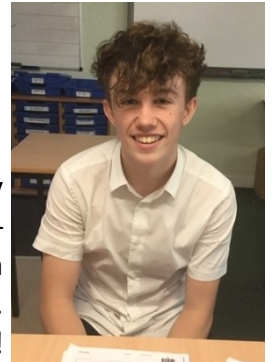
We would like to congratulate both Aidan Flangan and Kodi Evans-Carter for being nominated by staff as Pupils of the term!



Aidan has made excellent progress and looks smart and very proud to be wearing our Orchard Manor school uniform. He works hard and manages to participate in school routines. He has a positive attitude and engages with his peers. Well done Aidan - keep up the hard work!

Kodi is a fantastic role model for both school and residence. He is firmly focused on his grades and helping others. He presents himself as well-mannered, respectful and hard working. He is a positive influence in the classroom and an excellent mentor for young pupils in the school.

Well done Kodi - you are a great example!



## PSFA AUTUMN TERM 2018



Although it's been a relatively quiet half term as far as the PSFA is concerned, we have been active behind the scenes tying up loose ends following the summer Fete, being involved with the New School Opening Ceremony and most recently, being involved with the Family Wellbeing Lunch for our EYFS, KS1 and KS2 Parents and Carers which was held on Friday October 5th.

The feedback from the family members who attended that function was that there are many parents, carers and their friends who are interested in joining or helping to support our PSFA. All and any help from our family links will always be gratefully accepted, and you can contact Graham or Rob by using the emails below.

We have already planned for the following events for the Christmas half term, and we will be discussing these and other events at our next meeting on

**Tuesday 30 October at 4pm.**

If you would like to help out at the Christmas Fayre or you would like to come to our meeting, please call the Residential Administration office on **01626 868154** and speak to Maranda Scarff. We would love to see you!

**Graham Tolliday** PSFA Chairman  
gtolliday@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk  
**Rob Irving** PSFA Vice-Chairman  
rirving@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk

- **December 5th** Whole School Outing to see 'Jack & the Beanstalk' at Exeter Northcott Theatre.
- **December 20th** – Family Wellbeing Christmas Fayre, including Brass Band, Makaton Choir, Stalls, refreshments and a fantastic Christmas Raffle.

# Rural Skills



The new Rural Skills Department has over 100 children regularly attending classes, with children across all key stages. We have a beautiful new classroom with a huge farmhouse table, and access to a kitchen where, perhaps in the colder months, children can help make jams and pickles from the produce they have grown.



The aim is for children to experience the pleasure of playing with soil, creating plants and gardens, being outside and aware of nature around us. Along the way, children will achieve certificates and qualifications, and hopefully learn to enjoy their time in the garden, any garden. There is an ethos of sustainability, with re-using, recycling and foraging being at the heart of the gardens at school.



The whole Rural Skills area has been cleared of brambles and laurel and is now being redeveloped. The newly refurbished polytunnel is filled with vegetables, seedlings and cuttings ready to be grown on next year. There have been massive groundworks to create exciting learning areas including an allotment, class gardens, composting area and outside classroom. Work has started to build a new enclosure for us to have chickens again, along with the pigs who will be coming soon.



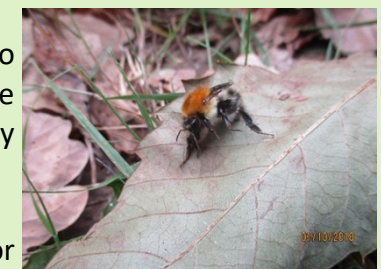
Other projects which have been started include the creation of a sensory garden which will have sensory plants and textured pathways, on the playground on lower site. The garden of Beech Class is being cleared ready to be planted with sensory and edible plants. The Gladstone walled garden is going to be made beautiful and accessible. All of this work is being inspired by the children.



As well as the new projects, children have experienced tasting sessions, where they picked and ate fruit and vegetables growing on the allotment; they have made garden designs and shared their ideas of what is needed in the garden; we have talked about health and safety; flowers and seed heads have been gathered for pressing; seeds and cuttings have been planted. The KS4 students have laid a patio in readiness for the new composting area.

The 'Bug Hotel' has been refurbished, with over 40 children helping to make the 'rooms,' and creating our biggest ever bug housing project.

The bees are still busy and making honey still to sustain them over the winter. Their food is supplemented by a special syrup, but there must still be pollen around, as they've hardly started the syrup yet. They were very successful this year in that they gave us 42 jars of honey.



Cathy Johnston—Rural Skills Instructor

# World Mental Health Day

Say #HelloYellow  
this World Mental  
Health Day!

