

ORLEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th September

Dear Families,

The news this week has been full of articles about AI and its potential risks to humans, with a lively and often dramatic debate continuing on both sides. Our ambitious and broad computing curriculum includes a Year 6 unit on this fascinating subject. Across the school, every Computing unit begins with an internet safety topic and so this is the first and most important thing we teach. Our assemblies have focused on the principles of SMART: keeping themselves Safe, understanding the dangers of Meeting people online, being cautious about what they Accept online, thinking about how Reliable the information they read is and Telling an adult if they feel unsafe.

Each computing unit begins with a focus on being online, progressing across the school to include social media in Years 5 and 6. Pupils also study risks and harms, responsible and safe use and how to report concerns. Most of these lessons are taught through age-appropriate scenarios, encouraging children to discuss how to keep themselves safe. This is not the only time pupils encounter these key messages- the topic is revisited in PSHE lessons from a different angle, where pupils from Year 1 to Year 6 explore balancing time online with other activities. Other topics include being respectful online and how communication can be misunderstood in digital spaces. While teaching Year 5 today, we debated whether people communicate differently online than they would in person; the discussion was brilliant and showed just how much thought our pupils already give to this subject.

Each year builds carefully on the last, ensuring our pupils develop a secure understanding of both the advantages and disadvantages of being online. It is a fascinating subject that touches everything we do, and we take our responsibility to support pupils with it very seriously.

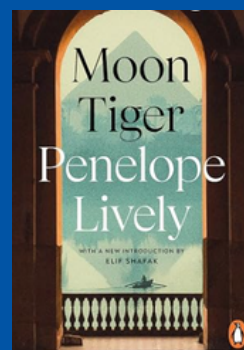
In January this year, we introduced our smartphone-free policy for pupils in Year 5 who wished to walk home alone, and families have been fantastic in supporting this clear message.

We want our pupils to thrive and increasingly that means engaging confidently and safely with the internet. Being responsible online is woven through all our lessons and every use of a laptop. It's a topic that simply cannot be mentioned too often.

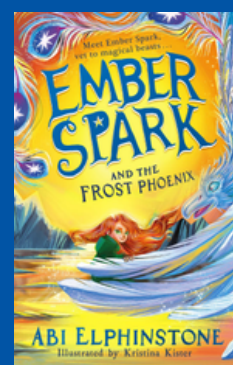
We hope these first few weeks have kept this important subject at the forefront of our pupils' minds.

Enjoy the weekend.

Victoria Coward



Moon Tiger is reminiscent of Any Human Heart by William Boyd as it spans a fascinating period of history and it is a rather compelling read.



Another magical and exciting book from Abi Elphinstone for KS2.



For KS1 a super rhyming book about being different and freedom of expression.

Digital Parenting

Workshop for parents and carers

Navigate screen time, social media, and online safety with confidence

Raising children in a digital world can feel overwhelming. This practical, single-session workshop equips parents and carers with down-to-earth strategies to understand children's device use, manage screen time, and safely navigate online risks like gaming, inappropriate content, and emerging AI technologies. An individual workshop, suitable for families with children of any age.



Tuesday 17th November

12.30pm – 2.30pm

Ham Children's Centre

Ashburnham Road

TW10 7BG

Wednesday 16th December

12.30pm – 2.30pm

Heathfield Children's Centre

Powder Mill Lane

TW2 6EX

To book your place on to this course, please scan the **QR code** or visit <https://forms.gle/zd9v3NCdkXen7x6Q8>.

To find out more, contact Tom Maybey, Richmond Parenting Lead.

Email: tom.maybey@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Phone: **07864 609913**



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If you wish to sign up to the **Tag Rugby** tournament please click this [link](#). It promises to be a really fun day!
Thanks Team OPPTA

Further work on the **playground** will take place over half term; an outline of the design for the lower playground is on our website [here](#). Fundraising for the middle playground will continue and this will include the **OPPTA ride to Bruges** on 11–12th June 2027.
Further details will follow soon.

The OPPTA AGM is on 28th September and there will be the election of the new OPPTA bench.

