

Orchards' Newsletter

Dear Orchards' families



This term has been such a successful one. Trip, visitors and experiences are exciting the children and bringing the learning to life. This year's Lent challenge set by the Bishop of Ely has had the children thinking hard about how to build each other up and support each other. The school council and collective worship council have been back in action and we rounded the term off with a whole school celebration as well as a trip to St Augustine's church for KS2.

I hope you all have a lovely Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 13th April for the summer term.

Regards

Dr Homden

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Attendance and punctuality:

A huge thank you to the families of the children who achieved 100% attendance for the entire spring term. An even bigger thank you to the families of the **30 children who have 100% attendance for the entire academic year so far**. We also have 152 children hitting our attendance target of 96%+

We really appreciate your continued support.

The current figure for the school has fallen to 91.9%. 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.

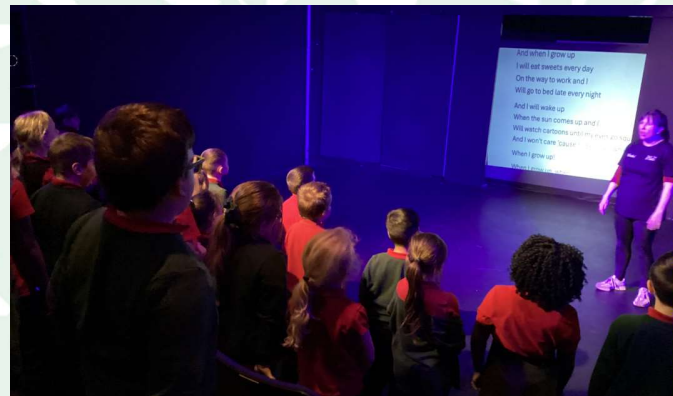
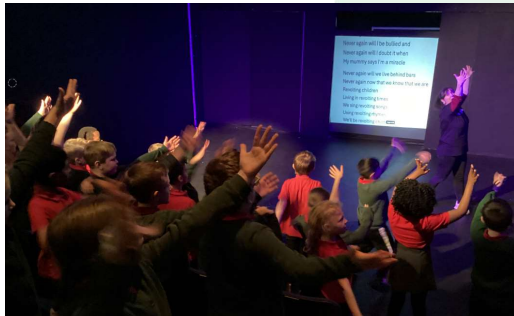
Attendance by class for the first half term	
1S 94.5 %	1K 95.3 %
2E 92.1 %	2W 91.2 %
3C 89.1 %	3W 94.3 %
4E 91.0 %	4S 95.4 %
5B 93.5 %	5S 90.2 %
6R 96.6 %	6C <90 %

Well done 1K and 6R who have the best overall attendance in school this half term. 6R - you're above our target of 96%!

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Year 3 were delighted to take part in the 2026 Wisbech Reads project, *Take The Stage (The Big Dance)*, inspired by *Matilda* by Roald Dahl. In the lead-up to the festival, the children worked with the 20Twenty Productions team in school, learning a dance and two songs to prepare for their performance at The Angles Theatre in Wisbech on Wednesday 18th March.

Both children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day. The performance was fantastic, with every child showing increased confidence and enthusiasm on stage. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they truly shone throughout the performance.



Be kind
Work hard
Aim high

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

Year 6 – TCA careers fayre

Year 6 had a wonderful afternoon at the careers fayre at TCA. The event was organised by the Wisbech School's Partnership and gave the children the opportunity to speak to people from a wide range of careers about what qualifications are needed for different jobs, what different jobs entail and how much the children could expect in terms of salaries.

Year 4 Roman experience

Year 4 had a great morning with a visitor from Ancient Rome. The children took part in different drama activities and used Latin greetings and names. They were shown a variety of Roman battle weapons and were initiated into the Roman Army. They had great fun pretending to fight a slow motion battle! They found out about slavery, food and 'tasted' honey glazed dormice. Yuck! The most revolting part of the morning involved acting out how the Romans had a bath in the public baths. The children discovered that rich Romans used ashes and urine to wash their hair - I think I prefer shampoo! Mrs Eyers

KS2 Easter service at St Augustine's church

KS2 celebrated the end of the spring term with an Easter service at St Augustine's church. Children from each class read the Easter story, the children sang beautifully and the worship council led an Easter prayer. Thank you to Reverend Paul and everyone at St Augustine's for welcoming us back to church.



Be kind
Work hard
Aim high

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

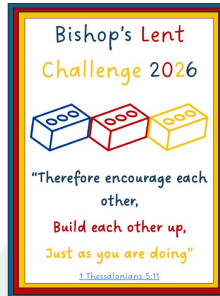
Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

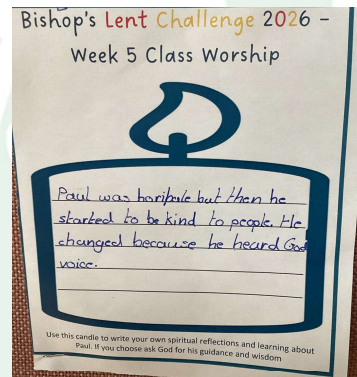
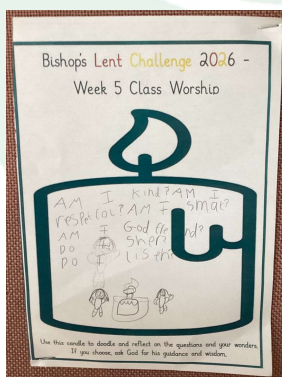
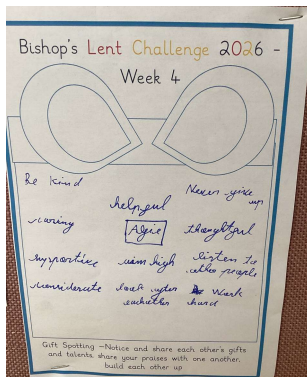
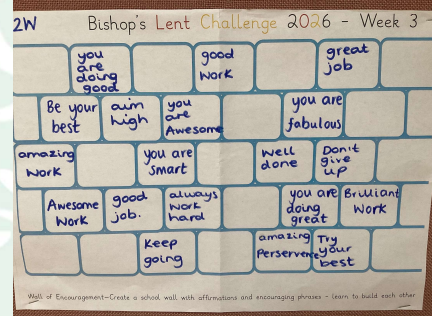
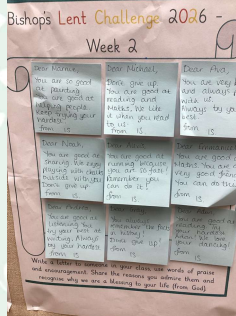
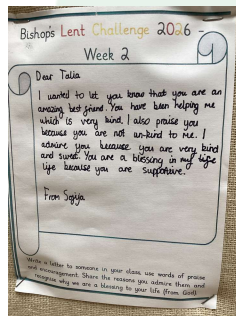
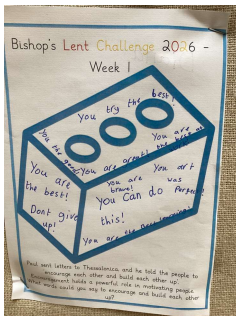
Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

Bishop of Ely's Lent Challenge 2026



This year's challenge helped pupils to learn about the spread of Christianity in the early days of Christ's Way and who Paul the apostle was. The focus of this challenge was to

- Explore ways to encourage and build each other
- Flourish in our ability to see one another – inside and outside
- Notice our God-given gifts and talents
- Develop our spiritual side to thrive in God's world.



kind
hard
high

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

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: 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, plain 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.

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.

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

What we wish we'd known back then!

Hindsight is a wonderful thing. If only we knew back then what we know now everything would have been so much better. Or would it?

Hi! We're Karen and Paul. Paul is the current Vicar of 3 churches in the Wisbech and Walsoken area. Karen has many years experience of working with, and counselling, children and families in various settings. We moved to Wisbech in 2024 and wanted to introduce ourselves to you as we are now working closely with Orchards Primary School. You'll likely see us around the school from time to time...or maybe out walking with our dogs. If you do, feel free to say hello, we'd love to get to know you.

But that's not the main reason why we wanted to say Hi! We wanted to introduce ourselves because just like you we're parents, and being a parent is hard work. We know this because we have 5 children between us as a blended family, 4 boys, 1 girl. We raised them together in one chaotic and noisy household. Our children are grown up now, and we're incredibly proud of the people they have become, but there's lots of things we wished we'd known when they were younger. Like 'how do you stay calm when everything around you is utter madness, and your child with ADHD has a meltdown?' Or 'how can I get my child off that game when it's time for tea/bed etc?' Maybe it's when your partner says Yes after you already said No to your child? And yes, these are things we experienced as parents.

