ORLEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 6 November



Dear Families,

The enthusiasm with which the children raced into school this week was uplifting. Was it the excitement of seeing their friends or the new equipment in the lower playground? Perhaps they simply love being at school.

The obstacle course is proving incredibly popular and children are collaborating to help each other navigate the course. Some have demonstrated their agility, others their strength and many just like rolling around on the soft artificial grass.

Many in our community are celebrating Diwali so we began the week with an assembly on the significance of the festival for those who celebrate it. We reflected on the similarities with other religions and on the shared messages of light and positivity, which made for an excellent start to the half term.

On Wednesday, we celebrated the arrival of Cosima's friendship bench. Year 6 sang the song that Cosima composed 'Brighten My Day' and family, friends and staff joined together to celebrate and remember her. Supported by the PTA and by your generous contributions at the summer fair, Cosima's family chose a bench that radiates light and will brighten all our days.

Wrap Up London has been hugely successful and Ffion and her team have collected many bags of coats. Our value of compassion means we take action for those who need warmth as the weather turns cold. Thank you to everyone who donated coats and helped with the organisation.

The dedicated school councillors have an important task to complete. They are gathering pupil voice from their classes about what the middle playground should look like and they have asked classmates to draft designs. The councillors will pass the best ones to Pentagon Play, who will consider them alongside their own design ideas.

In the classrooms, children have been developing ways to build on what their peers have said or challenging others' opinions politely with carefully considered answers backed up with evidence. These key oracy skills are honed in every lesson and we firmly believe all pupils will deepen their understanding through talk.

We ended the week with the high-energy OPPTA Spooks and Sparkles disco, which was undoubtedly the highlight of the week, with fabulous outfits and remarkable dancing.

Enjoy the weekend and don't forget the Young Writers Competition!

All the very best,

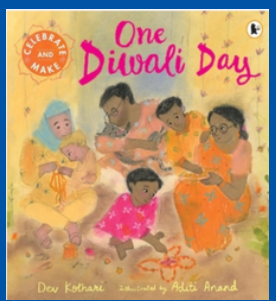
Victoria Coward



Shuggie Bain is a gritty, hard-hitting book about poverty and the relationship between a mother and her son.



This clever story takes older children back in time and explores friendship and acceptance.



A colourful book that explains the Diwali story through a child who is a bit of a worrier.

YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

Get Your Writing Performed on Stage!

Calling all budding authors and poets! The Arts Richmond Young Writers Festival 2026/27 is open to young people at schools in Richmond upon Thames, and Orleans pupils are invited to enter.

What can you win? Entries are judged against others in your age group, with prizes for the winners. Shortlisted writers will be invited to the Gala Awards, where young drama students will perform their work on stage. Shortlisted pieces will also be published in a professionally printed anthology.

How to enter: Write either a short story (up to 500 words) or a poem (up to 25 lines). Shorter is absolutely fine! Your writing must be based on one of these themes:

😂 That Made Me Laugh

🚪 The Secret Door

⭐ A Memorable Experience

🪽 If I Could Fly

The important rules:

One entry per pupil

Entries must be your own original work (no AI)

Entries must be typed and printed. If you don't have a printer at home, email info@orleans.richmond.sch.uk

Do not put your name on your work

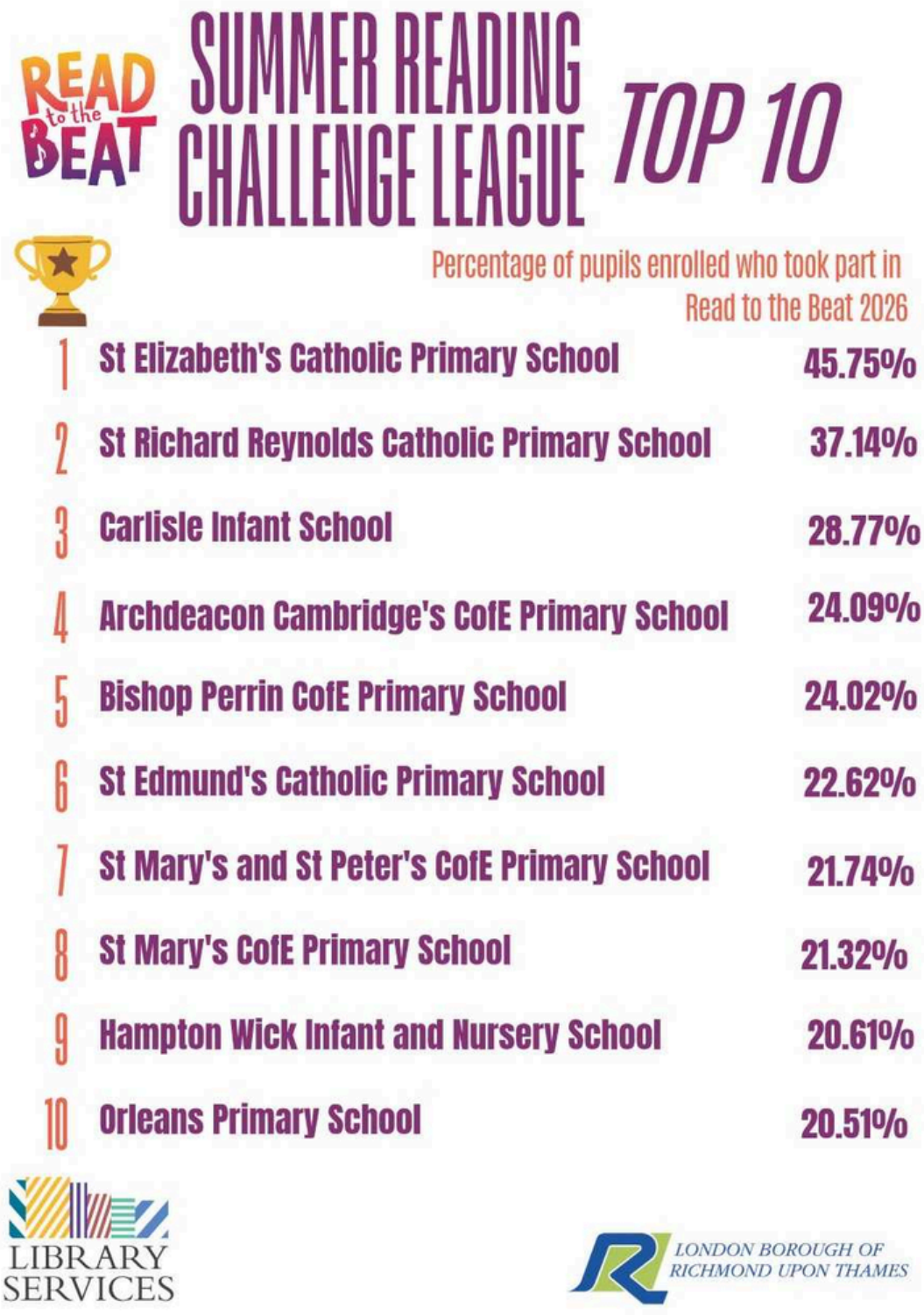
Don't use the theme itself as your title

