The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start to the school year we've had at The Orchard! The first half term has certainly flown by, and it has been lovely to see the children settling into their new classes, building friendships and embracing new challenges with such enthusiasm. There has been so much exciting learning taking place across the school, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far.

A little snapshot of learning this week…

Year 2

Our Year 2 children have been busy exploring their creativity in a variety of ways. In art, they have produced some wonderful, colourful pieces inspired by the work of artist Alma Thomas. In English, they have been writing their own versions of *The Storm Whale*, using adverbs to add detail and bring their stories to life. In indoor PE, they have been developing their dance skills, using expression and movement to portray different characters, while in music they have been exploring timbre and discovering how different voices and instruments create different sounds.

Reception

Our youngest children have made a fantastic start to school life! They have been learning and performing simple dance patterns, bringing the story of *Elmer* to life through acting and storytelling, and developing their early maths skills through subitising and using positional language. They have also been making the most of our outdoor environment, creating some lovely nature-inspired artwork and then using technology to photograph their masterpieces. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and independence growing.

Year 1

Year 1 have been finding out about the history of our local area, learning about the Molesey floods and the impact they had on the community. This has helped the children begin to understand how events in the past have shaped the place where we live today. In maths, they have been exploring wholes and parts, using practical resources and activities to develop their understanding of numbers. In RE, they have been learning about the Jewish festival of Sukkot and how it is celebrated during the harvest season.

Harvest Donations

A huge thank you to everyone who sent in donations for our Harvest collection this morning. Your generosity is very much appreciated, and all the contributions were gratefully received by Elmbridge Foodbank. It is a lovely example of our Orchard value of Kindness in action, and a wonderful way to help the children understand the importance of caring for others in our local community.

Parent Governor Vacancy

A reminder that we currently have a vacancy for **one Parent Governor** on our Governing Body. This is a fantastic opportunity to play an active role in the life of The Orchard and help shape the future of our school. If you are interested in putting yourself forward, please remember that the closing date for nominations is **9am on Monday 2nd November 2026**. We would love to hear from you!

Back to School

We look forward to welcoming all the children back to school on **Monday 2nd November**. In the meantime, I hope you all enjoy a lovely half term break, with some time to relax, recharge and spend time together. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm wishes,
Sally Cary
Headteacher

Helping Our Planet, One Litter Pick at a Time

Last April, we celebrated **Earth Day** by learning about ways we can help our planet and live more sustainably. One of the highlights was a litter-picking activity in our local area, which the children embraced with great enthusiasm.

We would love to make this a regular event and give more children the opportunity to take part.

If you can spare some time to support this initiative, please speak to **Mrs Smart in Oak Class** or leave your details at the school office.

Please note: a DBS check is required.

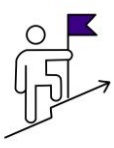
Thank you for helping us make a positive difference in our community.



Our Value Award Winners are…

Ash **Eleni**	Elm **Frankie**	Holly **Lucas**
Willow **Kaius**	Maple **Millie**	Rowan **Elliot**
Beech **Finley**	Oak **Ruby**	Sycamore **Finn**

Courage **Determination** **Respect** **Kindness**



"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

October Attendance Superstars!

A huge well done to our top three classes for attendance this October!

🥇 **Rowan – 98.66%**
🥈 **Holly – 97.84%**
🥉 **Beech – 96.91%**

Fantastic attendance! Thank you to all our families for helping children arrive at school on time and ready to learn.



Every school day counts!

Musical Artist of the Week



AC/DC

Australian rock band

Did you know? Their music is used to help combat cancer! Researchers in South Australia have found that playing 'Thunderstruck' during chemotherapy treatment is effective at improving the efficiency of the drug.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/25Y3HJsNpEmXj0jDoLOT6i





This week….



Elm Class in Action





The Orchard School
Inspiring Success

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for one Parent Governor

We are looking for a passionate and committed parent or carer to join our Local Governing Board and help shape the future of our school.



As a parent governor you will:

- Help shape the future of our school
- Bring your skills, experience and ideas
- Make a positive difference for our children
- Be part of a supportive and dedicated team

Nominations must be received by 9am on Monday 2nd November 2026

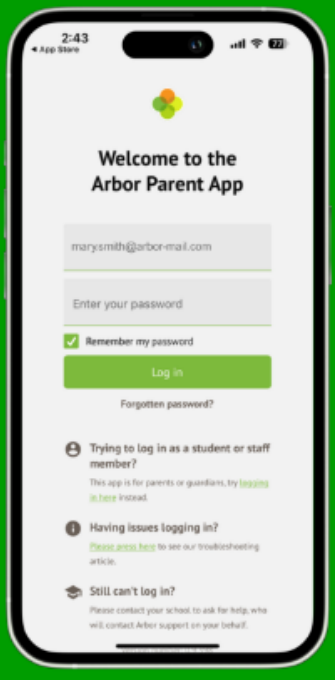
If you are interested or would like more information, please see the nomination details on our website or contact the school office.

Click on the picture above to go directly to the governor page on our website.

Arbor

We're using the Arbor Parent App!

See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in

Google Play App Store

The Missing 10%... Where Are You?

We're delighted that **90% of our parents have logged into Arbor!** But that leaves a mysterious 10% who are still out there somewhere... 🕵️

Have you forgotten? Haven't quite got round to it?

Or are you just keeping us in suspense?

If you're one of our elusive 10%, please do log in! It's the easiest way to keep up to date with everything happening at The Orchard.

Come on, let's see if we can make it 100%!



Please remember that all tickets for our **'Let it Glow' Disco on Monday 9th November** must be booked by **6pm on Wednesday 4th November**.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to accept late bookings or sell tickets on the day, as numbers need to be confirmed in advance.

Click on the picture above to visit the PTA website and book your tickets.

We can't wait for a fantastic disco boogie!

Dates for your Diary

https://orchard.surrey.sch.uk/Calendar/

Click on the *'subscribe'* button to sync your device to it.

19th - 30th October
HALF TERM



Monday 2nd November
Autumn 2 Starts



Monday 2nd November
Parent Governor Nominations



Wednesday 4th November
6pm
Deadline for Disco Ticket purchases



Monday 9th November
'Let it Glow' Disco



Wednesday 11th November
Remembrance Day



Wednesday 11th November
Individual School Photos



Friday 13th November
Children in Need & World Kindness Day



Monday 16th November
Odd Socks Day



Monday 16th November – Friday 20th November
Anti-Bullying Week



Thursday 19th November
Full Governing Body Meeting
6pm



Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November
Parents' Evening



Wednesday 25th November
PTA: Christmas Wreath Workshop



Thursday 26th November
Love Magical Molesey



Monday 30th November
Flu Vaccination



Do you have an older child who might be interested in joining this?

Chatter Books

JOIN OUR GROUP

Join Chatterbooks – The library book club for kids!



Read one book a month selected by our Library Assistants and meet at the library!



Discover exciting new authors and discuss and review what you've read!



Get Creative with creative writing, crafts, quizzes, and more!



Make New Friends by meeting other young book lovers!



Recommended for 8-11 years
Ask a library staff member today how to sign up!

THE READING AGENCY

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Autism Outreach for Schools

BARNARDO'S Changing childhoods. Changing lives.

Cygnet Autism Support

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Cygnet in Surrey

A 6-session support programme for parents and carers of children and young people, aged 5 - 18 who have autism or suspected autism.

Where is it being delivered?

A mixture of online and in-person courses are taking place across Surrey.

Who can attend?

Parents, carers or other family members who have responsibility for your child. Your child must be aged between 5-18 and live in Surrey. They may have a diagnosis of autism or be waiting for one.

What does Cygnet involve?

The programme is delivered over six 2 ½ - 3 hour sessions which include:

- Introductory session
- Overview of autism with parent and carer experience
- Thinking & sensory
- Social interaction & communication
- Understanding & supporting behaviour
- Analysing behaviour

Who will deliver the course?

Surrey's Cygnet offer is coordinated through the Autism Outreach team but our team of trainers are made up from professionals working across Surrey in education, health and charity organisations.

Can I ask some questions?

Email us on SurreyParentworkshops@freemantles.surrey.sch.uk

How do I join a course?

Please register your interest by completing the electronic expression of interest form (accessed through the below link or by scanning the above QR code). You will then be added to our mailing list and contacted each time new courses are available on TryBooking.

https://forms.office.com/e/wZ82LGt6rC

Surrey Parent Training Programmes

UPCOMING EVENTS AUTUMN

THE ORCHARD SCHOOL · PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION ·

2 OCT

Christmas

Order p… istmas cards, w… …her merchandise … …ur project with Cauliflower Artwork.

15/16 OCT

Year 2

Volu… …aked goods after sc… …Thu & Fri to raise funds for Year Two enrichment

9 NOV

"Let it Glow Disco"

Tickets must be pre-booked. Reception is 3-4pm, Year 1 is 4-5pm and Year 2 is 5-6pm. Volunteers needed with DBS check.

25 NOV

Wreath Workshop

Create a lovely festive wreath for your front door. This event is open to the community. Pre-booking essential.

4 DEC

Christmas tree pickup

Pre-order and buy your Christmas Tree via PTA Events for pick up on 4 Dec from a local address.

5 DEC

Christmas Fair

Santa's grotto, games, raffle, bar and much more. This is a key fundraiser in the year. Volunteers needed to run the stalls.

