

# Orchard Manor School Newsletter

October 2019



## Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to welcome back all of our pupils and staff for our second year as Orchard Manor School. In particular, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all of our new pupils and staff who joined us in September. Everything is now in full swing and we are all looking forward to working with our amazing pupils throughout this academic year.



Congratulations must go to our new prefects who have recently been appointed! All applicants showed great courage and determination throughout the application and interview process. Our new prefects will be taking on duties such as supporting school events, assemblies, and acting as positive role models around school.

On Thursday 10th October, we took part in World Mental Health Day to raise awareness and promote positive mental health amongst children and young people. Pupils took part in a range of activities including

face painting, a photo booth and “name the bear”. The school was particularly bright for the day as staff wore yellow clothing and decorated their desks to show support for this important issue.

We now have a special new member of the team –Star. Star is a Portuguese Water Dog and is the school’s new therapy dog. She will be working with our young people, across the school, helping to reduce stress, anxiety and encourage positive relationships.



I hope you enjoy our latest edition of the Orchard Manor Newsletter and I hope that it gives you an insight into the many and varied activities that we do at the school.

I wish you a relaxing half term and look forward to seeing the students back to school at **10:40 am on the 29 October.**

*Mark Rose — Executive Principal*

### Lower Site

Christmas Production

1:30 pm

10 December 2019

Parents Afternoon  
will follow afterwards

### Parents Afternoon and Evening and The Christmas Productions 10 December 2019

This year’s Parents Afternoon and Evening will be held on 10 December so please put the date in your diaries.

### Upper Site

Parents Afternoon

4:00 pm — 6:30 pm

10 December 2019

Christmas Production will  
follow afterwards

We are embracing technology this year and will be asking you to book your meeting times online using ParentMail. Please keep an eye out for your invitation over the coming weeks. You will be sent a reminder to book via ParentMail when the booking system is open. If you are unable to access the internet to book please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher who will be able to help you directly.

*Adele Thomas—Assistant Principal Empowerment*

LEAVE A MESSAGE



AFTER THE TONE

### Pupil Absence

It is imperative under Safeguarding of Children that you contact the school if your child is absent for any reason. ***You must contact the school on each day of absence via one of the methods below.***

- Leave a Voice Mail on 01626 862363 (Option 6)
- Email [pupilabsence@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:pupilabsence@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk)
- Speak to reception to leave a message: 01626 862363 (Option 1)
- Report the absence in ParentMail

Please note: Leaving a message with taxi driver is not sufficient, the above is still required. Many thanks.

*Sarah Purnell—Student Data Officer*

Orchard Manor School, John Nash Drive, Dawlish EX7 9SF

Tel: 01626 862363 Email: [admin@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk) Web: [www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk](http://www.orchardmanor.devon.sch.uk)

## Pine Class and their Freedom Quilt

As part of their topic on Britain and Slavery last term, Pine Class learned how slaves were transported in the slave triangle and how slave traders made money trading goods for human beings, and then selling these people to the highest bidder.



*Pine Class experiencing the crowded conditions on a Slave ship*

They learned about the absolutely terrible conditions on a slave ship and how slaves were treated after they had been sold.

On the slave ships, the slaves were all chained together and forced to squeeze onto shelves for the whole 6 week journey from Africa to the Caribbean. The children had a go at being squashed together just like the slaves. They also learnt that it would have been better to have been on the top shelves rather than the lower ones as no one was allowed out to go to the loo and lots of the slaves also suffered from sea-sickness....



*Designing a quilt section—taking it from a drawing to being on fabric*

Pine Class also learned about the real life super hero called William Wilberforce who led the campaign to abolish slavery in the British Empire.

William Wilberforce was successful but slaves in the southern states of the USA were not so fortunate and so we found out about Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railway that helped slaves escape to freedom.



