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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Zoe Ramshaw

Dear Parents/Carers,

February came and went in the blink of an eye. I have noticed that the lighter and longer days are creeping in which boosts everyone's mood.

Thank you to all the parents who commented on the term date questionnaire. Your responses were really helpful, and I hope to have the final term dates out to you for 2025/26 in the next week or so.

Well done to all of the students who completed their BTEC food exams last week. The food looks delicious, and we have some very talented chefs at Orange Tree.

We are all looking forward to world book day on 6th March. I have overheard many staff talking about what characters they are planning on dressing up as. We will share photos in the next newsletter. We also have a therapeutic coffee morning on 12th March and our eggs will be arriving in March to hatch into lovely chicks. We have an exciting few weeks ahead, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the coffee morning.

"The rain WILL stop,
the night WILL end,
the hurt WILL fade.
Hope is never so lost
that it can't be
found."

- Mandy Hale

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 6th (World book day) we encourage staff to dress up as a character from a book – students can also do this! We will have some fun world book day themed activities taking place during form time and at lunch, as well as a creative writing competition students can join. We look forward to seeing all the costumes and reading your stories!



WORLD BOOK DAY
CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION!

Closing date: 6th March 2025! ☺
Hand your stories in to Kathryn once completed

Brief: Write a story based around Orange Tree School!

Remember to include:

- A clear narrative structure
- A clear plot
- A clear mood

READ YOUR WAY

Orange Tree School



Book of the month:
King of Nothing -
Nathanael Lessore

FOOD TECH

This month in Food Tech, KS3 Students made delicious Valentine's day cookies, while KS4 students worked hard on their coursework and exams.

Year 7 students made cheesy garlic bread and started their Gardening project: redesigning the inside of our shed so we can plant our own herbs, fruits and veggies. Year 8s have prepared paellas, swiss rolls and marble cupcakes, and Year 9s delighted everybody with their afternoon tea projects!



PSHE AND SOCIAL LEARNING UPDATES

PSHE

So far this term the students have covered a variety of topics within our theme of Relationships and Sex Education. We are so proud of how well all the students have engaged in lessons that can be sensitive and difficult topics. Please find below a list of helpful and safe websites that your child may want to use to explore these topics further.

Brook Health lives for young people - <https://www.brook.org.uk>

NHS Website - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/>

Support for Puberty – Boys & Girls <https://www.childline.org.uk>

Help for women and children on domestic abuse

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/>

Support for LGBT+ people in abusive relationships

<https://galop.org.uk/>



SOCIAL LEARNING

KS3: This half term in Social Learning, our **Year 7s** and **8s** have started their lego therapy projects and are using this approach to develop their communication and interaction skills.

Our **Year 9s** are working on problem solving skills and interoception, as well as planning an event to build team-working skills, and an out of school trip to a café.

KS4: Our **Year 10** students have been learning about personal information and form filling. The **Year 11s** are continuing to work on their personal goals, and we have had some lovely sessions with individuals helping them with things like: preparing for college interviews, creating CVs, understanding the rules of dating, managing money, creating a healthy sleep routine, etc.

STUDYBUGS

We have introduced a new, more efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness. If you haven't already, please get the free app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school.

<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>.

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,
Keziah Arthur

March 6th 2025

World Book Day

March 7th - 16th

Science Week

March 14th 2025

Pi Day

March 17th - 23rd

Neurodiversity Week

March 26th 2025

Parent Communication Day
(School Closed to Students)

ORANGE TREE VALUES

Optimistic
Ready to Learn
Achievement
Nice and kind
Good listening
Effort

Team work
Respectful
Engagement
Empathy and Acceptance

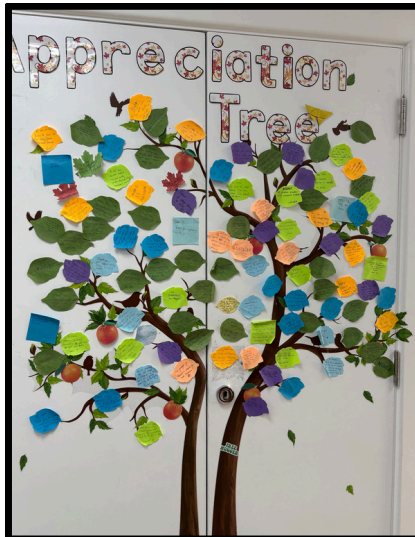
APPRECIATION LEAF OF THE MONTH

Each Month we will have an appreciation tree winner by picking a leaf at random from our Appreciation Tree. This month, the winner is Jasmine.

