

Headteacher's Message

Dear all,

This week has been a challenging one for the school community, and the staff would like to thank you all from the very bottom of our hearts for the love and kindness you have shown one another. It truly goes to show what a special family Orford School is. The rest of this half term has been fabulous and full of celebrations from World Book Day to Science Week to the build up to Easter and our first ever Inspirational People week. Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support with our extended curriculum and your child's education, we have really enjoyed sharing our learning and experiences with you.

A huge congratulations to Mrs Andrews and Mrs Robinson, who this term have completed their training to be fully qualified [Emotional Literacy Support Assistants \(ELSA practitioners\)](#). All children in school can access ELSA, and we have a number of different books and resources to support emotional development, which we are excited to be sharing with you next term as part of Books, Buddies and Biscuits. As term has gone on we have noticed that colourful trainers, branded sports tops and other items are being worn to school again. A polite reminder that uniform expectations are [published here on the school website](#). OSLOF are still generously offering the 'New to You' uniform scheme with all items £1 to help with this. Please speak to the school office, or Claire (George and Isla's mum) if you are interested in using, or donating to, this service.

This afternoon, we are looking forward to seeing as many of you at the Easter service as possible. Each class has produced some thoughtful work to share, which we are sure you will enjoy, and we will be saying a heartfelt thanks and goodbye to Reverend Giles, who has been a tremendous support to the school in the past 4 years. We wish him all the very best in his new post in Shropshire.

Hoping you all have a peaceful break and look forward to our return to school on **Tuesday 18th April** at the normal time.

With very best wishes,
Miss Cannon

Values Cup Award Winners

- **Pharron** -
Courage
Hope
Perseverance
- **Mrs Robinson** -
Compassion
Creativity
Wisdom
- **Luca** -
Courage
Truthfulness
Friendship
Creativity



Our whole school values next term will be:

**friendship and
thankfulness.**

Whole School News

Our first "big" event of this half term was World Book Day - thank you to everyone for all your hard work in putting together costumes, it was the first year that EVERYONE participated, and all had come from a book of choice, it was so lovely to hear the enthusiasm from the children.

OSLOF very kindly donated three £5 book vouchers for the best costumes, but how could we possibly pick when everyone had made such a brilliant effort?! We ended up putting everyone's names in a hat: well done



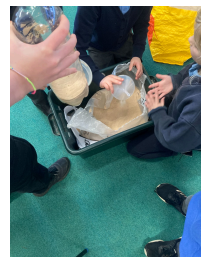
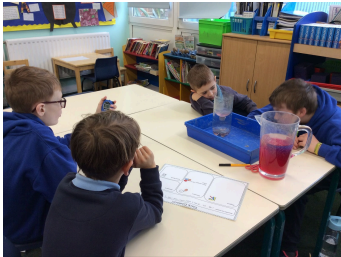
to Timmy, Joe and Tom for being our lucky three recipients. There were also some excellent entries for our bookplate competition; congratulations to Ivy, Harper, Isla and Harry who have each chosen a book to go into our library. Also an enormous thank you to Mrs Nicholls for all her hard work in organising such a successful day!



Yet again, Science Week did not fail to disappoint. Class 1 created an explosive volcano by observing the reaction between vinegar and baking powder. They worked carefully to create and follow a method and used superb scientific vocabulary to explain the process. Class 2 undertook a complex pendulum experiment – finding out which variables affected how many swings the pendulum could do in a minute... they discovered that a shorter string was best if you wanted your pendulum to go faster, and this adjustment was how the first clocks were made!



Speaking of clocks, years 1-6 banded together in small groups to create a sand or water timer using recycled plastic bottles. For an added challenge, each group had a time target - their water/sand clock had to measure 2 minutes, 3 minutes or 4 minutes exactly, before being pitched against each other in the hall! Some of the groups were very close to their target time, with the winners just 2 seconds off! Well done to Erik, Alexander, Averie and Isaac C.



Meanwhile, Reception and Nursery worked in forest schools to create Time 'journey sticks' collecting different items on their adventures and tying them to a stick in the order they found them. They were very excited to share their discoveries!

However, the crowning jewel, as it is every year, was Class 3's annual Science Fair! They showcased some amazing experiments and investigations undertaken at home. There was some really deep scientific thinking and it was very hard to choose winners. But congratulations to Emily, Zac, Lana, Erik, Teddy, Stavroula and Lily for being our finalists!



