

ORLEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th February

Dear Families,

Music, art, sport and the OPPTA film nights ensured we had a brilliant week.

So far this year we have competed in 15 football matches both non-competitive and competitive, two swimming galas and a number of netball, basketball and rugby matches too. We have many more over the next few months to look forward to. Our staff have commented on the determination and drive to win and the team spirit in these events.

This week's league match against St Richard Reynolds was hard fought and impossibly wet and slippery. The boys came back head to toe in mud. Were it not for the OPPTA purchase of a water pump, our netball match against Deer Park may not have happened. What a match it was.

Mental Health Week was evident all around school- in classrooms and in assemblies. Our wonderful Mental Health Ambassadors provided eloquent food for thought and answered questions from their peers. The theme "This is my Place" led to rich discussions about inclusive play and belonging. Art activities provided an opportunity to pause and reflect on what this theme meant for our pupils.

You might like to follow this up by participating in our Orleans Art Celebration- holiday project inspired by a Y2 dad's suggestion and driven by Miss Banks, our Art lead.

The first music showcase took place with 2K demonstrating their love of music and hard work in their lessons with Mrs Ricketts.

Speeches took place in classrooms for the school council elections and the children exercised their democratic right to vote. For our families, the survey is still also open for you to have your say too. We shall leave it open until we return to school on 23rd February.

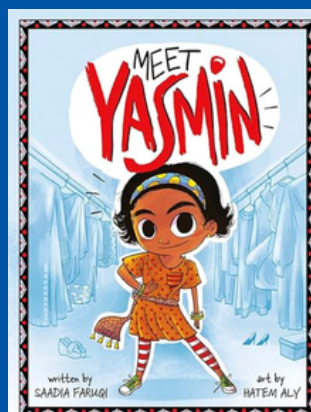
Keep practising the poems for the performance poetry.

Ramadan Mubarak to all our families commencing fasting next week. 新年快乐 to all our community celebrating Chinese New Year next week too.

Warmest wishes,
Victoria Coward



A great piece in the Sunday paper was a helpful reminder of this excellent Turkish writer.



Our older children might enjoy this lively little character on her adventures.



Our youngest readers will love this shortlisted book from the Spark! Books Awards

Chair of Governors Update

Showcasing our school's unique strengths to prospective Reception parents has been a high priority for the Governing Board this year. Reception numbers last Autumn were lower than expected which impacts school budgets. We want to ensure parents recognise us as a strong school of choice reflecting our school value of excellence. Thanks to the school's strong community spirit and focused efforts, we have seen an encouraging increase in first and second choice applications for Reception places in September 2026. The number of Open Days was increased and a new school brochure produced. School tours were led by our Y6 ambassadors supported by governors. The Head of School and Executive Head Teacher also delivered impressive presentations. Although final numbers will only be confirmed later in the year after school places have been allocated and accepted, we are pleased to see these efforts pay off. This is especially against a background of falling local birth rates and migration of young families out of London. Chase Bridge Primary School is in a similar position.

Another priority this year has been ensuring that we are effectively monitoring the quality of education. Governors have seen progress in this area through the adoption of PiXL (Partners in Excellence) which provides specialist resources, assessment tools and support to school leaders and staff in improving outcomes and life chances for all our children.

We have also been working with the Executive Head Teacher on an estate audit. The Orleans site is challenging and although we have been able to make some upgrades, thanks in many cases to the support of our parents and OPPTA, we also need to develop a long-term plan to address the underinvestment, backlog of work and identifying priorities. Richmond Council has recently confirmed that our capital bid for the Conditional Maintenance Programme 2026-2027 has been approved. This will see an overhaul of our boiler systems during summer 2026, something that will be very 'warmly' received.

Governors from Orleans and Chase Bridge Primary School have continued work to explore the opportunity to federate under a single governing body. Both full governing boards will soon be meeting for a joint 'get to know you' session and collaborative workshop. Once a full proposal is complete the two Governing Boards will separately vote on whether to proceed to a formal consultation on federation.

It's been a challenging start to 2026 – will it ever stop raining? Hopefully, the sun will shine on us for half term!

Mike Dormer
Chair of Governors

Whole School Art Celebration – Holiday Project

We have an empty display board in our school hall that is ready to be filled with wonderful artwork – and we need your help! We are excited to launch our Whole School Art Celebration. This half term, we are inviting all children to take part in a special holiday art project to complete at home. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils across the school to showcase their creativity, imagination and artistic talents.

Each half term, we will focus on a different artist to inspire the children's work. Our focus artist for this half term is Yayoi Kusama, who is famous for her bold patterns, bright colours and iconic polka dots.

