The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had another busy and successful week at Orchard.
Today, the children took part in a fire alarm practice. They did a fantastic job, walking calmly and safely and listening carefully to the adults supporting them.
Well done, everyone!

Yesterday, Mr Nourish came to visit us at lunchtime. It was great to share with him how much the children are enjoying the different red, green and yellow meal options available each day, as well as the salad bar and, of course, the delicious desserts! The children often comment on how tasty the food is, and it has been lovely to see so many of them trying new foods, making healthy choices and enjoying the variety on offer at lunchtime. We are very pleased with how well the children have embraced the new menu options.

In **Reception**, the children have been busy retelling stories, drawing pictures of their families and developing their counting skills. They have been helping some very special cuddly toys with their counting, spotting mistakes and using different strategies to help them count accurately.

In **Year 1**, the children have been learning about shape and space, comparing playground games from the past and present, and creating their own bowls and plates using clay. They were also delighted to receive personalised certificates from their class teachers, celebrating what makes each child special. This led to some thoughtful discussions about what it means to feel proud and to have a sense of achievement.

In **Year 2**, the children have been enjoying *The Storm Whale*, writing character descriptions and developing their questioning skills. In Science, they have been learning about the different food groups and what makes a healthy, balanced diet. In PSHE, they have been thinking about how to make their classroom a safe, fair and welcoming place for everyone.

If you have not done so already, please sign up for the Arbor app, as we will be using this in the future instead of ParentMail. We would love to get everyone connected as soon as possible.

Arbor

We would also love to welcome a parent onto our Governing Body. Details about the election process were sent out earlier today, so please do take a look at that communication if you are interested or would like to find out more.
Thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful weekend.

See you on Monday.
Sally Cary

A Special Thank You and Goodbye to Mrs Denton

This week we said a heartfelt thank you to **Mrs Denton** as she leaves Orchard after **20 years of dedicated service** to our school community.

Many families will know Mrs Denton not only as a member of staff, but also as a former Orchard parent and governor. Over the years, she has played many roles within our school, always putting children at the heart of everything she does.

Through her kindness, patience and unwavering support, Mrs Denton has helped countless children to learn, grow and flourish. She has made a lasting difference to the lives of so many pupils, families and colleagues, and her contribution to Orchard will not be forgotten.

We are incredibly grateful for everything she has given to our school and wish her every happiness and success in the future.

She will be greatly missed.

Mrs Denton helps me spell tricky words when I am writing.

Mrs Denton is really funny and happy when she reads us a story.

Mrs Denton is fun because she plays with us on PE days.

Mrs Denton is kind. She looked after me in the mornings when I was feeling sad.

Mrs Denton is really nice and she helps us when we get stuck.

Mrs Denton likes helping people and she helped me when I fell over.







Holly Class in their outside learning.

Attention Autism Bucket Time Sessions

As part of our Reception curriculum, all children take part in **Attention Autism Bucket Time** sessions. These fun, highly engaging activities help children to develop their attention, listening and communication skills, as well as encouraging turn-taking, focus and shared enjoyment with others. The sessions use exciting and motivating resources to capture children's interest and support their learning.

We are currently looking for donations of **small toys or objects that spin, flash, move or are visually exciting** to use during our Bucket Time sessions. If you have anything suitable that you no longer need, we would be very grateful for your support.

Please send any donations to **Mrs Thornton**, who teaches in **Holly Class**.

Thank you for your support!







Join Our Orchard Team!

Do you know someone who would love to make a difference in the lives of young children?

We are currently seeking a **Teaching & Learning Assistant (TLA)** to join our wonderful team at **The Orchard School**. This is a fantastic opportunity to work alongside our dedicated staff, support our amazing children, and become part of our caring school community. If you, a family member, or a friend would be interested in finding out more, please take a look at the vacancy and application details using the link below:

👉 **Teaching & Learning Assistant Vacancy:**
https://www.eteach.com/careers/orchard-surrey/job/teaching--and--learning-assisant-tla-1572459

We would be very grateful if you could help spread the word amongst friends, family and the local community.

Come and be part of The Orchard family!

Our Value Award Winners are…

Ash **Aria**	Elm **Indigo**	Holly **Darcy**
Willow **Marnie**	Maple **Freddie L**	Rowan **Isaac**
Beech **Lorena**	Oak **Noah**	Sycamore **Oscar**

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

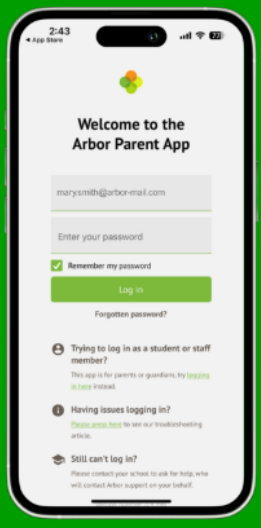


Kindness is free; sprinkle that stuff everywhere!

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

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

Please note that all school disco tickets must be ordered by **Thursday 16th October 2026**.
Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept any late requests, issue tickets after the deadline, or provide tickets on the day of the disco. This is to ensure we can finalise numbers and make the necessary arrangements for the event.
Thank you for your understanding and support.
We look forward to a fantastic disco!



🌟 September Attendance Champions! 🌟

A big well done to all of our classes for their excellent attendance this past month. Regular attendance helps children make the most of their learning and enjoy all the opportunities school has to offer.

🥇 **Holly - 99.64%**
🥈 **Beech - 98.83%**
🥉 **Rowan - 98.64%**



High 5s and happy faces with Mr Nourish.