NOTICES

Ollie George Clark, author of *Youngest Faircrest* and *the Search for a Sorcerer*, will be running a **fantasy writing workshop** here at Richmond Theatre during the October half-term break (on Friday 30th October from 10:00 to 11:30).

Participants will explore the essential ingredients of a great fantasy adventure, from creating unforgettable characters and magical creatures to building exciting worlds filled with secrets and surprises. There will also be an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of the book.

Tickets are £15.00. If you would like to book a ticket for Rose, you can do so [here](#).

Looking for a fun, friendly, and skill-building community group for your child? Come and join the [Hounslow & Twickenham Woodcraft Folk Elfs](#) (for ages 6–9) for a free trial session this autumn term! We meet every Wednesday during term time from 6:15 PM – 7:30 PM at Heatham House, Twickenham. Children enjoy a wide variety of activities, from campfires and outdoor skills to cooking and themed crafts. To find out more or to book a free trial, please visit our website at hounslowwoodcraft.org.uk or contact us at info@hounslowwoodcraft.org.uk.

This week staff have had refresher allergy training in line with Benedicts Law. This new law stipulates that all schools follow set protocol for allergies. For more information click here:
<https://benedictblythe.com/benedicts-law/>

As a reminder please ensure that any food that is brought into school is nut and seed free.

Making Sense of Big Feelings

Workshop for parents and carers

Understand emotions, de-escalate meltdowns, and connect with your child

Big emotions can lead to challenging moments for the whole family. This relaxed, neuro-inclusive, one-off workshop offers practical, science-based strategies to help you understand your child's emotions, calmly de-escalate meltdowns, and ensure they feel heard and validated. An individual workshop, suitable for families with children of any age.



Tuesday 6th October

12.30pm – 2.30pm

Barnes Children's Centre

67b Lower Richmond Road 45 The Avenue

SW14 7HJ

Monday 9th November

10.00am – 12.00pm

The White House Family Hub

TW12 3RN

To book your place on to this course, please scan the [QR code](https://forms.gle/zd9v3NCdkXen7x6Q8) or visit <https://forms.gle/zd9v3NCdkXen7x6Q8>.

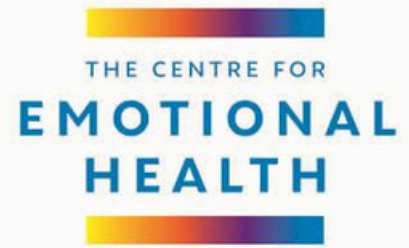
To find out more, contact Tom Maybey, Richmond Parenting Lead.
Email: tom.maybey@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Phone: 07864 609913



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The Nurturing Programme



Build family wellbeing, stronger relationships, and positive discipline

The Nurturing Programme is a supportive 10-week evidence-based accredited course for families with primary school aged children. It is designed to help parents and carers understand the 'why' behind behaviours while promoting emotional wellbeing for the entire family. Through group discussions and activities, you will discover effective communication, positive relationships, and practical positive discipline strategies. Suggested donation of £10 for a copy of the Parenting Puzzle book that accompanies the course. Created by The Centre for Emotional Health.

Wednesdays, 23rd September – 2nd December (not half term)

12.30pm – 2.30pm

Heathfield Children's Centre, Powder Mill Lane, TW2 6EX

A creche is provided for this session - limited spaces available.

To book your place on to this course, please scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/zd9v3NCdkXen7x6Q8>.

To find out more, contact Tom Maybey, Richmond Parenting Lead.
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Orleans Primary School



Term and Holiday Dates 2027-2028

Autumn Term 2027

Term starts for children	Friday 3rd September
Half term	Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October
Term ends	Friday 17th December*

Spring Term 2028

Term starts for children	Wednesday 5th January
Half term	Monday 14th to Friday 18th February
Term ends	Friday 7th April*

Summer Term 2028

Term starts for children	Monday 24th April
MAY DAY	Monday 1st May
Half term	Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June
Term ends for children	Tuesday 18th July*

The last day of each term school will finish **one hour early at 2.30pm.*