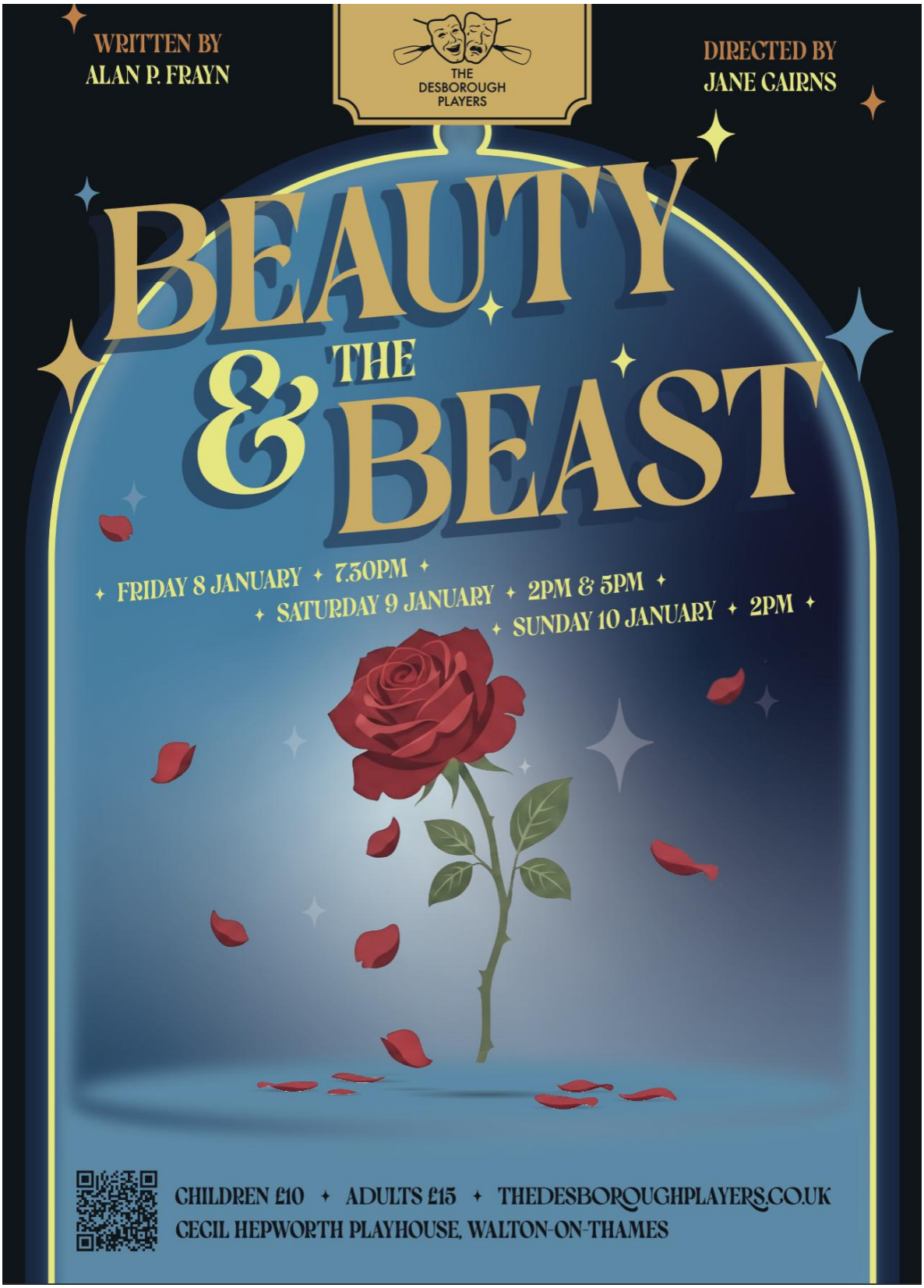
15 DEC

Christmas Plays

The children will be treated to a Christmas show from a theatre company - funded by the PTA due to your contributions.

Our very own Mrs Thornton is starring as Belle in this January's Desborough Players Pantomime. Book your tickets early to avoid disappointment.

Click on the picture below to go directly to the website.





Click on the picture above to take you to our website.

Parent Tours

As many of our children move on to

St Lawrence Junior School,

parents may be interested to know that the school is hosting a number of parent tours. These visits provide an opportunity to see the school during the learning day, giving parents a real insight into school life. Visitors will be able to observe learning in action and enjoy a guided tour of the school and its facilities.

If your child will be transferring to junior school in September 2027, this is a great chance to find out more about what St Lawrence has to offer. Please contact St Lawrence Junior School directly for further information and booking details.

4th November 2026
8th December 2026
7th January 2027

https://www.stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk/