

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
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Tel: 01945 583799

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Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

Orchards' Newsletter

Dear Orchards' families

This first term has just been amazing. The way our children demonstrate our school values are excellent, their attitudes towards their learning are fantastic and it is a pure joy to be able to walk around school and see all the hard work taking place.

December has been a busy month with lots of events going on. In each case the children have been amazing role models and have represented the school in such a positive manner.

I hope you all have a relaxing few weeks at home, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Regards

Dr Homden

Choir

The choir have had a very busy time in the run up to Christmas. They started by representing the school at the annual DEMAT carol service at Ely Cathedral which was a great experience for them all and they were a credit to the school.



Then came The Big Sing at TCA which was a total contrast, singing pop and rock songs with a live band and having a wonderful time! The children also learned a new country song on the day, which they did very well.

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The final occasion of the year was the Fenland District Council Community carol service at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in the centre of town. The children sang beautifully and were given certificates by the Council.

Outdoor Classroom Day

On November 7th, the children across the school took part in Outdoor Classroom Day. All the classes went outside for a lesson based on books and reading during the day. It was a great day!

The photos show Mrs Stratton's class and the Stickmen they found outside after reading the Julia Donaldson book.



*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

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School Council went to St. Augustine's Christmas Tree Festival!



At the beginning of December, the School Council went on our annual trip to the St. Augustine's Christmas Tree Festival. The theme this year was 'films.' Each class in school made decorations to hang on the Christmas tree in the church. It looked absolutely fantastic- we had decorations ranging from The Polar Express and The Grinch, amongst some beautiful snowflakes and other traditional decorations. We had a fantastic time arranging the decorations and the members of the church were astounded by our excellent behaviour and manners.

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Forest School

We have been very lucky this term, as trained Forest School Leaders who work at The Spinney have been in school on Fridays. They have worked with a number of classes who have all thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Activities have included whittling, lighting fires, leaf rubbings, outdoor games... The list is endless! Any classes that were not able to take part will have their Forest School with Mrs Eyers or Mr Cullen at some point after Christmas.

Attendance and punctuality:

Your child's attendance at school is extremely important. We are still well below our target of 96%. The current figure for the school has fallen to 91.4%. We are also seeing a lot of children arriving late in the morning. Please ensure that your child is in school by 8:30 every morning. The gates open at 8:20, class doors open at 8:25 and the school gates are closed at 8:30.

Attendance by class for the first half term

1S	94.0%	1K	88.7%
2E	90.6%	2W	92.1%
3C	91.8%	3W	93.7%
4E	91.7%	4S	91.6%
5B	92.9%	5S	93.2%
6R	91.4%	6C	88.6%

Well done 1S who have the best overall attendance in school

Well done 1S (KS1) and 3W (KS2) for having the best attendance this half term!

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School uniform and PE kit:

Thank you to all of the families who are sending children into school with the correct school uniform and PE kit – you are by far the majority of our families and your support is very much appreciated.

School uniform is a key part of helping the children to feel like they belong to our school community which is really important for children to be able to feel safe and secure. It removes barriers over who has the best designer label and it helps to keep costs down and non-branded items are readily available from supermarkets. It also prepares the older children for secondary school where expectations around school uniform are even higher than at primary school.

Unfortunately, there are a growing number of children who are attending school in incorrect uniform especially when it comes to PE kit. I have included the details from our website below which outlines the expectations for what children are required to wear to school. I have also sent a separate attachment to help clarify what our uniform expectations are.

**School uniform: Grey or black skirt/skort/pinafore/trousers
red polo shirt, green cardigan/jumper /sweatshirt*.**

Grey or black tights or white socks (ankle or knee length), to be worn with a skirt, skort or pinafore.

Jeans, jogging bottoms and sports shorts are not acceptable as part of the main school uniform

PE kit: Black/green shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms, plain black/white/green t-shirt or polo shirt (no sleeveless vests) and plain, black/green coloured fleece; trainers.

Please ensure that from next half term, your child is dressed appropriately for school at all times – including school shoes.

From next half term, we will start to send reminders and letter home for children who regularly wear the incorrect uniform. We will also look to provide children in incorrect uniform with a suitable alternative for the day. Children who are unable to dress in the correct PE kit will be asked to come to school in school uniform and will have to get changed before and after their PE lesson.

We understand that for a very small portion of our school community, extra needs such as increased sensory needs may make the wearing of the full school uniform incredibly difficult. As a school, we want to support all children to thrive and achieve and are able to make adjustments based on the individual child. This needs to be done in collaboration with Mrs Horlock our SENCo.



Church of England Academy

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Dates for the diary:

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January 2026 Christmas holidays

Monday 5th January 2026: School closed for staff training

Tuesday 6th January 2026: First day of spring term

