

The Apple Press Orchard Manor School Updates and Communications

3 November 2023

Its finally November.

Mariah Carey and Michael Bublé are defrosting as we speak...

Unknown

Hello everyone!

First of all—thank you so much for your understanding when we came to the extremely difficult decision to close the school yesterday. We had been following the weather reports avidly during the day and when there was a possibility of the Amber warning turning to Red, we followed the rest of the schools in Devon and decided to close, but believe me it was not a decision taken lightly.

I hope that you all remained safe and warm in your homes and that Storm Ciarán did not do too much damage. I think we may have been more lucky than our island neighbours in Jersey and Guernsey and our thoughts go out to them. It is at times like these that we must count our blessings.

Talking of counting our blessings, we have a fabulous new cohort of Prefects! They were presented with their badges earlier in the week and on Monday will be sharing a cream tea with me and other teachers. I am immensely proud of them as they had to pass through a rigorous selection process, having to write a CV and a letter stating why they would be good in the position. These young people really are the crème de la crème in terms of behaviour and character and will be excellent representatives of our school. There is no doubt that our youngsters will look up to them and hopefully attain the same position when their time comes.



We were lucky enough to get through Storm Ciarán unscathed, mainly because we had to make some of our trees on the grounds “safe” after the last windy weather. Unfortunately this has meant the removal of some majestic and old examples of our domestic trees. However, there is an upside to this—horticulture gained a fantastic bench made from the trunk of a previously dangerous beech tree. It is beautiful, and I am sure will give much pleasure to our students in the future.



The Lodge @ ORCHARD MANOR

Post 16 are involved in a new hospitality venture. They are opening up what was known as Jubilee House, one of our residential buildings, into a hotel. The new business will be known as The Lodge @ Orchard Manor and the rooms are currently being decorated and filled up with all sorts of lovely goodies like shampoos, soaps etc. The idea of this is to give our Post 16s an opportunity to get some training and a bit of involvement in the hospitality industry. They will be turning over the bedrooms, cleaning and restocking them as well as getting involved in cooking breakfasts etc. We are very lucky to be able to offer this kind of opportunity on site and we are extremely proud of how much the Post 16 team are getting involved. It is going to be amazing when it is done. At the moment the rooms are being let out to SPT staff who come to visit from Cornwall, but we hope to open it up to the public one day.

Right, I think that's it! All that's left to say is have a great weekend everyone! *Nicola Jones, Headteacher*