



Orchard Manor School News

OMS Bulletin

School Updates and Communications

26 May 2023



"May, more than any other month of the year, wants us to feel most alive."

Fennel Hudson—British angling and countryside author

Hello everyone

What a glorious month of May it has been with the sunshine finally showing its face and making everything spring to life in the gardens. The grounds are looking stunning at the moment, blossom is out, the insects are loving the flowers and our gardens seem to be bursting with life with spectacular colour and fragrance. I love it!

We had quite a spectacular start to the month with the Ten Tors success and then of course the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla. After the celebrations, we went back to normal OMS life and in the blink of an eye have come to another half term already. I would like to take a moment to wish all of our Year 11s the very best of luck with their GCSE exams. Some of them are already half way through, but I know that they have been working really hard and they will be well prepared for the rest of the exams after half term. We are all very proud of how they are all taking this important time in their stride and managing to stay calm under pressure. Well done everyone—continue the excellent work and GOOD LUCK.

On Monday 15th May we had a Health Check from the Devon Local Authority. The inspectors were emersed in all aspect of the school, observed lessons and spoke with leaders and staff. Simon, one of the inspectors, was last here 4 years ago, and he was "blown away" by the transformation in the meantime. He was also impressed with the learning environments, quality of lessons and the degree of personalisation and with how engaged our pupils are in their learning. He said that he felt that there was genuine 'love' for our pupils and the progress the school has made is very good. He loved our can-do culture and our positive ethos.

This truly reflects our everyday practice. Thank you to everyone who works so hard to give our children the best education and care that we can. You are all amazing.

Our Summer Fete and Craft Fair is the next big event on our calendar—this will be our third one! This day is our main fundraising day for the school and every penny raised will go towards the "big" things we need like climbing frames and play kit. It is going to be a super day and I hope that you can all come and support us. We still have spaces for craft tables If you know of anyone who would like to sell their products, please call Maranda on 01626 862363 x 255.

One of our stalls, amongst lots of others, is going to be selling plants from our Horticulture area. Cathy, our Horticulture Lead has been growing lots of vegetables from seed and will be preparing a number of plants for the stall, so if you have space in your garden for some excellently tended sprouting plants, don't forget your pennies!



As we draw to the close of this half term, I would like to say a big thank you to one of our governors, Mary May, pictured here on the left, next to our Chair of Governors Maggie Carter. Mary has been a splendid ambassador for our school for the last 8 years and has championed us to the local community. Mary was Lead Curriculum Governor and then went onto being our Community Governor, visiting the school well over 50 times, so she knew us quite well. Mary became a very familiar face around the school and we will miss her!

We wish you every happiness in your next steps Mary and we would like to say a huge thank you for all your hard work, enthusiasm, experience and knowledge that you have shared with us over the years. Thank you.

Have a good half term break everyone, we will see you back in school on Monday 5th June at 9:10am.

With Best wishes *Nicola Jones, Headteacher*