On 10th October the pupils and staff of Orchard Manor School joined in with thousands of others across the globe to recognise and celebrate World Mental Health Day, with the catchphrase #HelloYellow

Pupils and staff wore something yellow to help promote the importance of looking after our own and others mental health and the variety of shirts, socks, ties, hats, painted nails, scarfs, shoes, and all manner of things yellow across the school showed how much we value positive mental health.

During the day donations were collected and competitions to guess the weight of the cake, guess the number of sweets and guess the name of the teddy. All of which generated more money which we are donating to the charity 'Young Minds' who help young people and their families all across the UK who face challenges with their mental health.



Pupils making yellow happy faces



Our kitchen team made 'yellow iced cakes' for after lunch, and although they looked a little strange, tasted delicious and pupils participated in a range of activities, during the day, designed to develop understanding of their own wellbeing.

The winning name for the Teddy is 'Honey' and was won by a Year 10 pupil.

There were 147 sweets in the bag and the cake weighed in at 1095g, both won by a 'super gesser' in Year 7.



We continue to actively promote and support positive mental health at Orchard Manor and have more events planned in the coming months, so will keep you informed

*Bryan Webster Assistant Principal Curriculum and Mental Health Lead*

# Family Wellbeing Lunch

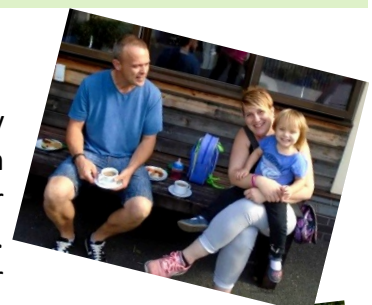


We held our first 'Family Wellbeing Lunch' for our Early First Years and Key Stages 1 and 2 parents on Friday 5th October. The event proved to be a huge success with over 65 parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles coming to visit. Holding the event over the lunch period made it easier for many more parents to attend.

On hand to offer advice and support to parents and carers were Steve West from the EH4MH team, Vince Wilson from Citizens Advice and Jenny Hardwick from Quids4Kids.

We will be planning a further 'wellbeing lunch' for parents of Key Stages 3 and 4 and Post-16 in the Spring/Summer term and will keep you informed of other events that are happening.

*Mandy McVitty Home School Liaison*





# Donkey Interaction Therapy



This term, Blue and Yellow classes are attending Donkey Interaction Therapy, at the Slade Centre, Sidmouth. Here the children get opportunities to interact with the donkeys in the arena, either on a 1:1 basis or 2:1.

We have watched as the children's confidence over the half term has already improved. Some were so shy and apprehensive at the start of term and are now confident to interact, touch, talk to and brush the donkeys. Some of our children are also taken to animal husbandry skills, such as feeding, mucking out and grooming. These skills will work towards an AQA award.

As well as the benefits of this therapy, the children also have time to play with their peers in a lovely safe and enclosed play environment. We have watched as peer group friendships have developed here and then been continued in school at playtimes.

We also eat our lunch at the Slade centre, where a hot meal is cooked for us by Norma. The children have to use their communication skills, either verbal, PECS or Makaton (or combination of all three), to ask Norma for what they would like to eat. Choices have to be made, interactions forged and communication skills are embedded. We very often observe improvements in communication here first, which can then be worked on and practised in school. The children love being able to use their communication skills, in an "out of school" environment and Norma is excellent at enhancing the work we do with each of our children in this area.

It is no wonder that the Donkeys are so popular with our pupils! They are always so keen to go each week. They gain such a lot from it. The learning is real and meaningful.

*Hazel Fletcher (Blue Class Teacher)*



## Orchard Manor Safeguarding Team

Welcome back to the new school year! Just to remind you the Orchard Manor Safeguarding team is James Watson our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Rachel Addison our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Brenda Steel our Safeguarding Governor. We also have several other Level 3 trained staff within the school - Graham Tolliday, Bryan Webster, Helen Stone, Pam Matson and Mark Rose.



This half term we have refreshed the Safeguarding Policy in line with the changes to Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018.

Please find a copy of the policy on the website under the new Safeguarding section, where you can find some useful information and links which we will be updating regularly. [www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk](http://www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk)

# Learning About The Holocaust

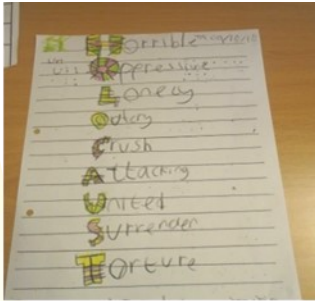
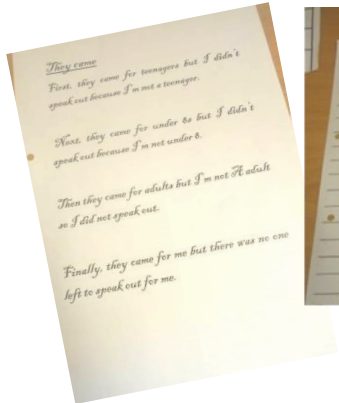
Over the last half term Apollo (KS3) have been learning about the Holocaust.



