



AUTUMN FAYRE

CAKE SALE • CRAFT STALLS

TOMBOLA • RAFFLE

8TH NOVEMBER

10AM - 2PM

£1 ENTRY - 50P CHILDREN

(UNDER 12)



07 / 11 / 2025

The Orchard School

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

AT A GLANCE

- News
- Attendance Matters
- Key dates for your diaries
- Safeguarding Update - Firework Safety
- Odd Socks Day - Friday 14th November

News



I hope you all had a good half term, it has been lovely to welcome the pupils back into school. Can I remind you now the weather is getting colder and wetter to ensure your child comes to school with an appropriate coat, hat and gloves as it moves into the winter months.

A reminder that we have our Autumn Fayre tomorrow. It would be lovely to see as many families attend and support the school in raising some much needed funds to support the enrichment activities in school.

Multi-Agency Teams

There has been a change to the staffing in the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy teams due to staff leaving, this is beyond our control as these are NHS services and not employed by the school. This has had an impact on the frequency of support in school. Both teams are currently recruiting to the posts and we are being support in school to ensure the postural and physio needs of the pupils are met in school. Class staff have been trained on the implementation of the pupil programmes and are ensuring this is implemented as per the plans. If you have any specific concerns please contact appropriate team.

Swimming

As you will know swimming is a high risk activity and we need to ensure that the robust risk assessment is followed. Unfortunately, at present we are low on poolside spotters (lifeguards) who are essential to

have on poolside when any pupil is in the water. Due to this we are having to amend the swimming timetable which may impact on when your child goes in the water. You will receive communication from the class team if this impacts your child.

Also, to support pupils in the water both for swimming and water movement, some pupils require an additional member of staff in the water to support them, this is both for their safety and that of the swimming teachers. Unfortunately, we only have one qualified swimming teacher which does mean pupils who require two members of staff in the water are currently unable to access swimming/water movement. We are looking at solutions for this but may take some time due to the specific training requirements and finding the right person to support in the water. Again, you will receive communication from school if this impacts your child.

Our priority for swimming is and always has been pupils who access water movement. All other pupils will have an opportunity to go swimming during their time at The Orchard School but due to the increase in pupil numbers and the swimming teacher only working 4 days we cannot specify how frequently they will access swimming. Hydrotherapy is not provided by the school and is an NHS provision.

Attendance Matters



The Orchard School's attendance target is 92%

The whole school attendance for this academic year is 89.5%

The whole school attendance for the week prior to half term 85.7%

A reminder:

The school day starts at 8:50 and we expect all pupils to be in school as close to 8:50 as possible. We understand that for some pupils who are not on Local Authority transport and are transported into school by family, may have siblings who are dropped at other schools and therefore may be slightly later than 8:50 but we would ask that they are in school by 9:10 to enable a smooth transition and start to the school day.

Key Dates



Below are the key dates for this term. More information will follow.
Please note dates are subject to change.

W/c Monday 10 th November	Memorial Week
Thursday 13 th November	Anti Bullying Day
Friday 14 th November	Anti Bullying Day -wear odd socks!
Wednesday 19 th November	School photographs
Thursday 20 th November	School photographs
Friday 21 st November	Children in Need
Tuesday 9 th December	Christmas Parent Activity Morning
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Monday 15 th December	Christmas Grotto (3 days)
Friday 19 th December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 5 th January 2026	Pupils return to school

Safeguarding Update



Fireworks

As we celebrated Bonfire Night this week and you may be going to displays at the weekend please bare in mind the following:

Fireworks are loud, spectacular, beautiful and exciting but as we all know, when celebrating with fireworks, firework safety must always take priority over everything else. There are many hazards and common causes of injury in the UK associated with fireworks, we have listed below a guide to sparklers, bonfires, and the firework code.

1. Adults should only buy fireworks over the counter from respected stores.
2. Only an adult should handle and light fireworks.
3. Fireworks should be kept in a closed box away from sparks.
4. An adult should read and follow the instructions for lighting fireworks carefully.
5. Fireworks are lit at arm's length.
6. Always stand well back (8m is best).

7. Never go back to a lit firework.
8. Never put fireworks in your pocket.

NEVER THROW FIREWORKS

Odd Socks



As part of our commitment to celebrating individuality and promoting kindness, we invite all children to wear **odd socks** to school on **Friday 14th November** to mark Anti-Bullying Week.

Odd Socks Day is a fun and simple way to remind everyone that it's okay to be different. By wearing mismatched socks, we show that our differences make us unique and should be celebrated. It's a chance for children to express themselves, embrace diversity and stand together against bullying in all its forms. Let's fill the school with colour, creativity and kindness!

