ORLEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 13th November

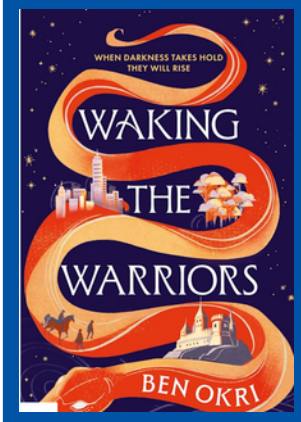


Dear Families,

The lives of our pupils were enriched throughout the week. We began with the vivacious Lee from Boundless Dance, who came to show the children that dancing is for everyone. He led them through diverse music and moves, not only to inspire them to explore dance as a pastime but also to show them that both boys and girls can thrive in a dance class. A parent stopped Lee afterwards to tell him that their son had fired up Alexa at home and shown her what he had learnt. The parent was delighted to see how musical he was and how much he loved dancing. Many thanks to OPPTA for paying for this fulfilling experience.

Remembrance Day was a central part of our week for all the pupils. In our Monday Values assembly, the children offered moving comments and insightful observations about war, talking about collaboration to foster peace and compassion to combat hate. One of our parents (who lives close by) stopped work for his two minutes' silence and heard in the distance Pak-Fei, Can and May reading "In Flanders Fields" in the playground. As he said, it has never been more important that the next generation is taught about the significance of Armistice Day and acts of remembrance. All of our pupils showed their respect and compassion as they stood in silence.

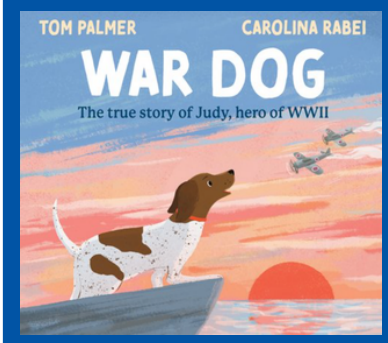
Booking trips is a frenetic process and often we have to grab what we can so this week we ended up with four in one week. The British Museum trip for Year 5 was both a lesson in navigating around London and learning more about Ancient Greece from artefacts and archaeological objects. Year 4 went to the Buddhist Temple in Wimbledon, which was the first Buddhist temple built in the UK. The children returned to school waxing lyrical about the experience, describing being dazzled by the colour yet finding it incredibly calm. Reception had their first walk in Marble Hill with teachers and their parent helpers. Upon their return, they could not stop telling us about all the nature they saw: woodlice, acorns, worms, squirrels and even dogs! Mrs Connolly was keen to get them lunch, but they could not stop talking, so enthused were they by their trip. That is the amazing thing about school trips: the children go somewhere they have visited many times, yet it is as if they have never been there before.
Also, Year 6 went to the Exchange for a poetry workshop, where Giles Brandreath gave them tips on writing and performing poetry.
An exceptionally busy but fruitful week.
Please keep the Young Writers' Competition stories coming; we are thoroughly enjoying reading them. The variety and quality is quite outstanding.
All the very best,
Victoria Coward



This comes highly recommended and if this is as incredible as The Famished Road then it will be well worth a read.



Now or Never brings a young soldier, Private Fazal Khan, from his home in India to the battlefields of the Second World War and older children will find it fascinating.



Tom Palmer has written many moving books about wartime and this is no exception especially for animal lovers.

IN OTHER NEWS...

We have new Year 5 Mental Health Ambassadors!

This week four nominated year 5 children learnt about the importance of positive mental health and some of the challenges that children may experience. Having successfully completed their training, they are now officially our Year 5 Mental Health Ambassadors!

Throughout the year, the children will be working on a range of projects and initiatives to promote positive mental health and wellbeing across our school. They are all excited to take on their new roles and look forward to making a positive difference within our school community.

Here are some of the children's thoughts about their training:
"It was really fun and interesting. I learnt a lot of new things about mental health and how to stay positive." Deacon
"It was very informative, interesting and I learnt a lot about anxiety, low self esteem and mental health." Jessica



Here you can see some examples of our new tables and chairs which we now have in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 5. The old furniture is off to a primary school in Sierra Leone and we will send photos when it is in situ.

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!

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://forms.gle/Q8JDsUuUJK4uYero6

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

achieving for children

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


FAMILY TICKETS
£66
CINDERELLA
WRITTEN BY
Jonathan Ashby-Rock
THE EXCHANGE
7 - 27 DECEMBER
BOOK NOW 020 8240 2399
EXCHANGETWICKENHAM.CO.UK
SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS