



Orchard Manor School News

# The Apple Press Orchard Manor School Updates and Communications

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*"I'm living my best life right now!"*

*Gracie, one of our dancers from our OMS Dance Troupe at the Youth Sports Partnership Conference*

Hello Everyone!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news with our families - Orchard Manor School has received the Building Belonging Award at the Youth Sports Partnership National Conference. This national award recognises schools that create inclusive environments where every young person feels valued, supported and that they truly belong.

Catherine Kilburn and I were incredibly proud to accept the award on behalf of the whole OMS community. The recognition highlights the powerful role that PE, sport and play have in helping our pupils build confidence, regulate emotions and re-engage with learning.

The conference opened with a very special moment as our OMS Dance Troupe performed a beautiful and expressive piece to the poem "I Am the Child." The performance perfectly captured the spirit of belonging and identity that this award celebrates. Our pupils took to the stage with confidence and authenticity and received a well-deserved standing ovation - we were so proud of them.

Winning this award is a testament to the incredible work of our PE Team, whose creativity and dedication have helped transform physical activity at OMS. From sensory and fundamental movement programmes to exam-level PE, along with enrichment opportunities such as Apparatus, Active Girls and Unihoc, they ensure that every pupil has the opportunity to participate, succeed and feel proud of their achievements.

We would also like to recognise the fantastic contributions of our Outdoor Education Team, including Woodland Learning and Horticulture, and our Expressive Arts Team, who continually support pupils to explore creativity, challenge themselves and express who they are.

At Orchard Manor, we know that when pupils feel safe, valued and supported, they can thrive. Many of our young people join us feeling uncertain or disconnected from education, but through the care, dedication and encouragement of our staff, they rediscover confidence and a real sense of belonging. This award celebrates every member of our school community - staff, pupils and families - and we are proud to share this achievement with you all.



As usual we have had a pretty full few weeks in school. The OMS Winter Olympics has been going on and lots of children have been enjoying "snow" sports in the Sports Hall. The Sports Team have been extremely creative in their activities. Year 11s went on a whirlwind trip to London, the day we broke up for half term. They travelled by train and then used the underground. They managed to pack so much in - including a visit Houses of Parliament and the Natural History Museum and the Imperial War Museum. There are some great photos on Facebook!. World Book Day was yesterday - again the staff and the children fully emersed themselves in the day - Lots of fantastic costumes. Look out for photos on our social media.

Right, that's all for now. Have a great weekend everyone.

*Nicola Jones, Headteacher*

