

SPORTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Autumn 2 term has seen amazing participation in various sports competitions across the town. Orchard learners have represented their school at a bowling panathlon challenge, football and also basketball, with some fantastic results. The learners have continued to do us proud!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This year the Orchard will be participating for the very first time in the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

The founder of DofE HRH Prince Philip once said, "There is more in you than you might think." - an expression supported by the Orchard's vision and values.

DofE is a scheme open to any young person aged 14-24. Each young person builds their own DofE programmes- picking their own activities and choosing which cause to volunteer for in order to achieve a Bronze, Silver and Gold Award. We are excited to get started on the internationally recognised programme.



AUTHOR VISITS



Leanne Thompson, a local SEND author visited Orchard on Friday 5th December. She read some of the books she has written to our learners. The books are a series of rhyming stories with characters that explain differences to children in a way they can relate to and understand but also help adults and peers learn how to help and support in moments of difficulty.

Our learners loved listening to the stories and had so many questions for Leanne. They also offered suggestions for the new book she is writing. We are hoping that Leanne will visit us again next year.

CAREERS

This half term KS3 and Foundation learners have been looking at different careers in the transport sector. The learners had the opportunity to experience train travel firsthand, getting on the train at Great Coates to Grimsby Town Station and back. They spoke to the driver and the staff at the train station and the learners absolutely loved this little outing, learning a lot about the careers involved within the rail industry.



Careers Fact of the term!

Labour Market Information (LMI) - Did you know that Grimsby's health and social care sector has a high demand for numerous roles due to a major shortage of care workers and an increasing ageing population who require more complex, long-term care and support

Recently our year 11's learners met with Elanor from YPSS (Young People Support Service) to discuss some ideas of where they would like to study and the courses they are interested in, in preparation for post-16. Some of the year 11's have just completed their work experience, which has been a valuable experience for our learners and supported them with their future aspirations.



ORCHARDS MISSION CHRISTMAS

This year for our annual 'Orchard's Mission Christmas' our learners took part in a 5km sponsored walk around GTFC's Blundell Park and also enjoyed Christmas Carolling at our local Tesco supermarket. Our learners did amazingly well at both events, and we managed to raise a huge £2,190 (the most we have ever raised for our mission Christmas appeal). The money will go to local children who might be at risk of not receiving a Christmas present and also donations to local food banks in need of food. We have been out shopping and will be donating the items bought to Women's Aid, Salvation Army, We Are One Foundation and Grimsby Food Kitchen. We would like to thank all learners, parents and carers for getting behind us yet again on this.



HEALTHIER FOOD OPTIONS

We have identified that perhaps our dinner menus could use a healthy update, and with this in mind from Spring 1 we will be introducing some healthier options. Chocolate bars will no longer be available, but wafers/biscuits will be served each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Other days, yogurt, fruit and sugar free jelly/angel delight will be on offer. Fruit will be available every day, and milkshakes will also be swapped out for less sugary alternatives. We hope that parents/carers can get behind us on these much needed changes and promote the healthier alternatives.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we come to the end of the Autumn Term, I would like to reflect on what has been a very positive term for our school community. Our new learners have settled in brilliantly, adding real value to school life, and I am incredibly proud of how all of our learners represent the school beyond the classroom. This was highlighted by being named finalists at the National NASS Awards for our cross-generational work in care homes.

This term, our learners have continued to make a positive impact within the wider community. Through a Gallaghers Café takeover, they raised funds for Macmillan Cancer Support, and through our Orchard Mission Christmas appeal, raised over £2,000 to support families and individuals in need across our community, including those within our own school.

The introduction of BTEC options has been a real success, providing learners with an additional relevant qualification while also bringing learners from both sites together. All places for the next academic year are now fully allocated, and we thank families and professionals for sharing the work we do and helping make our school a popular choice for learners with Education, Health and Care Plans. Our ongoing improvements are built on strong partnerships with parents, carers, and professionals, and your voice continues to shape our work.

As we approach the festive season, I hope you are able to celebrate in the way that feels right for you and your loved ones. We are mindful that this time of year can be difficult for some, and we hold those individuals and families in our thoughts. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the Spring Term.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - SPRING 1

| | Foundation | KS3 | KS4 |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| English | Fiction Defeat a Monster | Non-Fiction Newsletter | Story Telling through Lyrics |
| Mathematics | Number Subtraction (Fractions & Time) | Time & Money | Measure, Shape & Space |
| ICT | Internet Safety (Google Classrooms) | | |
| Science | Physics - Forces & Magnets | | Physics - Health & Fitness |
| PSHE | Relationships | | Living in the Wider World - Substance Misuse |
| Human & Social | History - The Crusades | | History - The Cold War |
| People and the Community | Living - Community: Belonging to a Faith | | Living & Thinking - Community: Places of Worship |
| Aesthetic & Creative Arts | Printing - David Hockney | | Personal Art Project |
| Talkabout | Social Skills Programme - The Way We Talk | | |
| PLP & BTEC | Various - Project Based Learning (Preparation for Adulthood) | | Art Cooking Performing Arts Sport |

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

If you are needing assistance regarding a potential safeguarding concern during the Christmas holidays there are services there to help: -

- Integrated front Door (Children's Services) Members of the public and professionals can call the IFD on 01472 326292 (option 2, option 2) (Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm).
- Report a concern to Children's Services - [SaferNEL | Report a concern - SaferNEL](#)
- Children's Social Care also run the Emergency Duty Team (EDT), which you can contact on 01472 326292 (option 2).
- All members of staff will be on a well-deserved break; however the DSL will be checking the Orchard safeguarding telephone at points throughout the half term. Please use the numbers above in case of emergency.

WINTER IS HERE!

We know winter can be a difficult time for many families so if you need support over the colder months here's some information on where you can go for a little help or support.

Asda - Kids eat for £1- All day, every day - [Asda Cafe](#)

Morrisons Café - Kids Eat Free - [Morrisons Cafe](#) | [Morrisons](#)

[Winter Fuel Payment: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

[Cold Weather Payment: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

[Get help with the cost of living from your local council - GOV.UK](#)

ONLINE SAFETY

Many of our learners love to play games online and Roblox is a favourite. Roblox is a free to play interactive social platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Whilst games like this are fun it is important that parents/carers are aware of their child's online activities and regularly check their history, who they are talking to and what type of game they are playing. We have added several attachments to this newsletter as a guide for you in keeping our young people safe online.



DATES AND EVENTS

Friday 19th December 2025 - Children break up for Christmas (12.30pm)

Monday 5th January 2026 - Children return to school

12th January - 6th February - KS4 Functional Skills Assessment Window

15th January 2026 - Panathlon Final - Hollywood Bowl (Hull).

WC 19th January 2026 - KS3 Visit to Grimsby Minster

Tuesday 20th January 2026 - GCSE Maths mock

Thursday 22nd January 2026 - GCSE English Language mock

Friday 13th February 2026 - Children break up for half term

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipssed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org

Developed in partnership with

