

Orchard's C of E Academy

Weekly Parent Bulletin

21st July 2020

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Our Christian Value for next Half Term is **Thankfulness**

Dates for the Diary

3rd September INSET

4th September INSET

7th September First day of Autumn Term

22nd October Last school day before Half Term

23rd October INSET

2nd November Children back to school

18th December Last school day before Christmas

4th January INSET

5th January Children back to school

Year 6

It hasn't been the end to their Primary School lives that we all would have hoped for, but we wish our Year 6 children all the very best of luck as they carry on their journey into their new schools in September – we hope that they settle in well and have successful times – we will miss them.

Our best wishes also to any other children who may be leaving Orchards at the end of this term.

Staffing Changes

As mentioned previously, we have a number of members of staff leaving us at the end of term:

- **Miss Johnson** joined us from Canada in 2018 and quickly became a vibrant and valuable member of the Orchards family. In her short time with us she has been subject leader for Personal, Social, Health and Emotional education, helping to introduce a new and innovative curriculum. Not only has Miss Johnson taught Year 5 but also set up a lunchtime book club. You may also remember her for that infamous class assembly where she danced down the aisle to join the children at the front! Miss Johnson is returning home to Canada and we wish her the best of luck, we will miss her.
- **Mr Allen** has been with us for a year, and what an eventful year it has been. He is dedicated to the children and for that we are so thankful. His calm, happy presence makes us better and he will be an asset to his new school. We thank you for his PE skills and some of us now know more about 'foot-golf' than we ever realised we needed to. We won't forget his salmon coloured t-shirts and other colourful clothing choices and will miss seeing his sandal clad feet, in all sorts of weathers.
- It is with sadness we are saying goodbye to **Mrs Bielawski**, who has been in charge of the finance office for almost 5 years. Mrs Bielawski is taking her expert knowledge to a school closer to her home where we are sure they will be extremely happy with their new recruit. We wish her the best of luck in her new venture, even though we will miss her very much!
- **Miss Surtees** has been with us at Orchards for just over a year and a half and what an impact she has made! This year she has been working alongside Mrs Wojcik in Year 1 and has been teaching Willow class. The children absolutely adore Miss Surtees because she is always there to greet them with a big smile and strives to make every day fun and enjoyable. Adrian from Willow class said 'Miss Surtees is the coolest teacher in the world ever!' Miss Surtees dedication, enthusiasm and passion for teaching shines through every day and she will be thoroughly missed! We all wish Miss Surtees all the best for the future and her new school in Australia is very lucky to have her!
- It is with a sad heart we inform you that **Mrs Wells** will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We thank her for her considerable service to our school community. She has been a brilliant, dedicated and caring member of staff. After teaching the Year 4 group, she went on to set up our nurture group here at orchards. Under her care and patience the children found a safe place to thrive. Mrs. Wells has lead most of our singing assemblies at school and helped plan most of the singing in church. Her expertise and experience will be missed. Whilst sorry to see her go we wish her every happiness in her future endeavours.

- The end of this term also marks an end of an era for one of our longest standing teachers. Many of you will have known or even been taught by our very own **Mrs Ketley**. It's with mixed emotions that she has finally taken the decision to retire from teaching after 35 years. Mrs Ketley started her teaching career way back in 1980, when the 2 schools on site were separate. She was part of the St Augustine's staff that came over when they amalgamated into Orchards. She has been a valuable member of staff ever since. She will be sorely missed by children and staff alike. We know that she will terribly miss the hustle and bustle of school life but we're sure she will find more time to enjoy the things she loves such as; volunteering with help the children charity, singing with a local choir and of course spending so much more time with her grandson. However Mrs Ketley decides to spend her new found freedom, we wish her well and the best of luck on whatever adventures come next.

Parent Consultation Evenings

We have provisionally put Parent Consultation Evenings into the school calendar next term, but we still don't quite know whether we will be allowed to hold these, or what they might look like. When we are given more clarification, we will announce the dates, as these face-to-face meetings with parents are so important to the school / home partnership and the children's progress.

Stars of Lockdown

I normally tell you all on the Newsletter who our Stars of the Week are in each of our classes. As we have now reached the end of this most unusual of school years, I'm going to tell you who our 'Stars of Lockdown' are, as nominated by their class teachers. The following children have gone above and beyond since March, whether they have been working from home all that time, in school as a Key Worker child, or returned to school after June 1st. Well done to them all.

Early Years – Adas in Acorn; Bailey in Apple; Layla in Cherry.

Key Stage 1 – Maja in Pine; Julia in Willow; Andreja in Hazel; Lewis in Maple.

Key Stage 2 – Onur in Almond; Kevinas in Hawthorn; Kristers in Laburnum; Sara in Holly; Jakub in Juniper; David in Cypress; Alfie in Elm; Julia in Ash; Lacey in Cedar; Dominykas in Oak; Timur in Yew.

Forest School Pilot

Last week was the last week of our Forest School pilot, so I have decided to hand over to the children who took part to write for this week's newsletter. They have all been brilliant and I am proud of the way they have taken everything on board with enthusiasm and showed perseverance when they have found something difficult.

