



Orchard Manor School News

The Apple Press Orchard Manor School Updates and Communications

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In ancient China, the Taoists taught that a constant inner smile, a smile to oneself, insured health, happiness and longevity. Why? Smiling to yourself is like basking in love: you become your own best friend. Living with an inner smile is to live in harmony with yourself.

Mantak Chia



Hello Everyone!

Whilst we continue to survive the rain and flooding that seems to have taken hold of Devon (we've apparently had 40 days of rain down here!), beautiful Milan – currently dusted in snow for the Winter Olympics – has inspired our PE Department to bring the excitement of winter sports to our school. Our children have been having an absolute blast!

They have been trying out a variety of fun “winter sports”, including a wonderfully creative version of speed skating, where competitors slide around a course with shirts tied to their feet, gliding as if they were on ice! It has been a fantastic way to get active, challenge themselves and celebrate the spirit of the Games. If you follow us on Facebook and Instagram, you'll be able to see some brilliant footage of what they've been getting up to in their PE lessons.

Alongside our sporty adventures, we have some truly thrilling news from the PE Department. We're very excited to be a finalist in the Building Belonging Award at the **Youth Sport Trust Conference Awards 2026**. This recognition is a fantastic achievement for our inclusive PE offer and we couldn't be prouder.

Even more exciting, 13 of our students have been invited to perform their dance piece, “*I Am the Child*”, inspired by the beautiful and moving poem “*The Misunderstood Child*” by Kathy Winters. They will actually be opening the conference in Telford!

Our dancers have been practising and rehearsing for several weeks and will be staying overnight before returning to school the following day. Catherine and Big Flo will be travelling with them.

This is a truly huge honour, as it is unprecedented for a special school to be asked to open this national event. We are incredibly proud of our students and cannot wait to see them shine on such a prestigious stage!

Stay tuned for photos and highlights from both our winter sports activities and the conference performance.

Right, I think that's everything! All that's left to say is have a wonderful half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on **Monday 23rd at 9:10am**. Enjoy the break!

Nicola Jones, Headteacher

I am the Child Poem based on The Misunderstood Child By Kathy Winters.

I am the child that looks healthy and fine,
I was born with ten fingers and toes,
But something is different,
Somewhere in my mind and what it is, nobody knows,

I am the child that struggles in school,
Though they say I am perfectly smart,
They tell me I'm lazy - can learn if I try,
But I don't seem to know where to start.

I am the child, that won't wear the clothes
Which hurt me or bother my feet.
I dread sudden noises, can't handle most smells.

There are very few foods that I'll eat.

I am the child that can't catch the ball,
And runs with an awkward gait,
I am the one chosen last for the team,
And I cringe as I stand there and wait,

I am the child with whom no one will play
The one who gets bullied and teased,
I try to fit in, and I want to be liked.
But nothing I do seems to please,

I am the child.

That melts down over things that seem rather petty or trite.

You'll never know how I panic inside,
When I'm lost in my anger and fright.

I am the child that fidgets and squirms.
Though I'm told to sit still and be good,
Do you think that I choose to be out of control?

Don't you know that I would if I could?

I am the child with the broken heart.
Though I act like I don't really care.
Perhaps there's a reason I was made this way
With some message I was sent to share.

For we are the children that need to be loved,
Accepted and valued too.

We are the children who are misunderstood.
We are different - but look just like you.

**WE ARE ORCHARD MANOR SCHOOL
..... WE ARE AWESOME**