*Our beautiful Freedom Quilt with the Forest School Map  
Presented to James Houghton  
With thanks from Pine Class 2019*



*Planning together where the sections were going to go*

As part of their learning, Pine Class designed and made a beautiful Freedom Quilt. The quilt was based on making a map of our Forest School.

The panels were drawn on paper and then the design was transferred to fabric. Pine Class made the panels using a sewing machine then carefully ironed the finished sections ready for pinning to the backing fabric as they planned where they were going to go.

The quilt was made as a gift to say a big thank you to James Houghton for all the amazing lessons we have had in Forest School and all the work he has put into our completing the John Muir award.

Thank you James – we hope you can find your way out of Forest School now!

*Janet Haley—Teacher*

## Aldi's Kit for Schools

We are collecting the Aldi Kit for Schools stickers Team GB stickers. Once we have filled out our poster we will send it back to Aldi to get a sports kit and we could have a chance to win £20,000.

If you shop at Aldi we would be very grateful if you could save the stickers for us. Every time you spend over £30 in any Aldi store you'll receive a Team GB sticker which you can then pass on to us. We need 300 stickers to complete the poster! Thanks very much!



## A Tribute to Remembrance Day

Oscar Belso from 8JWo wrote this poem about the First World War following a series of lessons on Warhorse.

*Niki Phillips—English Teacher*

### FOR WHAT?

#### For what?

The lives lost  
The financial cost  
The political plot

#### For what?

The stagnant water  
The countless debris  
The endless dead

#### For what?

The children dead  
The innocent gone  
The homes destroyed

#### For what?

The horses down  
The dogs lay stagnant  
The fields of destruction

#### For what?

All for money  
All for land  
All for dominance

#### For what?

All for a superior race  
The religion not good enough  
The children with no life to live

#### For what?

The ones gone too young  
The ones gone too late  
The ones who died for our countries sake

#### For what?

The only child  
The distraught mother  
The alone father who drunk himself to death

#### For what?

The little sibling with no memories  
The dog with no owner  
The animals neglected by the farmer

#### For what?

The lives lost  
The financial cost  
The political plot

#### For what?

*Oscar Belso  
8JWo*

## Purple Class and Egyptian Palm



### Trees

Purple class have been making palm trees from kitchen rolls, card, sand and plant pots! This has created a lovely

relaxing atmosphere for this term's project on the Ancient Egyptians. The children are very proud of their creations!

*Sam Tyler—Teacher*



## Lunch Clubs!

The young people have really been getting involved in the various activities that have been offered to them this year in the form of lunch clubs.

Every Monday there is Doodle Club where children can come and work collaboratively on pieces of art and socialise with their peers, or work on building their own art skills.

Activities which have shown to be very popular are Lego Club, Games Club where the children have a selection of board games they can choose from to play with one another or staff, Football, Boccia and Dodgeball Club, and the Wii Club is also popular again as the weather is turning wintery.

We recently ran some team building games at Lunch Club which have been really successful. For one of the challenges the young people had to work together to build a sturdy structure only using pasta and marshmallows. Another was working in two teams to create two dens, only using items found in Forest School.

Lunch clubs were introduced to bring the children together socially. Some children had talked to staff about not having many friends or not knowing how to play with others.

We are really pleased to find that these clubs have given our young people the tools they needed to be able to build on their social skills, enable friendships and generally increase their confidence.

*Rebecca Higson—TA*

### Boccia Fact File



Boccia is an attack and defend game, with two sides

competing over a set number of ends.

The aim is to score as many points as possible by placing their set of coloured balls closest to the white jack ball.

Points scored each end are accumulated to give a final score.

### Dodgeball Fact File



Dodgeball is a simple, fast paced game that can be played by anyone. Teams of mixed ability, gender and age are possible. The aim of the game is to eliminate the opposing team by either hitting them with a ball or catching one of their throws whilst avoiding getting hit yourself. Each game only lasts 2 minutes.