They have explored extracts from Anne Frank's diary and have gained a greater understanding of how Jews were treated during WW2. They have written their own diary extracts based on the experiences of Anne Frank as well as using emotive language to create acrostic, repeating and narrative poetry.

In Food Technology the students have looked at rationing and recreated some of the more popular recipes.

In Art they have learned about perspective and have recreated the famous picture of the entrance to Auschwitz.

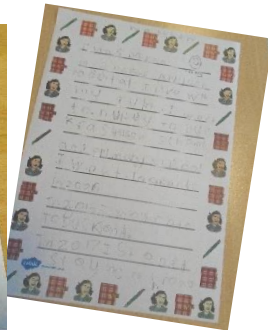
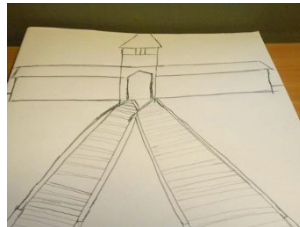


Poems

Carrot Biscuits



Art Work



Diary Entries

# Sports News



The new term at Orchard Manor has got off to a fantastic start with pupils across the school taking part in Exeter City Football coaching sessions. We have managed to facilitate two coaches working on both Upper and Lower school sites. They have been delivering a lunchtime club session and an organised training session for those who want to attend during Friday afternoon Life Skills activities.

These sessions will continue after Half Term up until Christmas so if anyone would like to join in they would be more than welcome.

I am also really pleased to report that our new Youth Club has now opened. Classes have been enjoying pool, air hockey, table football, games room, mini gym and the music practice room. We have also purchased a new music centre for the area and there is a TV and DVD player so pupils can relax and enjoy reward activities.

During curriculum time we have been working on team building skills, Football and Basketball, Boccia and, for the younger pupils, fundamental movement skills and games. We have also started using some new soft play equipment for our pupils who are working on sensory development.

*Fran Fox  
Physical Education*

# Parent Mail

We will be introducing Parent Mail to Orchard Manor School which is a flexible and functional email and text application, enabling communication from the school to parents and carers to be instant and simple.

To ensure that you are able to receive information from the school in this way, please would you give us your email address and your mobile number by writing them in your child's Home-School Book. You will then be able to receive texts, letters, links to the newsletters and other communications in the future straight into your inbox or to the ParentMail app which can be downloaded to your phone.

*Rowena Schofield, Assistant Principal Progress*

# Computer Science Trip to Birmingham's NEC

Our Computer Science qualification involves making computer games – an expanding industry in the UK. To give us ideas we went on a trip to Birmingham NEC for the annual EGX Computer Gaming Exhibition. It was a long journey with heavy slow traffic, broken by the excitement of the motorway services.

It was worth it though as when we got there it was huge!



There were opportunities to play all the latest games as well as all types of retro games. There was all the latest technology to see and try out as well as the opportunity to meet and talk to developers. There were lots of strange people dressed up as gaming characters and lively music to add to the atmosphere. Pupils visited the careers stands and collected brochures especially from the local Plymouth Art College and Falmouth College who both have specialist computer gaming courses. They discussed the paths they needed to

follow to get onto their 16-18 courses and then go onto university.

Unfortunately, there was not enough time to play everything and we had to leave and head for home, wearing and carrying all the strange things we had bought from the merchandise stalls.

There were lots of pleas for me stay for the after-party but, as it was over 18s only, pupils had to be content with a promise I will try to arrange to go again next year...

*Janice Woodward, ITC Teacher*

## RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES AUTUMN HALF TERM

It's been a jam packed half term full of loads of different activities. Take a look at the list....

### OFF – SITE

- Cinema (Johnny English, The Meg, The House With a Clock in it's Walls )
- Walks to the beach and Haldon Forest
- Swimming at Cofton Holiday Park & Teignmouth Lido
- Ten-Pin Bowling at Torquay
- Eating out at favourite Fast Food venues and restaurants—McDonalds, Fish & Chips, Buffet City, a Chinese restaurant in Exeter, a trip to The Smugglers for a coke and a packet of crisps
- A trip out to the EGX Gaming Event at the NEC in Birmingham
- Weekly Visits to the Red Rock Youth Club