Musical Artist of the Week



Edward Elgar

A keen footballer as well as a classical composer and conductor. Elgar was knighted by King Edward VII. Listen to his music here.

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6AvZdrXon6sKN2O80h2fb2

Dates for your Diary

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

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

Thursday 8th and
Friday 9th October
PTA: African Drumming Workshop



Friday 2nd October
Deadline for Personalised Christmas Card Orders



Tuesday 13th October
Reception Parent Phonic Workshop
9:15 – 9:45



Thursday 15th and
Friday 16th October
Year 2 Bake Sale



Friday 16th October
Harvest Celebration and Collection for Elmbridge Food Bank



19th - 30th October
HALF TERM



Friday 16th October
6pm
Deadline for Disco Ticket purchases



Monday 2nd November
Parent Governor Nominations



Monday 9th November
'Let it Glow' Disco



Wednesday 11th November
Remembrance Day



Wednesday 11th November
Individual School Photos



Reminders

Earrings should not be worn in school	Hair that falls below the shoulder should be tied back (boys & girls)	Wear PE Kit on PE Days
		

UPCOMING EVENTS AUTUMN

THE ORCHARD SCHOOL · PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION ·

2 OCT

Christmas Art Deadline

Order personalised Christmas cards, wraps, mugs and other merchandise through our project with Cauliflower Artwork.

15/16 OCT

Year 2 Bake Sale

Volunteers will sell baked goods after school on the 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

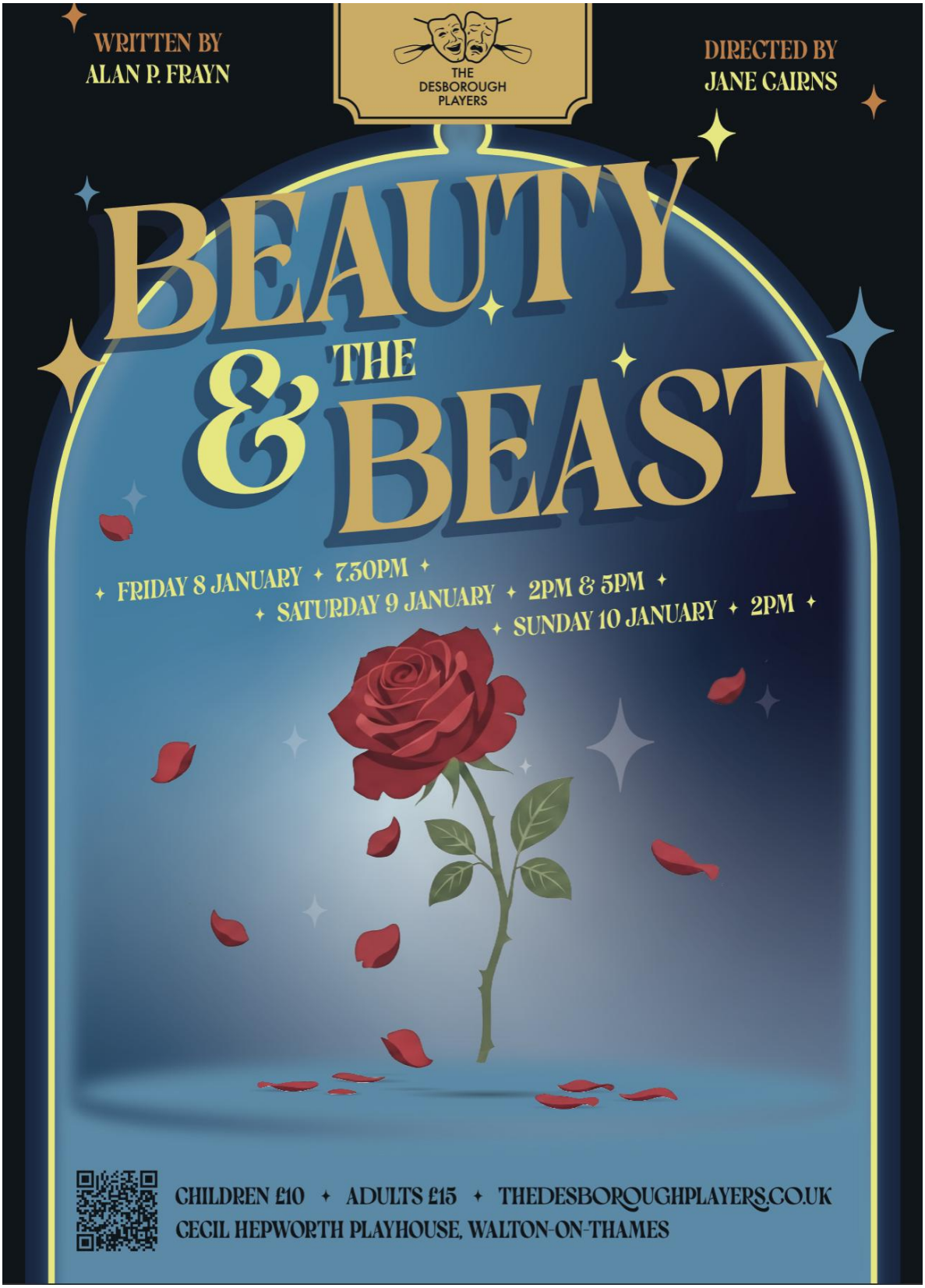
Santa's grotto, games, raffle, bar and much more. This is a key fundraiser in the year. Volunteers needed to run the stalls.

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 Payers Pantomime. Book your tickets early. 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 next year, 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.

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

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