

Staff Changes We will be sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Ransom and Mrs Branton at Half-Term, we wish them all the best in what the future holds for them. Mrs Branton has been with the school for over 15 years and is now taking a well earned rest as she retires from full-time teaching. We have been recruiting for a number of different posts within Orchard and will inform you of the new staff to join Orchard after Half-Term.

Parent Views You will receive a letter from the Governors about completing the Ofsted Parent View Survey. Please do take time to complete this and share your views about Orchard.

Paul Sutton

Year 3 On Wednesday 13th May, Year 3 went to 'Celtic Harmony' to experience life in the Stone age. We were greeted by Gwyn, a stone age woman who stayed with us all day, showing us how she lived. Some of the activities we helped her with were:

- 'Den Building in the Woods' - a team activity where we had to use branches and sticks.
- 'Hunting and Gathering in the Forest', where Gwen explained to us which berries were dangerous and which were safe.
- Soap 'flint knapping'. We used soap and a lolly-stick to experience how the Stone Age people would have made their tools from flint. We couldn't use real flint as it is too sharp!
- We watched a 'Friction Fire Lighting Demonstration', whilst inside a round house.
- We played a Trading Game where we were able to swap surplus items we had, for something else we needed, just as the Stone Age people would have done.
- Lastly, we were given two gold coins to exchange for something in the gift shop!

We have a fabulous day, especially as the sun was shining - we are now full of information to continue forward with our 'Stone Age' topic in class. *Ms Jones (new Y3 teacher)*



Year 5

Earlier this term Year 5 visited Kew Gardens as part of their science topic on the life cycles of plants. The children were able to see a variety of different plants which live in a range of habitats as well as becoming plant scientists. The children dissected plants and viewed the different parts under a microscope in their white laboratory jackets. Year 5 also learnt about seed dispersal and the different animals involved in pollination. They also went on the tree top walk, and under tunnels imagining life as a badger! All the students had a great time, and learnt a lot! *Miss O'Neill*



Events Happening at Orchard

May 18 - 22	Gillwell Park Residential Trip - Y5/6
May 25 - 29	Half Term - School CLOSED
June 1	Magistrates visiting Y6
June 3	Year 1 Intra-School Competition
June 2 - 5	Y6 Bikeability
June 8	Y6 visit to the House of Parliament
June 9 - 12	Y6 Bikeability
June 9	Class RP: Assembly 9am
June 10	New Nursery Intake Meeting
June 11	Year 2 Multi-skills Festival
June 11	New Reception Intake Meeting
June 15 - 19	Phonics Screening Check Week: Y1/2
June 15 - 19	School Grounds Week
June 15	Watford Schools Trust visit Y6
June 16	Class RW: Assembly 9am
June 17	Class 4: Assembly 9am
June 22 - 26	Sports Week
June 25	Year 2 Trip
June 24	Sports Day EYFS +picnic 9.15 start
June 26	Sports Day Y1-6 +picnic 9.15 start
July 4	PSFA Summer Fayre 11.30 - 14.30

Reception

On Monday the 11th of May, Reception visited Mead Open Farm. We had opportunities to stroke the rabbits and bottle feed the lambs, as well as feeding the goats and alpacas around the farm. We really enjoyed the bumpy tractor ride where we saw the one antlered reindeer and the cows! The highlight of the day was watching the sheep race whilst cheering on our favourite and being able to play on the diggers in the giant sand pit! Well done to all Reception children for behaving well, you are a credit to the school.
Reception Team