My favourite part of Forest School is being connected with nature and doing knife and den skills. I hope to give this knowledge to the next generation. Kirills

Forest school is about going outside to spend some time with your friends. It is also about a time where you don't go on your electronics and you appreciate how beautiful nature is. My time at Forest School was such a fantastic experience. I won't forget my time at Forest School. Aurelija



Aurelija

On the last day of Forest School I enjoyed cooking all the wonderful foods. I also enjoyed it when the whole class stood around the fire, eating our S'mores, while being social distanced. Markas

Forest School is a way to communicate with the outdoors and learn about things you have to remember whilst being outside. Dulce

Forest School, to me, represents teamwork and working together to achieve much more than doing it by yourself. It also means to me, to learn useful skills for the future if you ever get lost or are camping. Lacey

The thing that makes Forest School, Forest School is Mrs. Evers. E

What Forest School means to me? It means teamwork, friendship and guidance. When we were making damper bread for the first time, Auguste's damper bread started melting off the stick like chocolate. We laughed for a little bit and our teacher gave Auguste hers. Oskaras

I love camping so this was very important to me. I love being around fire which is why I tried so hard to light one. Finley

To me, Forest School means being about in nature. But also it's about survival. The skills I've learned will come in handy when I'm camping. Auguste



Quiz Time

Here are the answers to the quiz questions from the July 10th newsletter.

1. The Sun
2. The Daily Mail
3. A fish
4. Cheetah
5. Red and blue
6. Vatican City
7. Spain
8. The Liver
9. Iron
10. The Sun
11. India
12. Helsinki
13. Two pairs
14. A mare
15. Holland / The Netherlands
16. Switzerland
17. Arctic
18. The Piano
19. A caravan
20. And

September Opening

A reminder about our September opening plans, as set out in last Friday's newsletter:

You should all have received information, about which teacher your child will have next year (the emails are still being sent as I type – there's a lot of them to get through), and the times of their staggered start and finish. Unfortunately, with so many children in school, it has not been possible to always start and finish siblings at similar times – we hope that you understand the difficulty of the logistics.

We will be meeting Government guidance by adjusting school life in the following ways:

Although attendance is once again mandatory, there will be a requirement that children and adults who are displaying the symptoms of COVID 19 stay at home. The main symptoms of coronavirus are a high temperature, a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours, a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child has any of the main symptoms of coronavirus:

- **Stay at home (self-isolate)** – do not leave your home or have visitors. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also self-isolate.
- **Get a test** – get a test to check if you or your child has coronavirus as soon as possible. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, should also get a test if they have symptoms.

We will continue with the robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements that have served us so well since our wider reopening at the beginning of June. Children will wash hands at the beginning of every session (morning and afternoon registration, after break, before and after lunch, after using the toilet) and surfaces such as door handles and desktops will be sanitised on a regular basis.

We will actively engage with the NHS Test and Trace System. This works as follows:

- **Isolate:** as soon as you experience coronavirus symptoms, medical advice is clear: you must self-isolate for at least 7 days. Anyone else in your household must self-isolate for 14 days from when you started having symptoms;
- **Test:** order a test immediately at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119 if you have no internet access;
- **Results:** if your test is positive, you must complete the remainder of your 7-day self-isolation. Anyone in your household must also complete self-isolation for 14 days from when you started having symptoms. If your test is negative, you and other household members no longer need to self-isolate;

- Share contacts: if you test positive for coronavirus, the NHS test and trace service will send you a text or email alert or call you with instructions of how to share details of people with whom you have had close, recent contact and places you have visited. It is important that you respond as soon as possible so that we can give appropriate advice to those who need it. You will be told to do this online via a secure website or you will be called by one of our contract tracers.

We will reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable by:

- Grouping children together with other children at a similar stage of their learning, thus removing the need to split children up across groups for phonics / spelling / maths etc;
- Avoiding contact between groups by keeping them apart at break times and lunchtimes – each class will have a designated area outside in which to play and will eat a packed lunch in their classrooms. We hope that a hot lunch option will be available to the children early on in the Autumn Term;
- Staggering start times and finish times. You will have already received a letter from school informing you of start and finish times to each day. These are designed to reduce congestion outside of the school grounds and allow social distancing for parents and children. Staggered start and finish times also remove the need for lots of children congregating on the playgrounds before and after school and keep bubbles separate. Please arrive at school at your appointed time – try to avoid being either too early or late, which might mean that children would have to mix with those from other bubbles.

We will arrange furniture in classrooms to minimise transfer of germs from one child to another, and to allow for as much social distancing as possible for adults. Government Guidance suggests that risks to children from the virus are very small and that they do not tend to pass it between themselves – unlike, for example a common cold. Thus, there will be no need for the children to social distance in the classroom. From Year 2 upwards however, we will sit the children in rows, meaning that they are not facing each other. Unnecessary furniture will be removed from classrooms so that the adults in class have as much room to social distance as is possible. Guidance says that teachers should avoid being within 1 metre of any individual child for more than 15 minutes in a given day.

Each classroom has a lidded bin, and we will be practising ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ to minimise the risk of transmission of germs.



What do you need to do?

- Ensure that your child is in school every day unless they are unwell – see above what to do if they display COVID 19 symptoms. Attendance is once again mandatory from September;
- Be at your appointed gate at your appointed timeslot (not too early, not too late) – this will reduce congestion outside the school and avoid children having to pass too closely to children from other bubbles;
- Phone up and make an appointment if you wish to speak to a teacher – we really need to minimise and control the number of adults on site. We will take advice closer to the time about how parent consultation evenings might work;
- Don't send your child to school in a mask. Masks are a hot topic on the news at the moment (I have even bought myself a rather fetching West Ham mask), and if you wish to wear them to and from school, that is entirely your choice. We have been advised against their use whilst the children are in school though.

- Make sure that your child is wearing proper uniform, and has their PE kit in school on the correct day (see below).

And Finally...

We hope that you all have a safe and happy summer. We look forward to seeing you all on September 7th.

Thank you for all the support you provide for the children and our academy!