## Transition Class

This term has been extremely busy for our Transition Class. We have been making mud kitchens from pallets, building a miniature fairy garden, cooking pizza, sewing animal cushions, decorating gingerbread men and studying the Vikings to name just a few of our activities.



The mud kitchen was made by recycling pallets from the building work we have been having done and we upcycled a kitchen sink which was being thrown out. We made a kitchen unit with a splash back and inserted the sink and draining board into a unit all made from the old wood. We used electric drills saws, hammers and nails. We think it looks fantastic!

The class decided that they wanted a fairy garden so they designed and made one themselves. They based it on a tree stump which they positioned in a raised bed which used to be an old sand pit. They decorated it with a tiny door and added stepping stones made from wood plus all sorts of interesting decorations. Any little person would be happy to live there.



One Friday afternoon, for our Life Skills lesson, we made Margarita pizzas. We mixed the dough ourselves using flour eggs and oil which we then layered with tomato sauce and then covered with cheese. We also spent an afternoon decorating gingerbread men, totally delicious!



We have also been practicing our sewing techniques by putting together animal cushions. We have not quite finished them yet, but we have an owl, a dog and a sloth all coming together very well. We will show you what they look like in the next newsletter.



In class we have just started to learn about the Vikings in our history lessons. We started by making Viking longboats which was great fun. We are looking forward to more exciting stuff next term.

*Lisza Dodds – Class Tutor.*

## Doodle Club and Doodle Day — Doodle Club started this

term, it is a lunch time club offered to lower site and upper site. Students have come and created incredibly imaginative and creative pieces of art. The students can draw what ever they like and we chat about the art and how our days are going. This will continue to run next term.



## Doodle Day — Because Doodle Club has taken off so well,

we decided to do a “doodle day” for mental health day. We had students doodling all day! The work created was fantastic. By the end of the day the walls and floor were covered with pieces of art the students had created.

It was great to see all the students communicating and excited about creating individual and combined doodles. *Hannah Willson—SaLT Asst*



## Residential News— Jubilee

We have had another busy half term enjoying the end of the sunny days and finding new activities for colder weather. We have enjoyed forest school, social nights, and lots of arts and crafts in preparation for our Halloween residential party — we have been making lots of spiders and pumpkins for when we come back. We have also been practicing our life skills including cooking and baking Jazz pops which are a winner.

## Gala

Gala have continued to jazz the place up this half term by adding display shelves and artwork to the modelling room, and further additions to the lounge - a new rug and cushions. We have also enjoyed celebrating two of our young people's birthdays at Route 5 American diner... some attempted the huge desserts, but no one managed to finish!

With the darker evenings setting in, torch light walks on the Ness, and through Smugglers tunnel in Shaldon got imaginations running wild! The guys have also been taking part in evening bushcraft sessions with our resident bush-crafter, James.

*Chris Heard—Senior Care Officer*

## Gladstone

We have had a great half term! We have had a birthday party here, we have been to out to Kaspas on a reward trip to celebrate one young persons hard work and great behaviour, we have been swimming and we have been out on lots of walks to the beaches, the town and into the local countryside.

## Spartan

We have been concentrating on LINX sessions this term which are group discussions and interactive exercises which help us think about what is happening with us at the moment, and to look at things from a different viewpoint. It helps us to think about what we may like

## Whole School Panto Trip — Oh No Its Not!

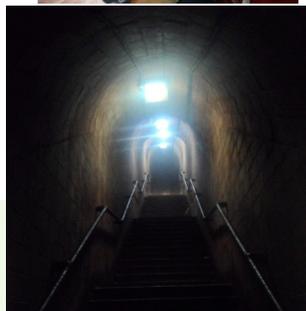
Oh yes it is! The whole school are going to the Christmas Panto in Torquay to see the classic show of Snow White.

The trip has been organised by the PSFA and will be taking place on Wednesday 18 December. There will be over 200 staff and students going.