We've been there, and have some great stories to share. We'd like to share them with you. We were struggling parents and thought we were the only ones. Does that sound familiar? The truth is we weren't the only ones struggling. We went to a support group whose aim was to give parents a voice and we met people with the same issues we had. We weren't sure we wanted to go, but took a chance. We learnt a lot, we shared what wasn't going well, and what was, and as a group we supported each other as we learnt how to deal with the rollercoaster of being a parent.

We'd like to offer you the same opportunity to come together and talk about the pressures of being a parent in today's world. This includes anyone who cares for children...grandparents are welcome. No judgement, just support over biscuits, cake and drinks. There's no charge and pre-school children are welcome. We'll be holding a taster session on the 5 June in the school, with more details to follow. There's also some information on the back of this sheet about the group and how to contact us.



Karen and Paul Kite

WANT THE BEST FOR YOUR CHILD?

Kids Matter is a free, friendly group for anyone with children aged 1-10 years. We discuss how to build strong families and help our kids do their best in life.



During the 6 weeks, we cover the following:

- Taster – Come and see what it's like to be in a Kids Matter group
- Session 1 – Building a strong family
- Session 2 – Loving our children well
- Session 3 – Play, encouragement and listening
- Session 4 – Routines and rewards
- Session 5 – Family rules and consequences
- Session 6 – The bigger picture
- Booster – Checking in 3 months later

Every session will have coffee, tea and food and a free crèche.

Kids Matter will be running for 6 weeks for parents and carers in your area soon!
For more information contact: 07902 743276



Registered charity in England & Wales 1183617

WANT THE BEST FOR YOUR CHILD?

Kids Matter is a free, friendly group for anyone with children aged 1-10 years. We discuss how to build strong families and help our kids do their best in life.



During the 6 weeks, we cover the following:

- Taster – Come and see what it's like to be in a Kids Matter group
- Session 1 – Building a strong family
- Session 2 – Loving our children well
- Session 3 – Play, encouragement and listening
- Session 4 – Routines and rewards
- Session 5 – Family rules and consequences
- Session 6 – The bigger picture
- Booster – Checking in 3 months later

Every session will have coffee, tea and food and a free crèche.



Kids Matter will be running for 6 weeks for parents and carers in your area soon!

For more information contact: 07902 743276

Registered charity in England & Wales 1163617

*Be kind
work hard
aim high*

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

Dates for the diary:

Monday 13th April Start of summer term
Monday 4th May – Bank holiday
Monday 11th May – Friday 15th May Year 6 SATs week
Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May Half term
Monday 1st June – Start of summer 2
Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check
Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Friday 17th July - Last day of term
Monday 20th July - School closed – training day



Contact Information

If you have changed your telephone number or email address, please let us know, as these are our main form of communication.

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

Orchards' Wrap-around care.

Spaces available before and after-school in our wrap-around care.



Wrap-around Care

Breakfast Club: 7:30am – 8:30am — £3 per session

Afterschool Club: 3:15pm – 5:30pm — £3 per session

Monday to Friday

Bookings can be made on MCAS

Activities include arts and craft, baking, sports, board games and lots more!

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Events on at the Spinney playground over April:

April 2026				
Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
31 Mar Holiday session 11am-5pm Bunny O & X's 1.30pm-3pm	1 Holiday session 11am-5pm Bingo 1.30pm-3pm	2 Holiday session 11am-5pm Pizza Making 1.30pm-3pm (or until ingredients run out)	3 Holiday session 11am-5pm Cress Pots 1.30pm-3pm	4 Saturday Session Free play 11am-5pm
7 Holiday session 11am-5pm Easter Hunt 1.30pm-3pm	8 Holiday session 11am-5pm Balloon Friends 1.30pm-3pm	9 Holiday session 11am-5pm Outdoor Sports 1.30pm-3pm	10 Holiday session 11am-5pm Fire Pit 1.30pm-3pm	11 Saturday Session Free play 11am-5pm
14 Afterschool session 3pm-5pm	15 Stay and Play 10am-12pm Afterschool session 3pm-5pm	16 Afterschool session 3pm-5pm	17 Afterschool Session 3pm-5pm	18 Saturday Session 11am-5pm Circus Skills 1.30pm-3pm
21 NO SESSION	22 Stay and Play 10am-12pm Afterschool session 3pm-5pm	23 Afterschool session 3pm-5pm	24 Afterschool Session 3pm-5pm	25 Saturday Session 11am-5pm Fire Pit Cooking 1.30pm-3pm
28 Afterschool session 3pm-5pm	29 Stay and Play 10am-12pm Afterschool session 3pm-5pm	30 Afterschool Session 3pm-5pm		

Be kind
Work hard
Aim high