Top tip: Start with a hook, show rather than tell, build suspense, and edit. Your first draft isn't your final draft!

Deadline: Hand your story or poem to Miss Anderson by **Friday 27th November** at the very latest.

Pick a theme, find your idea, give it a brilliant title and start writing. Good luck!

We achieved number 10 in Richmond and there were many more schools who entered!
Overall, 3000 children took part.



Resilience Workshop for Families

Steve Alexander from the **Mental Health Support Team** (MHST) is presenting a resilience workshop for parents on **Wednesday 18th November** at 9am.

The workshop will explore practical ways to support your child's emotional wellbeing including:

- Managing worried thoughts and using positive self-talk
- Reframing mistakes as learning opportunities
- Practising relaxation and grounding techniques
- Building problem-solving skills and focusing on strengths

To sign up please click on this link to complete a google registration form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1W6xO4YSutktirtbTahLBweh1POS0ArAgnp4Taindklg/edit

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
SW14 7HJ

Monday 9th November
10.00am – 12.00pm
The White House Family Hub
45 The Avenue
TW12 3RN

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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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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AUTUMN 2026

Orleans Primary School

DATE CARD

OCTOBER

Thursday 1st	Year 6 Junior Citizens
Thursday 8th	Year 4 Tate Britain trip
Friday 9th	Year 2 Windsor Castle trip
Friday 16th	Perform drama workshops for Reception, Year 1, 2 and 3
Friday 16th	OPPTA Quiz Night 7pm
26th–30th	Half Term

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd	Autumn 2 term starts and children return to school
Friday 6th	Reception Family Reading and phonics workshop 9.10am
Friday 6th	OPPTA Year 1 and Reception Disco 'Spooks and Sparkles' 3.30-4.30pm
Wednesday 11th	Reception Walk to MHP
Thursday 12th	Year 4 Buddhapadipa Temple trip; Year 1-6 Family Reading Workshop 4pm
Friday 13th	Children in Need; OPPTA Used uniform sale; Year 5 British Museum trip.
Tuesday 17th	3B to Orleans House Gallery
Wednesday 18th	3D to Orleans House Gallery
Friday 20th	Year 6 Richmond Synagogue trip; Anti Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day
Monday 23rd	Family Consultations (no clubs, early pick up) 1.45-5pm; Year 3 Safer Walking (23rd-
Tuesday 24th	27th) Family Consultations 3.40-6pm
Wednesday 25th	1M Richmond Museum
Thursday 26th	1P Richmond Museum; Family Workshop Secondary Schools Year 4 and 5 (in person
Friday 27th	and online) 6pm
	Inset day

DECEMBER

Thursday 3rd	Year 4 MTC Workshop 4pm
Wednesday 9th	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Celebration in the Main Hall (1M & 2K 9.20am; 1P & 2P 2pm)
Thursday 10th	EYFS Christmas celebration in the Main Hall (Morning & Full time Nursery & Reception C 9.20am, and Afternoon Nursery & Reception B 2pm)
Friday 11th	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch; OPPTA Christmas Market (day for
Monday 14th	children, 3.30-5.30pm for families)
Tuesday	Year 3 and 4 Concert at St Stephen's Church 6-7pm
15th Friday	Year 5 and 6 Concert at St Stephen's Church 6-7pm
18th	Whole School Pantomime; Last day of Autumn Term 1.45pm

JANUARY

Tuesday 5th	First day of Spring Term. Children return to school.

PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ANY REVISIONS OR ADDITIONS WILL BE COMMUNICATED AS AND WHEN NECESSARY.

NB: TBC- Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court Palace