We are going to be having an early lunch and then getting onto the coaches for an afternoon of fun, frolics



As part of our reward trip on the last Thursday of term, we are teaming up with Gladstone to go and see Madagascar at the Princess Theatre in Torquay —because “we like to move it move it!”  
*Helen Stone— Senior Care Officer*



We have also been making fires and toasting marshmallows with the help of Forest School instructor James. We are looking forward to our trip to see Madagascar with Jubilee House.

*Sam Poole—Senior Care Officer*

to change and what support we may need to achieve our goals and to make positive changes in the future. We are also doing our usual activities too, like mountain biking, trips to the cinema etc., and we had an amazing time at Race World where we all went go-karting as a reward trip for this term.

*Tom Davis —Senior Care Officer*

and frivolity and we are all looking forward to it immensely. We may be getting back a bit later than normal on the day, but the taxis and all the families will have plenty of notification of the times.



There are lots more surprises planned for the weeks around Christmas but we shall tell you all about them in the next newsletter! *Graham Tolliday— PSFA*

## Cage Cleaning Day

Pine Class have been looking after their Giant African Snails and the Stick Insects, and like all pets, they need to be cleaned out regularly and checked to see if they are all ok.

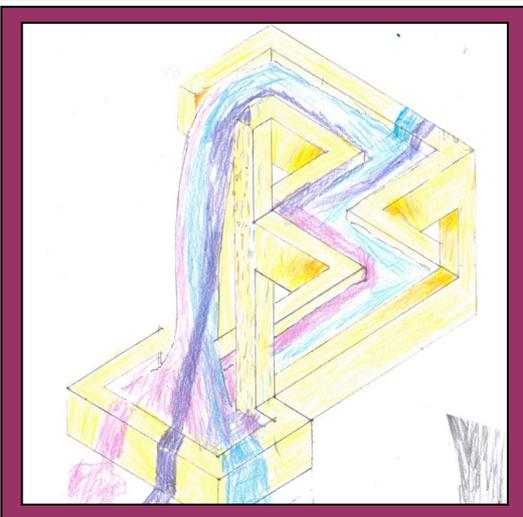
We had some very willing helpers to take on these tasks. It is very funny however, how some people can hold insects but not hold things like snails, and vice versa.

The stick insects were very carefully taken out of their glass box and enjoyed a crawl around over hands and arms before they were put back into fresh bramble leaves with a clean bowl and a new look rock garden to investigate.

The Giant African Snails had the same treatment, but they were washed in a shallow bath before being put back into lovely fresh soil and fresh vegetation.

We are very lucky to have a chance to see these amazing creatures up close, and be able to hold them. The young people of Pine Class did an excellent job of helping out.

*Janet Haley—Pine Class Teacher*



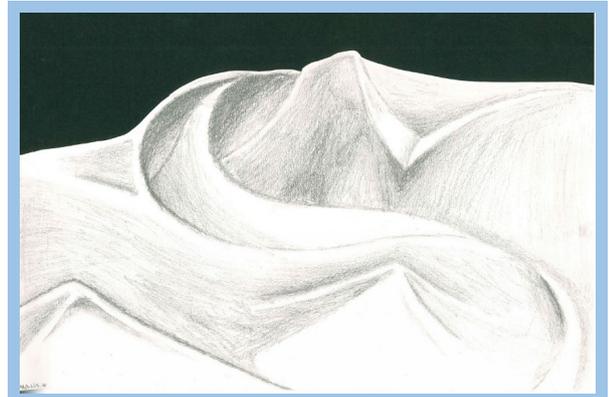
## Art Updates

Recycling is an important thing to do, not just in school, but everywhere, and we are in the process of putting together a recycling system for used Pritt Sticks and felt pens which would otherwise just be thrown away in the normal rubbish.

We are going to collect boxes and put them in each of the classrooms. We have found that bottle boxes that can hold 6 bottles are the best size for us to use, so if you have any that you would like to donate, please can we have them for our project. The plastic collected from each classroom in these boxes will then be put into the plastic recycling bin instead of going to landfill.

