

Newsletter

14 December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Key dates

- 17 December Carol Concert for Key Stage 2 pupils: All Saints Church, 6.00pm
- 17 December Christmas parties for Year 1 and Year 2 pupils: in the school hall
- 18 December Christmas parties for Upper Foundation Stage pupils: in the Foundation Stage Unit
- 19 December Christmas Lunch for pupils and staff
- 19 December Key Stage 2 Carol singing – PUPILS ONLY
- 20 December Christmas parties for Year 5 and Year 6 pupils: in the school hall
- 21 December School closes for the Christmas holiday

Christmas Concerts performed this week

Thank you to everyone who came to our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Christmas concerts this week. Thank you also to our parents and carers for giving the children encouragement and support.

Key Stage 2 Carol Concert at All Saints Church

On Monday 17 December, our Key Stage 2 Carol Concert will take place at All Saints Church, commencing 6.00pm. Children need to be at the church by 5.30pm, ready for the concert at 6.00pm. Thank you to all those who attend.

Christmas Lunch in School

On Wednesday 19 December, Christmas lunch will be served to the children. Traditional Christmas lunch will be the only choice available, with a Quorn roast as the vegetarian option. Your child will be able to order a Christmas lunch on the day.

Film and Pyjama Evening

On Thursday, 20 December, straight after school until approximately 5.15pm, there will be a film and pyjama evening for all pupils in Upper Foundation stage to Year 6. Children can choose one of three, age-appropriate films and they will receive a drink and chocolate bar, provided by the fundraising team.

Please send pyjamas with your child, so that they can change into them at school.

Christmas Parties

Please see the 'Key Dates' at the top of this newsletter, to find out the date of your child's Christmas party.

We would be very grateful for donations of food and drink for the parties. To enable an even balance and variety of items, please could you send items as outlined in the table below, according to the first letter of your child's surname:

First letter of your child's surname	Type of food	Example
A to H	Savoury	Sausage rolls, crisps, cheesy puffs, mini scotch eggs, mini sausages, etc. No nuts or food containing nuts please.
I to U	Sweet	Buns, biscuits, cakes, cupcakes, mini rolls, etc. (not containing nuts please)
V to Z	Drinks	Dilute squash, flavoured water, etc. (no fizzy drinks please)

Please send your child to school in their uniform, bringing their party clothes to get changed into at school.

Collecting children on time at the end of the school day

Recently, an increasing number of children are not being collected on time at the end of the school day. We do not, however, have enough staff available to look after these children and our policy is to **not leave any child unattended. As a result, with immediate effect, any child not collected on time will go into after-school care club and be charged at the rate of £4.00 per session, regardless of the amount of time spent there.**

New telephone number for After-School Care Club

There is now a mobile telephone number for After-School Care Club, that parents and carers may call if they wish to speak to a member of the After-School Care Club staff. Please note: This mobile number is only available during After-School Care Club hours, i.e. from 3.15pm until the last child has left (approximately 5.30pm). **The new number is 07494 895804.**

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
Nursery am	89.34
Nursery pm	89.74
UFSLC	92.17
UFSR	89.09
Y1W	95.67
Y1/2B	98.00
Y2S	95.17
Y3T	95.52
Y3/4HL	96.33
Y4McA	98.97
Y5Fr	97.00
Y5/6F	96.13
Y5/6J	97.78
Whole School	95.52

Lost Property

We have several items of lost property in school. In the hope of reuniting them with their owners, these items will be displayed on a table in the playground immediately after school next Wednesday, so that pupils and parents/carers can collect any that belong to them. Any items of clothing not collected will be donated to charity. Thank you.

Mr Mitchell in School

Mr Mitchell came in to school today to further familiarise himself with staff and pupils, for when he takes up his new role as Head of School in January. He will be in school again next Monday morning.

Farewell from Mrs Lindley

As we approach our final busy week and conclude the many wonderful Christmas festivities, I would like to thank all the children, staff and parents for my time here as the Interim Head of School at Orchard Head.

I have been impressed by the children's excellent attitudes to learning and their eagerness to contribute positively to the life of the school. The teachers and support staff work extremely hard to ensure that your children receive an engaging and developmental curriculum. Thank you for all for your contributions.

May I say a special thank you to Mrs Carr, Mrs Lightowler and more recently, Mr Dunn, who have all worked tirelessly with me in moving the school forward this term. Their enthusiasm, skill and commitment will continue to drive the school forward and further improve outcomes for all the children. Thank you to Nicola Coussons and her cleaning staff, who do a great job of looking after the environment and the school building. Thank you to the admin team for their support, answering my numerous questions and pointing me in the right direction! Last, but definitely not least, thank you to the lunchtime supervisors and the kitchen staff, who work tirelessly to support our children.

As for me, I will be retiring from the Trust next Wednesday, after 39 years in education, including six headships! I will always have a special place for Orchard Head, as it marks my last leadership role. I wish Mr Mitchell all the best, as he picks up the reigns in the New Year and beyond, as he moves the school to the next level.

My very best Christmas and New Year wishes to our pupils, parents and carers and all their families.

Yours sincerely



Mrs G Lindley
Head of School