

Orchard Manor School Newsletter

JULY 2020



Dear Parents and Carers

I think you will agree that this academic year has been like no other. Although the pandemic has disrupted the way that we live and work, it is important to reflect on the positives that we have seen a vast amount of over the past few months.


When we went into lockdown back in March, there was a huge amount of uncertainty for our pupils, parents and staff. I am so proud of how the whole staff team has rallied together and done everything they can to make this term as positive as possible for our young people. We have had lovely feedback from parents, in particular, about how pupils have been able to stay connected with the school through phone calls, video calls, engaging in learning activities and for many, the opportunity to spend some time in school.

We wouldn't have been able to do any of this without the incredible support from parents. Parents/carers have played a huge role themselves in supporting pupils throughout this difficult time, including encouraging pupils to engage with remote learning activities. I would like to thank all of the parents/carers for your support and your continued patience and understanding throughout these unprecedented times.

Please do take some time to read through this newsletter and reflect on all of the positives that there have been this academic year. We have included our stand out moments from the academic year 2019-20, I am sure you and your children will have many other memories too!

I hope that all pupils enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and feel refreshed and ready to come back to school in September. We can't wait to welcome all pupils back to school and return to some sort of normality.

Mark Rose — Executive Principal



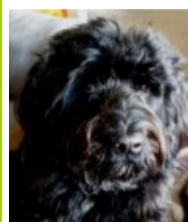
20 August 2020 is Results Day !
see you in the School Reception between 10 and 11 o'clock to receive your results.

EXAM NEWS!

A massive 'Well Done' to all the pupils and staff for surviving Centre Assessed Grades! It's been a challenging time for all of us and Good Luck to all our year 11's who are waiting for their results!

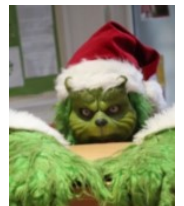
It's also been another big year for AQA Unit awards – I have claimed over 108 units. Well done for all the good work! Good Luck with the results!

More details about examinations can be found on the [school website here](#) *Jo Potts – Exams Co-ordinator*

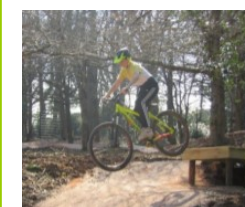


Here are some of This Year's Highlights!

- Star (the therapy dog) joined the OMS team and has thoroughly enjoyed her first year at the school.



- The Christmas Productions and pantomime, and a visit from the Grinch!
- Plans announced for a new Sports Hall and Building
- The new high ropes and low ropes course
- The mountain bike track
- The lower school outdoor play equipment



- Looking after our Saddleback pigs
- VE day celebrations And much, much more...





So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye...

As the end of term, and indeed the end of the school year approaches, we say goodbye not only to the young people who are moving on to their next step in their educational journey, but also to some of our wonderful members of staff.

To all our young people embarking on new adventures, we wish you all the best. Do let us know how you are doing— we would love to hear from you!

To the staff who are moving on to pastures new, we thank you for all your hard work in the school, and we wish you good fortune and happiness for the future: **Fran Fox, Tom Davis, Amy Van Hagen, Sam Tyler, Gemma Culverhouse Chave, Matt Chave, Ali Evans and Amparo Medina Faus.**

There have also been some changes and promotions within the current staff team. Five new TLR roles are filled by: **Justin Luscombe, Amanda Crump, Christine Carter and Amelia Green.** **Freya Ballantyne** has been appointed as Yr8 class teacher. **Abigail Norris** is now Clerk to Governors. Internal promotions for TAs are as follows: **Charlotte Heyward, Lisa Parsons, Molly Coomber, Charlotte Howman, Kerry Yarde, Sharon Deighton and Laura Antolinos Martinez.** **Kelly Neal** is now an HTLA. **Nicola Donald** is taking on class teacher responsibilities for Peach Class (previously Beech) and Megan Barr has been promoted to Senior Care Officer for Gladstone House. **CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!**

WELCOME!

As we say a fond farewell to those who are leaving, we welcome the new staff who will be beginning their journey with us: Kirsty Gough, Claire Zimmer, Rebecca Spiers, Sonia Fletcher, Freya Ballantyne, Peter Smith, Catherine Kilburn, Jill Clements, Victoria Miliffe, Tiana May, Nicola Kelly, Hayley Everard, Paige Bishop, Laura Chesterman, Sophie Harvey, Sophie Lee, Rebecca Baker, Kenneth Cheek, Kelly Neal, Amy Whittingslow, Theresa Sutton and Michael Harwood.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

There is a wealth of information on the government website specifically aimed at parents and carers on keeping children safe from abuse and harm.

This new report was published on the 25 June 2020 and can be accessed [here](#).

This guidance brings together sources of information about the main risks children may be particularly vulnerable to during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and signposts you to help and support available. The guide includes Domestic Abuse, Teenage Relationship Abuse, Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation as well as County Lines, Crime, Violence and Gangs.

The essential measures to control coronavirus can potentially increase risks to children and this can cause concern for parents and carers.

This guide also includes information on the support providers who can help you have effective conversations with a young person, especially if you are concerned for their safety.



The OMS Safeguarding Team

New Safeguarding Governor Laurie Fentimen



We are delighted to welcome Laurie Fentimen as our new Safeguarding Governor for Orchard Manor School. He trained as a Social Worker and followed a career in Cambridgeshire Social Services and then in the NHS, with a focus on children's services, older people and mental health.

Latterly he worked for the Audit Commission as a performance specialist. Since 2016 Laurie was the lead governor for safeguarding at Southbrook School in Exeter which is a school for pupils aged 11 to 16 with special emotional and behavioural needs. In the 1980s he was a parent school governor at his village primary school, and was on the local Parish Council from 2012 until moving here. His interests include walking, swimming, photography and local history."





Red Class News

The new red class have been trying out the new equipment and are very happy with it.

We also found newts during our horticulture session by the pond on the Upper Site.



Sam Tyler—Teacher



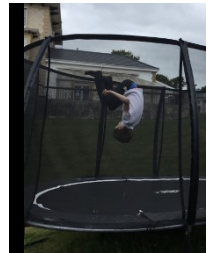
Lastly, we created rainbow inspired trees to support the NHS 72nd anniversary.

Brand New Playground Equipment for the School

Whilst in lockdown lower site saw quite a few changes to the outdoor environment. New gym equipment popped up with cross trainers, an obstacle climbing frame on the field, and some new musical instruments.



In the Gladstone play area, a brand new climbing frame has been erected which has a slide, a fireman's pole and a climbing wall within its structure.



Orchard Manor pupils have really enjoyed exploring this new outdoor equipment and developing their motor skills.

Sharon Deighton—TA



Air Resistance During Lockdown

During lockdown, our Keyworker group of pupils in KS3 have been learning about Air Resistance.

We looked at how air resistance can help, such as with parachutes and how it can be a problem, such as with racing cars and the need to be aerodynamic. We made parachutes and kites and explored the effects of air turbulence. This was great fun but also valuable learning of physics.



Amanda Crump—Teacher

Photography and Other Skills in 8CG

Over the course of lockdown we have been holding regular competitions for photos from a given theme as well as the best new skills that we have been learning at home.

We have been able to try many new things like:

- cooking new meals at home
- doing laundry
- holding an afternoon tea
- carpentry
- trampolining
- paddleboarding
- raising a duckling
- air rifle shooting!

I have been amazed with all the new skills my class have been learning and I have loved seeing all my students grow in confidence over this tricky time! Well done to all of you! I am looking forward to hearing about what you do over the Summer holidays.