Photo galleries of both Science Week and World Book Day can be found on our website:

<https://www.orfordprimary.co.uk/gallery/?pid=0&gcetid=7>

Last week, we launched the school's first ever Inspirational Person Week as part of our 'No Outsiders' programme. Thank you to everyone who completed the projects at home: the children talked so animatedly and confidently about their chosen person, what they had done to become famous and why they were an inspiration. It was fantastic to hear about a range of individuals from all backgrounds and celebrate different achievements. It was such a success we are hoping to run another one next academic year.

As an Easter treat, Guy Marshall led some painting and crafts in the church: some children were in charge of painting letters to spell "Hosanna" whilst others were in charge of making palm leaves for the palm tree and donkey (who can be found at the back of the church!). As ever, the children were delightfully behaved and had an enjoyable time. Thank you to all the volunteers at church who helped out!



Class 1 News



It's been a short but very busy half term in Class 1. Children have participated in world book day, Inspirational person day and Science week, where we joined in with the rest of the school to do a whole school experiment. We also undertook our own volcano and time experiments in class. As well as joining in with these whole school events we have been learning about length and height, 3D shapes and mass and volume in maths. We have been also been doing lots of work on the Easter story including; retelling the story using props, modelling parts of the story, drawing pictures and writing.



Class 2 News

Class 2 has had a busy science-packed half term concluding our 'animals including humans' topic in which we moved from learning about digestion to studying food chains. British Science Week 2024 involved whole school experiments related to time and a Class 2 experiment investigating pendulums. A huge 'thank you' to Wantisden Hall Farms and Mr Hunt for visiting us in a huge tractor to help us to learn about local crop production. We asked lots of questions and all had the chance to sit in the tractor! In maths we have been learning about shape and area and are now learning about fractions. We have linked our Geography topic learning about Europe to writing a non-chronological report in our English lessons. For World Book Day we all dressed up as our favourite characters including Mrs Nottingham as Chilly Milly Moo! What a fabulous half term Class 2!



Class 3 News

Class 3 started off this term with some amazing design work, building, evaluating and improving marble runs. It was a lot of fun and produced some fabulous products which were tried and tested by pupils from class 1 and 2!

We have continued our space topic, and investigated how shadows change through the day due to the Earth spinning on its axis, and thought about how that affects time zones throughout the world. The space theme appears in our writing, where we have written a biography of an astronaut from our novel, and written a non-chronological report about an alien we created. In maths, we have studied area, volume, statistics and converting different units of measurements. In geography, we have studied volcanoes: how they erupt, how people respond to them and where they are in the world.



OSLOF News

See you for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 30th March!



10am-12pm

£3 entry or £2 for Orford School Pupils

Other Reminders

- Years 3-5 start swimming after the Easter holidays. Please ensure you have returned the permission slip and your child remembers their kit every **Monday**.
- Forest schools for Classes 2 and 3 will take a different format next term due to swimming. Rather than weekly slots, they will have whole 'outdoor days' - information to follow after the holidays
- All information for the upcoming week is sent out **via email every Friday**. Please check you are receiving these and are checking them weekly. Any issues, please speak to Mrs Scarce in the office.

Just to let you know.... Can I ask...? Who can help with...?

At Orford, we are proud to operate an open door policy, and truly value the strong working relationships we have with you all. Sometimes, however, messages get missed, or information doesn't always reach the right person.

Concern	Who to speak to	When/How
Academic progress, welfare, issues that have taken place during the school day (including friendship issues or suspected bullying)	Class Teacher in the first instance	After school OR Send an email and someone will contact you as soon as they are able to
My child needs medicine, needs to leave early/arrive late for an appointment, needs new uniform, has forgotten their kit, I need information about a trip, event or club	Mrs Scarce/The School Office	Mornings if urgent/same day Any other time when the office is manned Requests to speak to a teacher should come in via email so we can ensure it gets a response
Safeguarding concerns: my child has been harmed, or is in danger of serious harm	A safeguarding lead: Miss Cannon, Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Marriott	ASAP Email with 'safeguarding' in the subject line - even if you have verbally discussed with a member of staff. Please give the subject of the safeguarding concern and an appropriate time to contact you. We will get back to you the same day to discuss in more detail.