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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Zoe Ramshaw

“Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons; it’s a rebirth of the spirit”.

-Toni Sorenson

Dear Parents/Carers,

March has been one of the busiest months of the school year so far. We definitely won the best dressed school for World Book Day. It was delightful to see so many book characters in one place. Pi day in maths was celebrated across the school and maths is nearly loved by everyone as much as the head of Maths does. I have never met anyone who loves maths like Vicki loves maths. She certainly inspires a love of maths in everyone. There was also a ‘murder’ at Orange Tree school too and the students had to work together to solve the crime. They showed such skill and determination, and it was such a joy to see. We also had our living eggs and celebrated Neurodiversity Awareness week with amazing visitors and activities. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as I have.

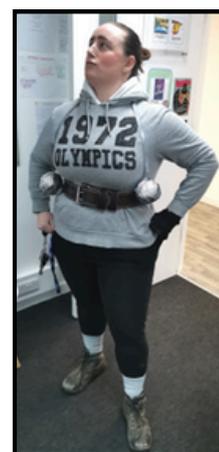
Finally, I have some good news to share. Orange Tree School has now been granted permission to have students on role until the school year in which they turn 19. This is great news for students who are being taught out of chronological age and/or need to take their GCSE’s or Post 16 course option over a longer period of time or need to repeat them. This is great news!

Have a restful spring break and we look forward to seeing the students back on Wednesday 23rd April at 10.30am.

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS

ENGLISH - WORLD BOOK DAY 2025!

On Thursday 6th March, OTS celebrated World Book day, along with thousands of schools across the country. It was wonderful to see so many students and staff dress up as a character from a book to celebrate a shared love of literature. There was an enthusiastic buzz around the school throughout the day, particularly due to the fantastic costumes that students and staff wore! We had costumes from Katniss Everdeen, Bob the Builder, Ms. Trunchbull to The Wicked Witch of the West, The Great Gatsby and Cruella Deville.



The day began with form time activities, going through different ways reading can help with wellbeing and times where we can read throughout the day. Students were given a bookmark and book voucher to take home. We completed lunch time bingo, with a lovely Year 7 winning the student prize and Vicki winning the staff prize. The day ended with creating our own book covers, encouraging all to read and promoting a love of literacy.

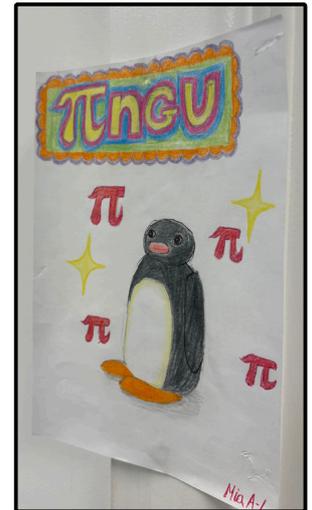
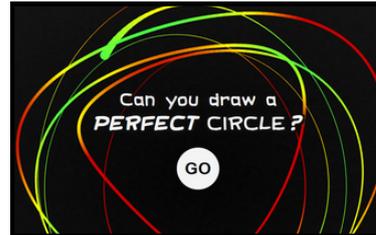
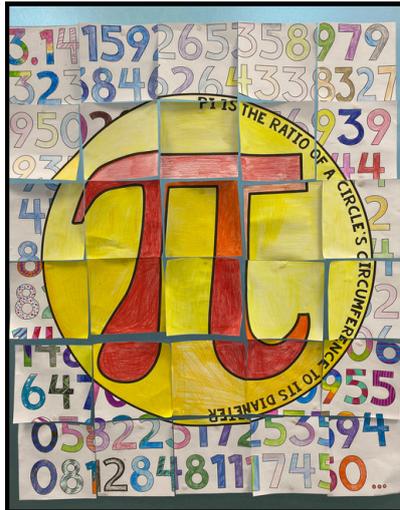


Well done to all that participated and we look forward to seeing your costumes next year! For more images and a video from World Book Day at OTS follow us on our Instagram page [@orangetreeschool](https://www.instagram.com/orangetreeschool)

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHTS

MATHS - PI DAY 2025

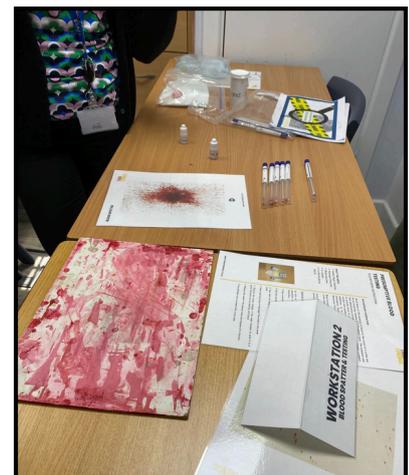
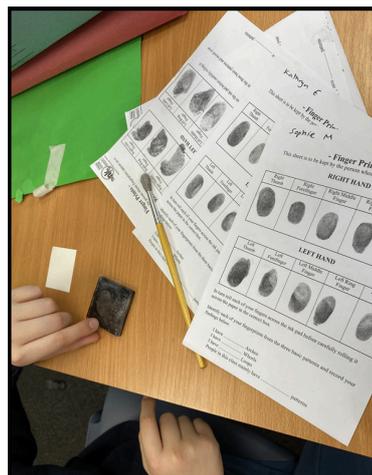
On March 14th, we celebrated Pi Day at Orange Tree School. Vicki, the head of our Maths department brought in a delicious Pi chocolate cake, and our Year 9s baked Pi biscuits in Food Tech! Students had the chance to listen to Pi in Music, create PIEMs in English, and of course, discover Pi in Maths. During lunch, all year groups created a collective Pi poster, and throughout the day they participated in a 'Draw a perfect circle' competition and found out what position their birthday is in Pi!



SCIENCE - FORENSIC DAY

There was a murder in school! Poor Hayley was hit over the head by her own Deputy Headteacher award! Divided into 6 groups, students had to question all the suspects: Kathryn, Sophie, Jade, Craig and Ana. They then took part in fingerprint testing and matching, hair and 'blood' testing. DCI Gryns was also on the case, helping us all stay on the right path!

In the end, all groups had time to piece together all their information and decide who their prime suspect was. Groups 1, 2 and 5 correctly concluded that Craig, who played Hayley's husband of 15 years, was the murderer. Excellent work from our young detectives - justice was served thanks to them! At the end of the day, their hard work was rewarded with watching Enola Holmes and eating popcorn.



FOOD TECH

FRED THE SHED

Our hard-working Year 7s continue to work on Fred the Shed!

This month, they went on a trip to B&Q to buy seeds to sow, and they have been using their handy skills to build, line and fill raised beds.



RECIPES



This month, our year 8s have prepared delicious marble cupcakes, blueberry muffins, iced shortbread, fruit plaits, and hot cross buns.

Our Year 9s have made some lovely Pi cookies for Pi Day, potato and chickpea curry, vegan Thai green curry, and hot cross buns.

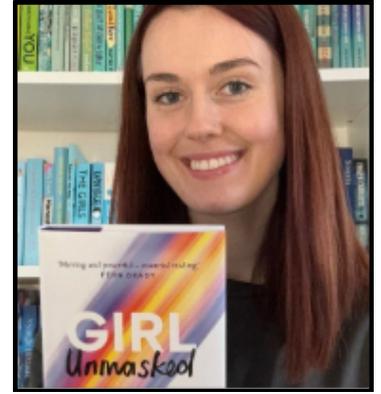
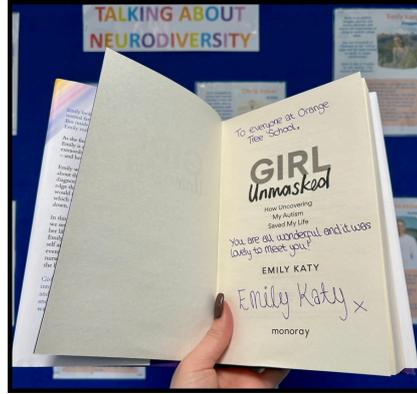
After presenting their exam dishes (pictured below), KS4 students have also delighted us with their recipes! This month the menu included chicken noodle soup, sweet and sour chicken and egg fried rice, and burritos.



NEURODIVERSITY AWARENESS WEEK

In honour of Neurodiversity Awareness Week, we invited two wonderful speakers to share their expertise with our students at Orange Tree.

On Monday the 17th, Emily Katy, the Sunday Times Bestselling author of 'Girl Unmasked: How Uncovering My Autism Saved My Life' gave a presentation about her experiences as a neurodiverse woman, what neurodiversity means, and how it impacts everybody differently. Students and staff alike were engaged and we all had many questions for her. It was a lovely visit, and she even signed our copy of her book for us!



On Thursday the 20th, James Harrison, the Autism Lead for the Ellern Mede Group shared his deep understanding of the needs of neurodiverse students, based on his extensive experience working with Autistic people in many different settings. He held two separate sessions with KS3 and KS4 students. Students were given a safe space to share and ask questions about their own neurodiversity, which was lovely and insightful.



Thank you, Emily and James, for taking the time to visit us and inspire our students with all your knowledge. It is very important for them to see how neurodiversity is not an obstacle to living a successful, happy life.

IMPORTANT DATES

Orange Tree School's Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child or want to talk to a designated or deputy safeguarding lead, please speak to one of the following:

DSL: Zoe Ramshaw
DDSLs: Hayley Hunter

April 4th 2025

Last day of term (early finish 1pm)

April 23rd 2025

*First day of Summer Term
(late start 10:30)*

April 23rd 2025

*Equine Therapy begins for Year 7
(Every Wednesday)*

April 25th 2025

*Skiing Sessions begin for Year 9
(Every Friday)*

ORANGE TREE VALUES

Optimistic
Ready to Learn
Achievement
Nice and kind
Good listening
Effort

Team work
Respectful
Engagement
Empathy and Acceptance

LIVING EGGS

From March 10th to 21st, we had our yearly visit from the Living Eggs' chicks!

We all had a great time watching them hatch and grow, taking care of them and holding them; they provided a sense of responsibility and calm to our students. Until next year!



APPRECIATION LEAF OF THE MONTH

Each Month we will have an appreciation tree winner by picking a leaf at random from our Appreciation Tree. This month, the winner is Rory. Thank you Rory, we hope you like your appreciation gift!