Ceara Owens—Teacher



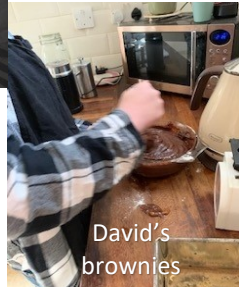
Harry doing laundry



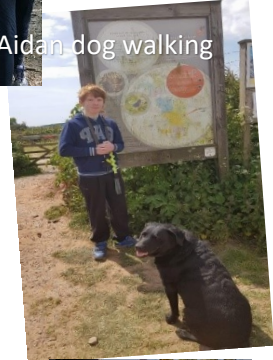
Harry & Aidan dog walking



Xanda's ice cream cake



David's brownies



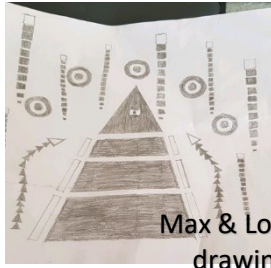
Logan's animal care



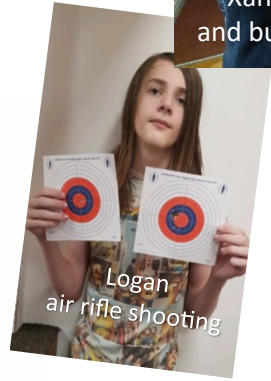
Xanda's bread and butter pudding



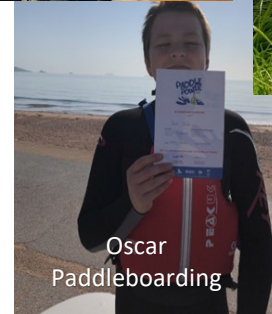
Max's Muscovy duck



Max & Logan's drawings
Tree + Man = Tree-Man



Logan air rifle shooting



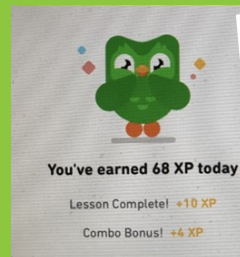
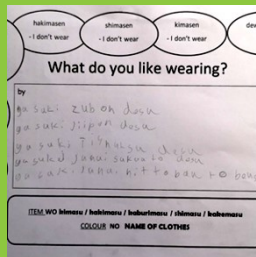
Oscar Paddleboarding

Languages in Lockdown!

We have had a few stars this term who have been learning some fabulous language skills from home.

Special mentions go to : **Evan, Oscar and David** for their Duolingo work

in German and Spanish, **Savannah** for her Japanese describing clothes and **Kodie** for his online Open University courses in Chinese, German, Italian, Spanish and French! Fantastic work! Well done! **Ceara Owens—MFL Teacher**



Year 8 English – Natural Disasters



We read North Face by Matt Dickinson and looked at the effect of earthquakes, avalanches and tsunamis on different people both in fiction

and real life. We wrote some book reviews and David said "So my star rating is 3. The book is longer than needed but I enjoyed writing this."

In the beginning the characters are engaging at the start but the book gets very repetitive." We then watched a documentary on the tsunami in Japan and compared how the events were covered in real life compared to fiction. Xanda said "the documentary was good because they had a translator which was helpful, and they talked about their emotions and how they felt which was interesting".

Ceara Owens—Teacher

Forest School

It has been a very productive final term for us in Forest School (in between the breaks for S'mores and hot chocolates.)



we have hauled these logs down to the forest and from there, students have been taking turns to chop them down



We have finished putting our pond in the top corner and have introduced some plants and newts.



The wildlife is constantly active and it has made a great addition to our already wonderful forest.

(A very special mention goes to Ollie who has worked extremely hard throughout



the project and when it came to the back breaking work of digging through the forest floor, he has shown great determination and enthusiasm.)

Alongside this we have been preparing for the wet Winter months (sorry for mentioning Winter when we should be enjoying our lovely Summer sun) and have been making use of the numerous logs left over from the recent work done between the two sites. With the fantastic help of the Upper Site Year 8s and Post-16

into logs that we can dry out and store for later. Students have shown great amounts of drive in doing this and I'd like to thank everyone that has been involved.



Finally I'd like to say a massive hello to all the students that I haven't had in Forest School this term. I have missed many faces and can't wait to be back to normal and seeing you all again. I shall make sure I'm well stocked up for September when we can all sit around the fire and catch up with some yummy treats. Have a great Summer everyone!

Chris Leeds — Forest School



Den Building with Pine Class

Pine Class have enjoyed doing some team building as well as den building this term. We have enjoyed getting to know each other as some pupils are new to our class. We went to the



Upper Site Forest and we worked in teams to create dens. We looked around all the other dens and had a vote on which one we liked best. We also enjoyed having hot chocolate and a biscuit there too. This was a lovely morning and great to see how happy and settled everyone was returning to school.



Becky Higson—Teacher

RURAL SKILLS



These are our white Sweet Peas, they are easy to grow, and come in almost any colour. They smell gorgeous and can be cut flowers.



Self seeded Poppies in the Secret Garden - Beautiful!



Our Tree Peony, which was covered in yellow flowers this year for the first time ever. Its new growth has pink stems.



Sweetcorn plants, surrounded by Nasturtiums. We are Companion planting so that the bugs eat the Nasturtiums, leaving the crops free to grow



Alice the Banana Tree, in front of our native hedge, which has birds nesting in it this year for the first time ever.



Parsnips, and Courgettes getting along very nicely in the polytunnel

Hello everyone! Its been absolutely fantastic weather during the lockdown - not a wellington in sight! The gardens and horticultural areas have taken advantage of the glorious sunshine to flourish and thrive. Here are some pictures of the beautiful plants and flowers we have here at the moment.

I have missed you all! It has been really quiet without you! I am really looking forward to seeing you all next term!

Cathy Johnson—Rural Skills



Onion and Carrots gone to seed, but beautiful nonetheless.



Cabbage White butterfly landing on Sprout seedlings, ready to lay eggs which will pupate into caterpillars.



The Nasturtium Archway in the polytunnel— Did you know you can eat the flowers? They taste lovely and peppery.



Tomatoes growing fat and getting ready to ripen, next to the Cabbages and Sage, in the warmth of the polytunnel



Climbing French Beans - every red flower will turn into a pod of delicious beans. What a harvest we will have!



The thermometer in the polytunnel this morning it read 36°C!



Well its been a very different Summer Term and as many of you know it will be my last one here at Orchard Manor School as I will be retiring this Summer.

I must say that over the last few weeks it has been a pleasure to welcome more children back to school and see smiling faces in our PE lessons and around school in general. Pupils on both sites have been working hard on their athletics skills, we have focussed on three specific areas hurdling, turbo jav throwing and high jump.



We have also been working on our cricket skills and with younger pupils on the Lower Site we have been working hard to improve our fundamental movement skills.

For those children who have returned, I have been really impressed with their resilience and ability to slot back into school life quickly.

The new playground and outdoor gym area seems very popular on the Lower Site which is great for outdoor play and enjoyment but also really good for developing fitness, strength and stamina.



This week we have welcomed Katherine Kilburn into school she will be taking over my PE classes next year and I know she and Dan are really looking forward to working with you all.

Finally, as this is my last newsletter entry I would like to

thank you all for your hard work and best efforts in PE over the last few years, it has been a pleasure to work with all the children and meet with parents and carers. I hope to visit next term so that I can see how everyone is getting on but also to say goodbye to some pupils who I haven't seen this term. I hope you all have a happy and safe Summer.

Fran Fox - Physical Education

Goodbye and Happy Travels Fran!

Thank you so much for all your enthusiasm and hard work over the years. We wish you well on your new adventures. Send us a postcard!

With best wishes from all your pupils and the staff at Orchard Manor School!



February 2020 Residential Updates



Spartan House

Its been a very different end to term than we thought it was going to be before lockdown! Following the formal closure of the residence due to COVID, the staff and young people have stayed in touch and we continued to offer support to the families of our young people. Our boys have reported that they have been in contact with their friends through gaming, and social media, a valuable resource during a time when isolation and boredom could have a serious impact on young people.

Two of our residents are off at the end of term to the next stage in their education—we will miss them and wish them good luck in their new schools. The young people remaining at Spartan for the new school year have returned for a few reintroduction evenings and it has been great to see them all. Next year we are going to be upgrading the bedrooms, which will involve our young people as much as possible, from designing, to budgeting and purchasing, and decorating. Its going to be fantastic! Have a great summer and see you in September!

Chris Heard —Team Leader

Gladstone House

This whole school year has provided lots of change and unusual routines for everyone in Gladstone. For all of us the school closures have caused much uncertainty and lack of routine however, our young people have all taken it well and have adapted the best they can with support from familiar staff and their families.

During lockdown staff have been in regular contact with the young people and their families. We have really enjoyed hearing about what they have been getting up to, but we miss everyone, and we are really looking forward to getting everyone back into Gladstone so that we can get back to normal again.

As the end of the school year comes, we say goodbye to two of our young people who are starting on new and exciting journeys. Both have been a big part of Gladstone for many years and will be missed by everyone. We would all like to wish you the best of luck with your futures—don't forget to let us know how you are doing!

The Gladstone Care Team



Jubilee House



Wow! it is so lovely to be together in Jubilee again after such a long time away. We welcomed back some of our residents for a short time when the government guidance allowed, and we have really enjoyed being together again. Its amazing how much we missed our young people.

Since being back we celebrated with a little social distanced birthday party as Tierney had his birthday during lockdown. We are so looking forward to being able to enjoy all of our usual activities with our young people again in September.

Keep safe and see you soon.

Helen Stone—Team Leader

Gala House

We really miss our Gala Family and can't wait to get back to normal again! We are so proud of all of our young people who have showed a real ability to cope with the recent stressful and anxious times and have remained in good humour throughout.

We have had some lovely conversations with our young people and their parents whilst we have been keeping in touch over the lockdown and it sounds like they have all been keeping busy. We have really enjoyed welcoming back the residents for a short time before we broke up and we are all really looking forward to getting back to normal next term. It will be really good to have the whole Gala team back together again so that we can get on with some great activities.

Have a great summer, stay safe, and we will see you all back in September! **Sam Poole—Team Leader**

Apple Breakfast Muffins



This recipe is a delicious alternative breakfast, it is filling and healthy I make these all the time and they are great for taking with you if you need breakfast on the run but are also lovely if you have time to sit and enjoy them with a coffee in the garden. I hope you get a chance to make and enjoy these, you can freeze them and just microwave them to defrost and warm through when you want them.

Apple Breakfast Muffins - Makes 10 muffins

Ingredients

- 200g Self Raising Flour
- 50g Porridge oats (plus 1tbsp for top)
- 4 tbsp. Soft brown sugar
- ½ tsp Cinnamon
- 2 Grated Apples
- 2 Eggs
- ½ tsp Bicarbonate of soda (if you don't have this you can use baking powder or just leave it out altogether the muffins will be fine just not quite as airy)
- 150ml Plain Yoghurt
- 6 tbsp. Vegetable Oil
- Optional— 20 blackberries/raspberries (can be frozen.)

You can also use chopped peach, plum or nectarine.

Method

1. Heat the oven to 180c
2. Mix together the flour, oats, cinnamon and 3tbsp of the sugar.
3. Stir in the apples, bicarbonate of soda, eggs, yoghurt and oil. Mix lightly until just mixed (over mixing will make the muffins heavy)
4. Divide into 10 muffin cases. If using fruit drop two fruits onto each muffin. There is no need to defrost the fruit if you are using frozen.
5. Sprinkle on the rest of the sugar and oats.
6. Bake for 25 minutes until golden, risen and cooked through.
7. Enjoy! *Amanda Metcalfe - Home Economics*



Over the coming weeks your child may mention they have been made aware in school of a service called Kooth, commissioned by Children and Family Health Devon.