We have designed our own Recycle symbols which will be attached to the boxes. We have worked out that we will need about 35 boxes just for Upper Site. Once the system has been implemented up here, we will be putting it on the Lower Site too. Later on we will be making bespoke boxes or containers with the help of James W and the laser cutter.

We have also had some amazing art work done in our Art lessons as you can see here!



*Nigel Green —Art Teacher*

## Meet Star—our new Therapy Dog

We have got a new member of staff here at Orchard Manor who passed their interview with flying colours, which had nothing to do with how cute she is!

Star is Portuguese Water Dog and she is our new Therapy Dog. She is still very young and will be in training for the next two years.

Her training schedule has been planned out to encompass everything that she will need to know to be a Therapy Dog. At the moment, in her basic training, she can sit, wait, stop to cross a road (she will be learning to look left and right and wait till its safe to cross). She has also been taught recall to claps, which means that even the non-verbal students can call her. Every day she is being taught new things and practices being patient and gentle with our young people at all times. She really senses the needs of our children here.

She is taken outside of school on various training sessions and will be meeting cows and sheep, taking the train, catching the bus and visiting the hospital. In school she is loving being with the young people and is learning how to behave in their lessons.

Star gets a bi-weekly report from Bales Buddies, who are helping Lisa to train her. This covers all aspects of her progress and gives recommended actions. She is a wonderful addition to the school and will be a real asset to the young people who will work with her. We have already started to see the benefits of having her at Orchard Manor School.

*Lisa Morley—Post 16 Instructor and Therapy Dog Trainer*

## Star Fact File

**Breed:** Portuguese Water Dog

**Coat:** Long curly hair but hypoallergenic and non-shedding

**Special Attributes:** Webbed feet — great for swimming

**Date of Birth:** 30 May 2019

**Age Now:** 5 Months old

**Personality:** Bright, intelligent, funny, loving and cuddly

**Favourite Food:** All meat

**Favourite Toy:** Tennis Ball

**Best Trick:** Recall to a clap

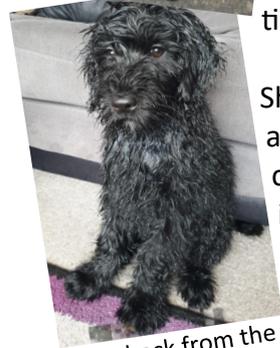
**Treats:** Dog biscuits

**Favourite Walk:** Beach

**Favourite Activity:** Playing in water

**At School:** Star stays in the Post 16 Building.

**At Home:** Star lives with Lisa Morley and her family.



Just back from the beach—Wet Dog!



## PE 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. This half term we have had one coach working on the Upper School Site. He has been delivering a lunchtime club session and then an organised training session for those who want to attend during Friday afternoon activities. These sessions will continue after half term for pupils on the Lower School Site.

As the weather has been changing we have now started to use the Youth Club more regularly. I am pleased to report that classes have been enjoying pool, air hockey, table football, games room, mini gym and the music practice room.

We have also purchased a music centre for the area and there is a TV and DVD player so pupils can relax and enjoy reward activities. We used this facility on World Mental Health Awareness Day to remind pupils of how important it is to relax and enjoy different kinds of social activities with other pupils and staff.

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.

*Fran Fox—PE Teacher*



## EXAM Updates

### Key Exam Dates for your Diary

**27<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Functional Skills

Entry Level Mathematics

**28<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Functional Skills

Level 1 Mathematics

**11<sup>th</sup> May – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Summer Exam Season

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

Summer Exam Season

Contingency Day

(exams can be rescheduled up to and including this day!)

Our Examinations Suite is based in Hanbury, on the Upper Site – There are 7 rooms to accommodate all examination needs and access arrangements.



Good Luck to the Year 11's who kick off this year's exams with Entry Level and Level 1 Maths on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> November.

