



Orchard Manor School News

# The Apple Press Orchard Manor School Updates and Communications

15 December 2023



***“May you never be too old to search the skies on Christmas Eve!” Unknown***

Hello everyone!

Well, we have made it! The end of the term, and the end of the year is very visible on the horizon. I hope everyone is looking forward to Christmas and the start of 2024. Are you making New Year Resolutions? Did you keep the ones you made last year? I think we all see the new year as a clean slate and a chance to set goals and visions in place. Our goals and visions at school, as you probably well know, are our School Values—those of Respect and Relationships, Health and Happiness, Kindness and Community and we will be using these to influence and help our young charges to grow into the best they can be whilst at school. It's an important job and we are pleased to have been trusted with such an important role.

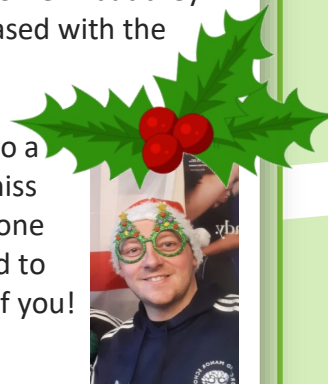
Looking back on the last term I see lots of happy children, many of whom have experienced being part of a team with sports, representing our school in various types of activities from dancing to football and lots of them trying new things. Sailing has been particularly popular this term and we have some amazing photos on our social media of our new “Captains of the Waves”. Our [Winter Wonderland extravaganza](#) was a great hit with the Lower School parents and everyone who took part really enjoyed it.

Our new starters in September have settled into the swing of Orchard Manor School with little or no resistance and plenty of smiles and enjoyment. It's always heartwarming to see them making new friends and enjoying coming into school.

The Christmas Cracker event was a great success too! It was also amazing to see so many of you supporting our school. An amazing amount was made from that one evening—over £1,800—and what a night it was. Fabulous music, amazing stalls from both students and visitors and as always delicious food from our kitchen. I can't thank you all enough for making it such a great night. I'm looking forward to our Summer fete—I'm sure it will be just as good! As soon as we have the dates we will let you know.

We have just had our mock exams for our year 11s and already we have some promising results. June is still far away but they have had a taster of what sitting an exam is like—a new experience for some—but they all coped very well, and were seen to be taking it all in their stride. We have been very pleased with the efforts shown and indeed, some of the results!. Well done all of you!

This end of term, we say goodbye to Dan, part of our much loved PE team. He is going off to a very exciting job helping people in the community. I know that the children and staff will miss him very much but I'm sure he will certainly make a difference to people's lives as he has done here. Keep in touch Dan—let us know how you are getting on. We are also looking forward to welcoming a new TA—Stacey—in the Spring Term. It's a time of new beginnings for both of you!



So, after all the Christmas treats, special outings, Christmas Dinners, Christmas Jumper Day, prizes for the best dressed classroom and all the other things that have been filling up the last few weeks of our term, I can safely say we are ready for our own Christmas celebrations at home. I wish you all peace and happiness over this holiday period and a very happy and healthy New Year. We will see you back on the **4th of January 2024 at 9:10 for the start of our Spring Term.**

Fingers crossed for a bit more sunshine than we have seen this year—and hopefully much less rain! Have a super break! Best Christmas wishes **Nicola Jones, Headteacher**