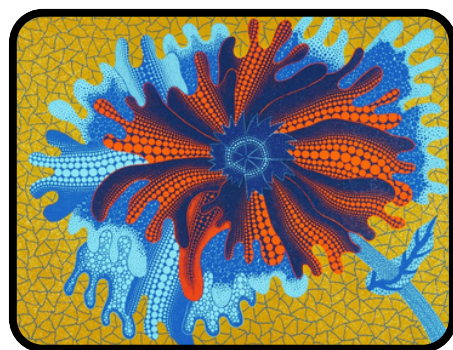
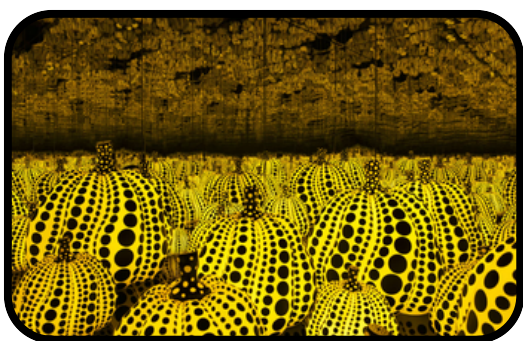
Children are invited to create their own piece of artwork at home over the holidays inspired by Yayoi Kusama's style. This could include painting, drawing, collage or mixed media – be as creative as you like!

Please ensure artwork is no bigger than A4 size and clearly labelled with your child's name and class.

Completed pieces should be brought to Miss Banks via the school office during the week **beginning 23rd February**.

Selected artwork will be displayed in the hall as part of our whole school celebration.

We can't wait to fill our board with fantastic, colourful creations!



WELCOME

Introducing William Page our new
Premises Manager.

Mr Page has worked at Teddington Secondary School for 3 years as part of a large team. We are looking forward to getting to know him and keeping him busy! He tries to get to the gym in his spare time and some of you will be pleased to hear he is a Chelsea supporter



UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

February 2026

Wednesday 11th	2K music showcase to parents 9.10-9.40am
Thursday 12th	Year 6 SATS meeting with families (online)
Thursday 12th	OPPTA Film Night Y 2-4
9th-15th February	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week
Friday 13th	Year 6 Graffiti Workshop
Friday 13th	OPPTA Film Night Y 5 +6
16th - 20th	Half Term
Monday 23rd	Spring 2 term starts and children return to school
Wednesday 25th	2P music showcase to parents 9.10-9.40am

March 2026

Tuesday 3rd	4PB to Richmond Museum Anglo Saxon Life
Wednesday 4th	4GB to Richmond Museum Anglo Saxon Life
Thursday 5th	World Book Day
9th -13th	Science Week
Wednesday 11th	Y2 to Royal Festival Hall for Bright Sparks Concert
Thursday 12th	Y3 perform a violin concert for parents 9.50-10.20am
Monday 16th	2K to sing at St Stephen's Church Monday Lunch Club
Wednesday 18th	Year 5 Science Museum trip
	1PC Music Showcase 9.10am-9.40am
Thursday 19th	2P to sing at Dalemead Care Home
Thursday 19 th	OPPTA Silent Disco Years 2-4
Friday 20th	OPPTA Silent Disco Y 5 + 6 and Red Nose Day
Monday 23rd	Y4 to Royal Festival Hall for Orchestra Unwrapped concert
Tuesday 24th	Family Consultations 1.30-5pm
Wednesday 25th	Family Consultations 3.30-6pm
	1M Music Showcase 9.10am-9.40am
Friday 27 th	Last day of Spring Term. Finish at 1.30pm
13 th April	First day of Summer Term. Children return to school

AWARDS and ACCOLADES

Congratulations to our swim team who won multiple medals and placed in many events at the borough gala this week.

The team included

Alexander , Solara , Jaume, Alice, Isabella, Diana, Maximilan, Dylan, Finn, Sofia and Eva

Well done to our teams from KS1 and KS2



We also had a netball match against Deer Park School and narrowly lost by one last minute goal.



Huge thank you to our Mental Health Ambassadors after all their work this week.

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WISH LIST LINKS

[Nursery](#) [Reception](#)

[Year 1](#) [Year 2](#)

[Year 3](#) [Year 4](#)

[Year 5](#) [Year 6](#)

[Whole School](#)



OTHER NEWS

Follow [the link](#) or QR code if you wish to donate
<https://pay.collctiv.com/support-for-olivia-and-ian-56837>



Scan the QR code with the camera
on your phone to pay into the pot

PERFORMANCE POETRY COMPETITION



Spring 1 Term

Choose a poem and learn it off by heart.
Class performances start in the weeks 5
and 6 (16th - 27th February)

Spring 2 Term

By **Friday 6th March** (after February half term- in week 2)
class performance round completed.

Tuesday 24th March

KS2 and KS1 Performance Poetry Assembly

Look for poetry inspiration [here](#)



Choose a poem



Learn it by heart



Perform it out loud

HALF TERM AT **THE EXCHANGE**



Flowers & Friendship Bracelets
The Ultimate Pop Concert!
SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY
6 PM



Out Of The Box Circus
Comedy Show
MONDAY 16 FEBRUARY
11 AM



Grow (2025) (PG)
WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY
2 PM



How To Survive In Space - Starring
CBBC'S Operation Ouch! O-Twins
FRIDAY 20 FEBRUARY
11 AM & 2 PM



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OR CALL THE BOX OFFICE ON 020 8240 2399