Kooth is a Free, Anonymous and Safe Online Mental Wellbeing Community for young people aged 11-25 years within the local area.



We provide a range of services to support young people's wellbeing. Our trained and qualified counsellors are available until 10pm each night, 365 days per year. We also host pre-moderated, age appropriate peer to peer discussion boards, live forums and articles all of which hold young person friendly information as well as therapeutic content.

Whilst your child may not need or use the service, as part of supporting our schools to support students to look after their wellbeing, we are ensuring all children are aware of provision in the area that could assist them now, in their transition to secondary school or in the future.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss what Kooth can offer, please speak to a member of pastoral staff who will be able to answer your queries.

If you would prefer to speak to representatives from Kooth directly, please email the Kooth team on parents@xenzone.com



We have a [Notice Board](#) section on our website which will give you community news and links . Please note, although we pass on this information, we are not affiliated to any of the parties involved.

Every parent needs a little help sometimes, and especially during lockdown.

Action for Children are offering online parenting support for families with children aged 0-19. From where to go for help, to coping with challenging behaviours, to how to keep your children entertained at home - find advice and practical help here: parents.actionforchildren.org.uk

Have a question about parenting? Action for Children's online coaches are available for free, confidential 1-1 live chat. We're here to listen and support you. Visit talk.actionforchildren.org.uk

Here to help

Action for Children

Have a question about parenting?

Action for Children is offering free online parenting support for families with children aged 0-19. You can ask us for help on all sorts of things – from how to keep your children entertained at home, to how to handle difficult behaviour, to how to manage stress and anxiety at this challenging time.

Head to parents.actionforchildren.org.uk to read our advice and useful resources, or talk directly to a parenting coach via our confidential 1-1 live chat.

Whatever you need, Action for Children are here to listen and support you.

Online courses for parents & parents-to-be

FREE for parents, grandparents and carers living in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

From bump to 19 years
Lifetime access

Access Code: TAMAR

Go to www.inourplace.co.uk
Apply the 'Access' code for FREE access!
Fill in some details to create an account
To return to the course(s) go to www.inourplace.co.uk and sign in!

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOLIHULL APPROACH

www.solihullapproachparenting.com [@SolihullApproach](https://twitter.com/SolihullApproach) (NB: '1 p')

For technical support contact solihull_approach@heartofengland.nhs.uk or 0121 296 4448 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

www.solihullapproachparenting.com have a set of free online courses for parents, grandparents and carers living in Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly, Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

Brigade Clothing Ltd

SUMMER ORDERING INFORMATION 2020

Dear parent,
Now that the focus is shifting to schools returning in September we urge you to consider your uniform requirements now to avoid delay.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

We predict a large bottleneck of last minute uniform orders from parents so we recommend you start planning any uniform requirements you may have sooner rather than later, allowing yourself enough time to re-order different sizes if needed. In the interest of fairness orders will be processed on a first come first served basis.

Like most other businesses, the COVID/Lockdown situation is having an effect on our lead times. Our current cut-off date for orders to be delivered before the new term (Sep 2020) is 7th Aug 2020. Where in previous years we have managed to process orders well after the deadline this will not be possible this Summer due to the current situation. We urge you to place your uniform order asap.

Thank you for your continued custom.

The Brigade Team.

[Buy Now](#)

pinpoint Community services in Devon

Finding Childcare and Summer Provision

Parents can find out what childcare will be available during the summer on the Pinpoint Site.

If at that time you cannot find childcare please contact us at 01392 383000 and ask for Pinpoint or email pinpoint@devon.gov.uk Alternatively complete the [Unable to Find Childcare Form](#) and the Early years team will then arrange for one of our team to contact you.

Updated information on those settings that will be open in the Summer holidays will also be posted on the Devon County Council website soon.