### ON – SITE

- Home –Made Pizza nights , cooked using the newly completed on-site Pizza oven, built by staff and

residents

- “Come Dine with Me” nights – the dishes made so far.... Cottage Pie, Green Curry, Sausage & Mash, Sweet & Sour Chicken, various Cakes & Cookies
- Swimming at our on-site pool
- Model Club every week
- Weekly Art Night
- Chill Outs in our own on-site Youth Club
- On–site ‘Laser- Craze’ laser battles using our own equipment and laser guns
- Health Relaxation Evenings with hair styling, make-up, manicures and foot-spa’s

### WHAT WE ARE PLANNING!

- **Halloween** – two nights of celebrations to include A Scary Torchlight Woodland Walk and each house having friends from the other houses over for Refreshments and Games
- A trip to Arsenal F.C.’s Emirates Stadium to watch the Carabou Cup Match between Arsenal & Blackpool
- And of course there’s **Guy Fawkes Night** & the run up to **Christmas** to plan for..... We are going to be so busy!

## NEWS SERVICE LAUNCHED IN DEVON – CHAT HEALTH

You can now contact the NHS for information and advice via text on the above number.



Youth  
Mental  
Health

Youth Mental Health

Hub is a website run by NHS Livewell offering young people advice and help on **mental** health problems including

depression, anxiety and stress.

<https://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/youth-mental-health/Pages/Youth-mental-health-help.aspx>

**What do you think of our new look Newsletter? What sort of news would you like to see about Orchard Manor School? If you have any suggestions or comments please send them to Maranda Scarff at [mscarff@orchardmanorschool.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mscarff@orchardmanorschool.devon.sch.uk) or call her on 01626 868154. We look forward to hearing from you!**

**IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR CARER**  
You can text your Health Visitor on  
**07520 631 721**  
We can help with all kinds of things like...

**CHILD HEALTH & MENTAL DEVELOPMENT HEALTH**  
**ADJUSTING TO PARENTING ROUTINES**  
**SLEEP & FEEDING ROUTINES**  
**TOILETING CONTINENCE**  
**FAMILY HEALTH**

Text us for confidential advice & support

## Half Term Holiday Project - Lifeworks

Lifeworks is proud to present KEEP CALM TOO 22-25 October. Just a few of the activities include Goat Yoga, yes you heard right! Experience Yoga with Goats, please don't wear floral prints though as the goats may just think they are edible. Also an exciting canoe adventure and the theme of mindfulness running through all our activities. For details on KEEP CALM TOO this October Half Term 22-25 October, contact: Tracey Hubbard on: 01803 861069 email: [traceyhubbard@lifeworks-uk.org](mailto:traceyhubbard@lifeworks-uk.org) <https://www.lifeworks-uk.org/>

**Life works HOLIDAY PROJECT**

**October Half Term Dartington Hall Estate**

**KEEP CALM TOO**

**MONDAY 22 October**  
Connect and Keep Learning with mindfulness + GOAT YOGA: Yes we mean it - YOGA with goats in a Barn at Dartington Dairy

**TUESDAY 23 October**  
Take notice and Keep Learning: Body Balance and Hula-Hoop + Edible wild food adventure with local expert foragers – Wild and Curious

**WEDNESDAY 24 October**  
Connect, Give and Keep Learning: Helping on the Dartington Hall Estate to prepare for their Deer Park family day

**THURSDAY 25 October**  
Be Active and Keep Learning: An Up river canoe challenge, picnic on the river bank and then a well earned glide down river all the way to Totnes with moments of meditation on route

**EXTRAORDINARY YOUNG PEOPLE (2018-2021):**  
Recruiting young volunteers 14+ from Lifeworks Services to come and help us build our community projects programme.

To find out more contact  
[sarah-janelowson@lifeworks-uk.org](mailto:sarah-janelowson@lifeworks-uk.org) M: 0750 086 0288

*"A contented happy face at the end of each day... priceless"*  
Parent of Holiday Project participant, Summer 2018

**Life works HOLIDAY PROJECT**

**October Half Term 2018**

For learning disabled young people aged 12 and over

**KEEP CALM TOO**  
Building on our successful summer pilot wherein 80% of the young people participating experienced an improvement in mental wellbeing Lifeworks is proud to present **KEEP CALM TOO** this October Half Term. Our aim is to provide a comfortable space for young people to gain confidence, build resilience and develop creative coping strategies involving physical activity and mindfulness as they explore 5 ways to wellbeing

**CONNECT, BE ACTIVE, TAKE NOTICE, KEEP LEARNING AND GIVE.**

**Devon County Council**

Supported by **BBC Children in Need**

Contact: Tracey Hubbard (between 10-2 weekdays)  
T: 01803 861 069 email: [traceyhubbard@lifeworks-uk.org](mailto:traceyhubbard@lifeworks-uk.org)