In order to help prepare our students for their GCSE exams next summer, we will be running mock exams in January 2020. We will be practicing our English, Maths, Science and Beliefs and Values exams.

More details about examinations can be found on the school website, in the families section.

*Jo Potts—Exams Co-ordinator*



## The School Counsellor



My name is Helen and am the School Counsellor. My door is always open for our young people to drop in and talk to me in absolute confidence. I am here to listen and support, and they can say whatever they want and I won't pass it on (unless there is the danger of them or someone else being hurt). My room is a safe space to talk about any worries at all, for example friendships, school (or home) and everything else in-between.

If you feel that your child may benefit from talking to me please remind them that I am here and it is my job to try and help. Students can book a taster session or simply just come and say hello. They can ask any member of staff for more information and of course speak to me when they meet me around the school. I look forward to seeing them!

*Helen Stephenson—School Counsellor*



## Donations Please!

Post 16 have been looking at Recycling over the last half term and are now going to be making a number of projects based on the theme. One of their projects for next half term is to make a Sensory Garden using completely recycled items. If you have any of the following items that you would like to donate we would be very grateful!

*Kelly Rowlands—Teacher*



Old Lego bricks  
Old tiles different colours (plain colours preferably)  
Plastic bottle top/caps  
Old bottle corks  
Old thick rope  
Old baking tins/trays

Old cups and saucers (doesn't matter if they match or not)  
Wooden spoons  
Metal whisks  
Old cd's  
Colanders  
Metal bottle tops  
Shells

Perspex mirror  
Old hula hoops  
Old tractor tyre  
Old marbles  
Old food cans - washed out  
Old wellys  
Old watering cans  
Old horse shoes

Old drain pipe  
Old hanging basket frames  
Old bricks  
Old tea pots



## Update on Queen Geraldine and her Entourage

We have been as busy as the bees themselves over the last few months.

The apiaries were regularly inspected to check they had enough space, water and food. Queen Geraldine of the smaller hive was filling up with honey very quickly in the fine weather. This was very unexpected this year as the hive was so new, but amazingly she gave us 3 sealed frames of honey ready for extraction in August.

As the bees were so busy bringing food into the hive, space was getting tight so we bought another Super just in case we needed to extend. We ended up not using it this year, but if the bees have another good summer next year they will fill it up in no time.

We were extremely pleased with the number of honey frames our bees gave us. Queen Geraldine's hive produced 3 and Queen Harriet yielded an incredible 25! (last year, we only had a total of 16).

We took our frames to Buckfast Bee Barn and put them into their centrifugal extractor. First we used a knife to uncap the wax lid off each cell. The bees put a wax cap on each cell to keep water out, which would ruin the honey.



Then the machine was loaded up with the frames and then it was spun around. This pulled the honey out of the honeycombe cells and collected it in a large bucket below.



We then returned to school where we had settling tanks all set up in the kitchens ready for our harvest. When the honey had settled, we strained it and poured the clear honey into dry sterilised jars ready for selling.



We ended up with an amazing total of 74 jars of honey which went for £5.00 each. The honey was delicious with a really floral taste. Eating it was like tasting summer! The beekeepers are traditionally given one each and two were given to Buckfast Bee Barn in exchange for using their extractor.

Gradually, the "wet frames" from extraction day will be added to the "chill out" space in both hives for the bees to clean out, these will then be stored ready for use next spring. The bees are already starting to kick the drones out of the hives and will be reducing the size of their

colonies right down ready for the winter.

After all the honey was extracted from the hive, a Varroa treatment was given to both colonies to keep any infestation down.