Her leaf said:

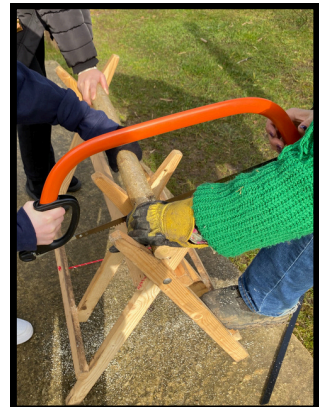
"Jasmine, for being so kind and caring and always trying her best :)"

Thank you Jasmine, we hope you like your appreciation gift!



THERAPY TYRIPS

KS3 Students continue to attend their Wild About the woods trips and visits woodcutting - learning how to use a saw and axe - while KS4 students are enjoying their last few skiing sessions (the last one is next Friday!)



General Resources and links:

Podcast for parents of students with PDA

<https://feeds.captivate.fm/pda-parents/>

Article about being a young person with Selective Mutism

Selective Mutism: 'I struggle to talk but dream of being on stage' - BBC News

BBC article on school avoidance

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpq9dgv138wo>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONEY MULING

Money muling involves individuals – very frequently young people – being recruited to transfer illegally obtained funds into and out of their bank account on behalf of criminals (often without even realising that's the kind of activity they've become embroiled in), and usually being allowed to keep a certain amount for themselves. It's essentially a digital form of money laundering. This guide highlights some of the risks associated with money muling, and provides parents and carers with useful tips to help safeguard young people against becoming ensnared by this growing online hazard.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LEGAL REPERCUSSIONS

Young people may be lured by the promise of quick, easy money, but by doing so they will become unwitting participants in activities that can have severe legal and financial consequences. Money muling is a serious offence under UK law. Involvement in such schemes can result in imprisonment and fines (or both). Remember, the threshold for criminal responsibility in the UK is 10 years of age.

ONLINE RECRUITMENT

Cyber-savvy criminals are increasingly using various online methods, including social media apps and gaming platforms, in their attempts to recruit young people as potential money mules. The criminals often deploy persuasive, deceptive tactics to gain children's initial interest and attention, then seek to exploit their trust and naivety.

POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION

Money muling is frequently carried out in tandem with other organised criminal activities such as the drugs trade or human trafficking. Not only is money muling a criminal offence in its own right, therefore, but it could also expose young people to harmful situations as well as potentially putting them in contact with some extremely dangerous individuals.

FINANCIAL LOSSES

If they (even unknowingly) transfer funds that are traced back to criminal activities, money mules can face considerable financial losses: their bank may freeze their accounts, and they can be held liable for any illegally obtained funds. People involved in money muling often also find themselves at greater risk of becoming entangled in other forms of criminal financial exploitation and fraud.

LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

Involvement in money muling can have a lasting negative impact on a young person's reputation, education and employment prospects, and place colossal strain on their family life. A conviction for financial fraud would significantly damage a young person's future opportunities: they could be blocked from opening a bank account, taking out a mortgage or even securing a phone contract.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EDUCATE AND COMMUNICATE

Talk to your child about the risks and consequences of money muling, emphasising the importance of making informed decisions and seeking guidance if they need it. Create an open, non-judgmental space which encourages them to share their concerns and experiences, ensuring they feel comfortable getting help if they suspect they may have become involved in money muling.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITIES

If you have concerns, you might want keep a closer than usual eye on your child's online presence, including their profiles on social media and any gaming platforms that they use. These can often serve as useful early warning systems which might help you to detect any signs of attempted recruitment by criminals or other types of suspicious behaviour.

TALK ABOUT MONEY

Discussions about avoiding being recruited as a money mule are also good opportunities for a refresher with your child about financial responsibility and good money management. It's also a helpful starting point for highlighting the importance of earning their money by honest means and the potential consequences of getting involved in illegal activities, both online and offline.

STAY INFORMED

Criminals' methods and approaches to recruiting young people as money mules frequently evolve to reflect the online landscape. Try to stay aware of criminals' current tactics and make time to regularly check out resources provided by schools, law enforcement and financial organisations. The Don't Be Fooled Campaign (at www.moneymules.co.uk) has plenty of useful information and advice.

REPORT YOUR SUSPICIONS

If you have reason to believe that your child, one of their friends, or someone they know has been recruited into a money muling operation, seek support and then report your suspicions. For your own safety, please don't attempt to directly confront anyone you suspect of organising money muling. Instead, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Meet Our Expert

Ross Savage has a proven track record in countering financial crime, having spent 13 years with UK law enforcement – specialising in money laundering investigations and asset recovery from organised criminal groups. He now holds senior visiting expert positions at various organisations and delivers customised training and consultancy to government and private-sector clients worldwide.



Source: www.moneymules.co.uk | <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/moneymuling>
www.ukfinance.org.uk/press/press-releases/parents-urged-help-stop-rise-child-money-mules

NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday