



# Newsletter



## December 2017

NORFOLK LAKES 2017

STRONGER, HIGHER, FASTER

[www.orchardprimary.co.uk](http://www.orchardprimary.co.uk)

### Busy Term

This is a very busy time of the year at Orchard Primary. We are looking forward to a range of Christmas activities, including Carols by Candlelight, Christmas lunch, a Christmas play, Christmas jumper day, the Christmas Discos. Class Christmas parties and our Nativity.

We end the term with a Celebration of Learning on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm, when you are invited to come in and look at what your child has been learning this term. This is an informal occasion, and is not a Parent/Teacher meeting. You may take your child home with you from 2.30pm, after they have shown you their work.

### Nuts

We have a number of children with nut allergies, **we cannot allow any nut products** in school, and this includes **Nutella** chocolate spread. Even a small amount of nut product can cause a severe allergic reaction.

### PE Kits

During the colder weather, please make sure that your child has jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt for PE, as the children do go out even if it is cold.

### School Clubs

The last week for school clubs this term is the week ending Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Clubs for the Spring Term will start from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January.

### School Journey to Norfolk

Year five and six pupils enjoyed an Adventurous 5 days away at Norfolk Lakes. They had opportunities to try out canoeing, raft building, sailing, rock climbing, caving, survival skill and crate stacking amongst other things. The children were a credit to the school, and a special mention must be made of Zeraya and her team, who won the award for the tidiest bedroom! Parents of current Year 4 and 5 pupils should look out for school journey meetings early in 2018.

### Attendance

Attendance continues to be above **97%** this term and this is great news, because it means that we are doing better than nationally. We understand that sometimes children are ill and cannot attend school, but we would like to thank you all for supporting the school in our drive to improve attendance. Look out for the **Early Bird**, who is sure to put in an appearance next term. Prize Draw with prizes for pupils and parents!

### ParentPay

By now you should have received your ParentPay letter, with an activation code. Our aim is to be cashless by the end of the Spring Term, so please do sign up for this system so that money for visits, school dinners, music lessons etc. can all be paid on-line. We will also be using the system's communications element to send out school letters and other information, so please make sure that the email address and mobile phone number you have given us are up to

date. We hope these systems will make things easier for parents/carers and for the office staff too, as they deal with a heavy administrative workload.

### Careers Aspirations Day

I would like to say a big thank you to Miss Little for organising another great Careers Aspirations Day, and thanks to everyone who gave up their time to come and speak to our children. It is important for our pupils to be able to hear about the range of careers to which they could aspire.

### Times Tables

Helping your child learn their times tables is something that will benefit them throughout their lives! Having instant recall of multiplication facts supports their Maths learning. It can be fun, there are many games, songs and programmes on the internet, try some of these:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk>

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/>

<http://primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/help-with-times-tables>



I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all the staff at Orchard to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! We welcome you back on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018