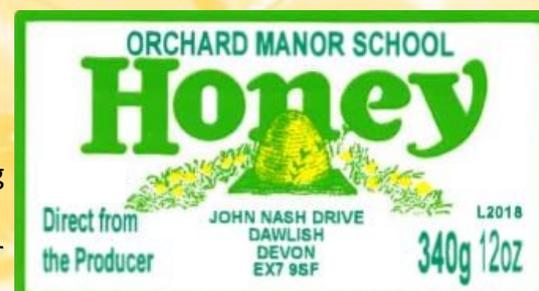
The Varroa Virus has become a problem now for all honey bees and beekeepers in the UK so we are trying to keep it under control to prevent infection and stop it spreading.

From here on in, the bees are in for a quiet time getting ready for Winter – but Cathy will be busy! Now she will clean the all the equipment— the frames and the boxes, plus check and treat the hives for Varroa and ensure the bees have enough food and water to get them through the winter. She is going to be very busy!

This is my last report as the official OMS Beekeeper and I now leave the bees in the capable hands of Cathy Johnston. I will remain on call to her for whenever assistance, advice etc. is required and I will continue to visit when needed.

All that's left to say is thank you very much for the opportunity of looking after the Orchard Manor bees and also good luck to you Cathy, who I am sure will enjoy being the OMS Beekeeper as much as I have.

Teresa Dudman — *OMS Bee Keeper*



## Rural Skills

The Rural Skills Department is used by 22 classes across the school, with children across all key stages. Our beautiful classroom has a huge farmhouse table and access to a kitchen. In the colder months we hope to make jams and pickles from our own produce that we have grown.



The aim of the Rural Skills Department is for children to experience the pleasure of playing with soil, learning to garden, find out how to create cuttings and

sew seeds, be outside and become aware of nature around us. Along the way, children will achieve certificates and qualifications—we have already had 35 AQA Lifeskills qualifications submitted just this half term.

The aim of all of this is to help children learn and enjoy the garden and perhaps transfer their knowledge to other gardens in their lives. There is an ethos of sustainability here at school and we believe that re-using, recycling and foraging is at the heart of our gardens.



The whole of the Rural Skills area has been cleared of brambles and laurel and it is now being redeveloped. The newly refurbished poly tunnel has been filled with vegetables, seedlings and cuttings ready to be grown on next year.

There have been massive groundworks to create exciting learning areas for our young people, including an allotment, class gardens, a composting area and an outside classroom. Work has also started to build a new enclosure for us to keep more chickens, and a sty is being built so that we can keep pigs too.

We have lots of other projects on the go across the school too. We have started the creation of a sensory garden on the playground on lower site. This will be filled with sensory plants and textured pathways. The garden of Beech Class has been cleared ready to be planted with sensory and edible plants and the walled garden at Gladstone is going to be made beautiful and accessible to all the students. All of this work is being inspired by the children and they are helping with the designs too.



As well as the new projects, children have experienced tasting sessions, where they have picked and eaten fruit and vegetables growing on our school allotment; they have made garden designs

and shared their ideas of what is needed in the garden; we have talked about health and safety outside; we have cut flowers for pressing and harvested seed heads for next year, we have made cuttings and started to grow on lots of plants. It has been a busy time for us this term.



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 the

biggest ever bug housing project.

The bees are still busy and making honey to sustain themselves over the winter. The food that they make is being supplemented by a special syrup as the winter draws in, but there must still be pollen around, as they've hardly started it yet. Our honey bees were extremely successful this year and gave us an unbelievable 74 jars of honey this summer. Fantastic!



*Cathy Johnston—Rural Skills Teacher*

#HelloYellow

# YOUNG MINDS

## World Mental Health Day 10 October 2019

Mental health is taken very seriously here at Orchard Manor School and we celebrated World Mental Health Day and had a #HelloYellow fundraising day.

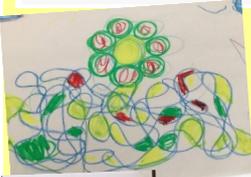
Everyone was asked to come into school wearing something yellow, we had socks, scarves, dresses, trousers and even a banana costume!

There were various activities going on throughout the day, all focussing on

helping with our mental health including face painting, photo booth and a disco in the afternoon.

7EMC had fun with a camera and some props. The idea being that the fun, laughter and silliness would increase our wellbeing.

The Doodle Day gave everyone the opportunity to use their artistic skills on massive sheets of paper to create a communal doodle. It was a good day and everyone enjoyed it.



### Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust

Every Tuesday and Thursday a group of young people go to the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust to see the ponies.



During the afternoons our young people groom the ponies and walk them around the site, and they

also clean up horse-poo which is an integral part of animal management, no matter what the size of the animal!



The idea behind the visits to the Trust is so that our young people develop a number of skills which will help them in later life. They learn empathy with the ponies as they interact

with them. They are then in turn motivated by learning new skills in a different environment and becoming a valued team member. Their success builds resilience and confidence and helps them to

get more involved and have a go at things they wouldn't normally try.

Whilst they are with the ponies, our young people are taught to be calm, mindful, responsible and respectful of these gentle but needy animals. They learn the power and importance of body language in communication and how to develop a strong partnership with ponies and humans alike.



The ponies are extremely sensitive to the needs of individuals and act as a mirror to the students responses. Being calm around the animals helps to develop trust.



The ponies and the young people benefit a lot from the relationship, and it is a pleasure seeing our young people enjoying being with these gentle animals.

*Gail Miles—HLTA*

## Beech Class

Beech Class returned to a wonderful new outside space after the summer holidays. We have been busy tidying up, sweeping the leaves and getting the planters ready to grow herbs and flowers. Staff are planning a Grand Opening, to show off the new garden.

As well as enjoying the garden, we have spent this half term exploring Autumn and senses. We have been making lots of artwork and enjoying the school grounds.

To finish off the half term, we visited Haldon Woods and had lots of fun playing around the amazing wooden statues of the Gruffalo and the Tree Man. Great work Beech Class, have a super half term break.

Gem & Nic Beech Class Teacher and HTLA



**Community News:** Please note, although we pass on information, we are not associated with the companies involved.

# Life works

## HOLIDAY PROJECT

### October 2019 Half Term

**For young people with learning disabilities age 12 and over**

## October Half Term 2019

### HOLIDAY PROJECT

#### AN AUTUMN ADVENTURE INTO THE ARTS:

**MONDAY 21 OCTOBER**

Connect, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give:  
Help Drama & Performing Arts Students from the University of Gloucestershire explore the history of Dartington in film and sound and create a brand new family quest for Dartington Hall.

**TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER**

Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning and Give:  
A ramble across the countryside with Wild & Curious seeking out fresh ingredients, and a cooking workshop with professional caterers the Kitchen Table, all to make scrummy festival food.

**WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER**

Connect, Be Active and Give:  
Help the Dartington Quest performance team ready themselves for performance and make more scrummy festival food with the #ordinaryextraordinary catering team.

**THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER**

Connect, Be active, Take notice, Keep Learning and Give:  
Help design the #ordinaryextraordinary open mic café, make final preparations for the Dartington Quest and enjoy the concluding performance in Dartington's Gardens and Great Hall.

**25 and 26 October 2019**

**VIP Pass to the 2-day Ordinaryextraordinary Festival.**  
An Inclusive Arts Festival for the whole family. Drama, Music, Dance, Film, yoga, hula-hoop and Animation Workshops; Music, Dance and Drama performances, Relaxed Film Screenings, a silent disco and VIP Ball with live music plus a vintage gaming installation

**An Autumn Adventure into the Arts**

Help bring history to life with the Dartington Quest, create scrummy food for the #ordinaryextraordinary open mic café and be our VIP guests for the #ordinaryextraordinary festival.

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

**50% of young people participating in the Holiday Project Summer 2019 report an increase in confidence:**

"Great to be with friends, use new and old skills"

**5 WAYS TO MENTAL WELLBEING:**  
Connect • Be Active, • Take Notice • Keep Learning and Give