ORLEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Friday 20th November



Dear Families,

Anti-bullying Week started with an informative assembly from Mrs McKenna, where the children thought about how to stand up to bullies and why some children might bully. To this end, we wore odd socks today to show that we are determined to ensure that bullying does not take place in our school.

Building resilience and persevering with difficult things, is hard for children, both in school and outside it. It is also hard for us as parents to let our children fail and try again. The temptation to solve their problems or help them get their work right is hard-wired into our instincts and our relationship with them. Yet we learnt this week in the MHST Resilience workshop that adults can help to build resilience by role-modelling coping skills, teaching problem-solving and helping children to solve their own problems when they arise. Many of the techniques mentioned in the workshop, such as box or finger breathing, are familiar to our pupils, who practise them in class and in our Music and Mindfulness assemblies on Tuesdays.

The other particularly powerful area of the talk was its discussion of talents being performance-based, such as sports, music or art, whereas character strengths are personality-based, for instance being kind, curious and courageous. Talents give rise to passions that enrich our lives, yet character strengths are equally vital, as they are available to every child regardless of aptitude and sustain us when we falter. Celebrating them alongside achievement helps children to feel valued even when things do not go to plan.

Also this week, Year 3 enjoyed workshops at Orleans House Gallery, our local treasure, where they learned about the Jamaican-born west London artist Ronald Moody and used his sculpture to inspire their drawing. Fascinatingly, it was seeing Egyptian sculpture at the British Museum, which Year 5 visited last week, that drew him away from dentistry to sculpture.

Soon we shall hit December, with many exciting events over the next month. Rest this weekend before it all begins but rest assured we shall guide you through so that you make the most of it all.

Best wishes,

Victoria Coward



Never Let Me Go is an ingenious story that starts off deceptively simple but moves swiftly to questions our humanity.



Mortal Engines is a post apocalyptic book, especially for year 5, that is similar to The Boy in the Tower that they are currently reading.



An autumnal story with wonderful rhythm and wildlife for KS1.

IN OTHER NEWS...





Well done to Xanthe in Year 5 who took part in a synchronised skating competition with her team at called Skate London last week.

Liliana W and Isabella P in Year 6 represented Richmond Borough in the London Youth Games Cross Country this week. They had qualified as two of the 12 fastest U12 girls.

The girls did really well and helped contribute to Richmond Girls getting a silver medal overall!

Borough Team Winners (Boys)	Richmond	Havering	**Bromley**
Borough Team Winners (Girls)	**Bromley**	**Richmond**	**Havering**

Please share this flier with road whatsapp groups or old nursery channels



Over £10 of every tree sold is donated to Orleans Primary School.

Collection can be made on Friday or Saturday this year.





THE ORLEANS PRIMARY SCHOOL COMMUNITY

WILD PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE QUARTER





Capture nature. Celebrate creativity.

5 CATEGORIES

FREE ENTRY

- NURSERY & RECEPTION
- YEAR 1 & 2
- YEAR 3 & 4
- YEAR 5 & 6
- ADULTS – CARERS/SCHOOL STAFF

Photos can be of wildlife, plants, landscapes, or anything in nature!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 30TH NOVEMBER

PLEASE SEND YOUR PICTURE TO ORLEANSPTA@GMAIL.COM

Include: photo name, photographer first name, category.

1 entry per photographer

HOW IT WORKS

1. **SEND YOUR PIC**
   Upload your photo and details to **orleanspta@gmail.com**
2. **A COMMITTEE SELECTS THEIR TOP 2 PER CATEGORY**
   A committee will review all entries and choose their top 2 in each category.
3. **ALL PHOTOS ON SHOW**
   All pictures will be showcased at the **Christmas fair.**
4. **WINNERS RECEIVE A PRINT**
   The winning 10 photos will be printed and those images will also feature in a school exhibition.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE!

Let's celebrate our amazing natural world!

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!

NOVEMBER

Monday 23rd	Family Consultations (early pick up) 1.45-5pm; Year 3 Safer Walking (23rd-27th)
Tuesday 24th	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 and online) 6pm
Friday 27th	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; OPPTA Christmas Market (day for children, 3.30-5.30pm for families)
Monday 14th	Year 3 and 4 Concert at St Stephen's Church 6-7pm
Tuesday 15th	Year 5 and 6 Concert at St Stephen's Church 6-7pm
Wednesday 16th	Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th	Whole School Pantomime; Last day of Autumn Term 1.45pm

JANUARY

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



Richmond
Dyslexia
Association

Do you want to learn more about how you can support your dyslexic child?

The **Richmond Dyslexia Association** is hosting an information event for parents at **Orleans Primary School**
From 8.55 to 10am 7th December, 2026

Come and find out about

- taking the stress out of **homework time**
- using different approaches to **spelling** that work
- successful stretegies for encouraging **reading**
- managing **self-esteem**
- how dyslexia can impact **maths**

You will also have the opportunity to chat to a specialist about your own child's needs.

All are welcome,
come along even if you are not sure your child is dyslexic.

www.richmonddyslexia.org.uk

One -to-one parenting advice

Tailored, personalised guidance for your family's unique needs



Sometimes you just need a dedicated space to talk things through. A personalised, confidential one-to-one support session offers tailored guidance and practical strategies to address your specific concerns around your child's behaviour, emotions, or family dynamics. Available online, over the phone, or in person. Book a slot, or have a professional book on your behalf, by visiting: https://forms.gle/Wu4jetQB78GsmjiC8.

At dates, times and locations around the borough to suit you – including online or over the phone.

To book a one-to-one advice session, please scan the QR code or visit https://calendar.app.google/bCDJ8AXAkhmYEGD49.

To find out more, contact Tom Maybey, Richmond Parenting Lead.
Email: tom.maybey@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Phone: 07864 609913

achieving for children

The Nurturing Programme

THE CENTRE FOR EMOTIONAL HEALTH

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.
Email: tom.maybey@achievingforchildren.org.uk
Phone: 07864 609913

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