

# Orchard's C of E Academy

## Weekly Parent Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021

Acting Headteacher: Mr J Steeden

Email: [office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk)

Phone: 01945 583799

Website: <http://www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk>

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

**22<sup>nd</sup> July** Last school day before Summer Holiday

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sep** Children back to school

### Staffing Changes

The following members of staff will be leaving Orchards at the end of this term:

#### Deb Redmile

Let me tell you what makes an outstanding teacher: a gallon of enthusiasm, a tablespoon of hard work and a hint of inspiration. Not only does this create an outstanding teacher but also an outstanding person. That is what Deb is. She was the inspiration behind many members of staff gaining their degrees and becoming teachers- a route she took herself! Throughout her time at Orchards, she has held many roles, ranging from: TA team leader, through to being a middle leader.

So, who else better to tell you about her than the members of staff she has worked with over the years?

For those of you that don't know Mrs Redmile, she is an inspiration to everyone around her. Throughout the past 8 years, we have built a special bond that will last forever. There are not enough words to describe Mrs Redmile, but if I was to choose a few - I would say she is funny, kind hearted, supportive and a best friend. I can't thank you enough for being the person you are, enabling me to shine! Mrs Redmile will always hold a special place at Orchards Academy. (Nicky Helsdon).

A brilliant TA mentor when she first started and helped a lot of us get the right qualifications and support to do our jobs. She was a great voice between ourselves and SLT and always stood by us and she made herself heard for us. (Laura Cobb).

Deb is very approachable and helped Anita and I a lot when we studied. We could not have done it without her! (Vicky Vaitekunaite)

I have always loved Deb's sense of humour, laugh and problem solving skills. She has a wonderful relationship with staff, pupils and TickTock! She's always ready with a song, to perform or to show you her moves! (Lyn Johnson)

Deb was an amazing partner teacher this year I don't think I could have managed so well without her support. She is very organised and always well prepared. But the most important thing is she supported me during my degree, which she got me into!

Moreover, I was her TA for 2 years and we had lots of fun together. I remember when we were tidying up the area outside our year 1 class and she was chased by a bee- which she hates! That was funny. Also, when she opened the door and hurt her forehead. She had a quite big bump on her forehead and everyone thought that I did it to her!!! (Anita Wojcik)

As for me, Deb was the first person I spoke to at Orchards, "If you need any help, I'm in the classroom across the corridor." Deb you will be missed by all! (Ed Redmile)

#### Oliver Manley

Mr Manley has only worked at Orchards for a short period of time, however he has made a big impact in Cherry class. Not only has he helped the children with their learning in the classroom, but he has also helped them to develop their football skills during our lunchtimes! If we have any football stars in the future, it will be thanks to Mr Manley's lunchtime coaching! We wish Mr Manley every happiness in the future and hope that he leaves with lovely memories of his time at Orchards.

#### Suzanne Carter

I have worked with Suzanne at numerous points over the past few years and she has always struck me as somebody who remains calm, is highly knowledgeable, loves all of the children who she teaches and is a real maths nerd! We have spent many an hour discussing strategies to improve maths outcomes at both Orchards and Nene and Ramnoth (or airing our frustrations at how difficult it seems to be to get children to play TT Rockstars!) and I know that I can always go to her if I need an opinion on anything mathematical. Outside of maths, Suzanne has been a positive and encouraging mentor to early career teachers for which we thank her. It has been great to work alongside you Suzanne and I'm sure that our paths will cross again in the future. Until then, try to relax and unwind! (Dr Homden)

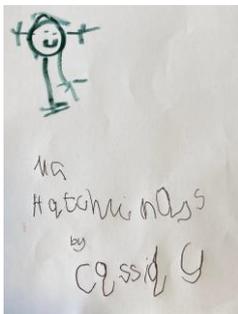
### **Christine Bonnet**

Mrs Bonnet joined our staff in 2001 and over the years has become a valued member of staff. She has worked across the majority of year groups within our school and helped numerous children, working mainly as a 1 to 1. Also as a first aider she has mopped many a brow, applied lots of plasters and held many sick buckets to help the children. Out-side of her school life here, she has volunteered for St John's Ambulance for a great many years and also worked at Marshland High School. Although she is retiring, we have heard that she will be off on lots of adventures with her husband in their camper van . We all wish her the very best.

### **Liam Forsyth**

Having only joined us after Easter, Liam is leaving Orchards to start a new chapter in his career and we wish him all the best! Teaching every class- from Reception all the way up to year 6- Liam's comment has always been how much he loves the children and how much joy he gets from working with them. He has shown himself to be great at stepping in last minute and still delivering some wonderful lessons in the many subjects that he has been asked to teach. Always happy to give advice and lend a helping hand, it has been a real pleasure for the children and the staff to have Liam as a part of the Orchards' family and we are sad to see him go. All the best for the future and keep in touch!

### **Neal Hutchings**



We bid a fond farewell to Mr Hutchings who is moving onto pastures new. Mr Hutchings has worked alongside the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage for the past 2 years.

He has been a positive role model for the children in EYFS, in particular some of our boys in the nursery.

Mr Hutchings has impressed us with his knowledge of bread making, chicken rearing, fishing and of course all things football related – unfortunate about the whole Tottenham thing, but you can't have everything!

Best of luck in your new venture Mr Hutchings!

### **Tara Banks**

Miss Banks isn't leaving Orchards permanently, but will be off on Maternity Leave from the beginning of September. Miss Banks has done such a wonderful job in overseeing phonics, Key Stage 1 and Early Years in her two years at Orchards and made a real impact on the attainment and progress of many children. It is now time for her to concentrate on her own family for a while, but all at the school wish her well and look forward to seeing some baby news over the summer!

### **COVID Restrictions from July 19<sup>th</sup>**

As you probably know, most of the Lockdown restrictions across the country ended on Monday July 19<sup>th</sup>. So, what has now changed in England?

- Social distancing – there are now no limits on how many people can meet;
- 1m-plus guidance has been removed (except in some places like hospitals);
- Face coverings no longer required by law, although the government still "expects and recommends" them in crowded and enclosed spaces. For the moment, we would still like you to wear face coverings when entering the school buildings and you most likely know that many shops will still require you to wear a mask.
- The bubble system will no longer operate in schools after the summer holiday unless there is a significant local outbreak of COVID.

## **New arrangements for the start of the school day in September.**

Assuming that the government doesn't announce any new restrictions for schools in the autumn term, we will be reverting back to a single start time across the school of 8:30 a.m. In order for the children to have the most settled start to the day as possible, we are going to make a change to how they are dropped off in the mornings. The outer gates will be unlocked no earlier than 8:25 a.m. at which point the children (accompanied or alone) will make their way around to their classroom and enter straight away where the register, lunch menu and morning task will be awaiting them. Registers will be closed at 8:40, after which time any children arriving at school will have to enter through the front office and will be marked as late.

## **School Uniform / PE Kit**

When you are buying new uniform and PE kit for your children over the holidays, please ensure that it adheres to the uniform code. Whilst we have been somewhat lenient this year given the uncertainties of COVID, we will expect children to dress properly after the summer

### **Why Uniform?**

We believe that school uniform is very important in making children feel part of the school. The uniform is practical, enhances the tone and atmosphere, and helps maintain pupil pride in the school. This is backed up by recent research - a study found that a uniform promotes commonality among pupils, improves concentration and fosters a sense of pride, especially when worn in public. The advantage of wearing a school uniform has become more pertinent at a time when many fear our young people are unhappier than ever before and in this particular context, peer pressure to conform to latest fashion items.

### **Winter uniform (to be worn from after October Half Term to the beginning of the Easter Holiday):**

Grey or black skirt/skort/pinafore/trousers with 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.

### **Summer uniform (to be worn from the beginning of the Summer Term to October Half Term):**

Green gingham checked dress and white socks (ankle or knee length) with green cardigan

OR

Grey or black skirt/skort/pinafore/trousers with 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.

### **Shoes**

Black shoes which have a fastening of some sort - a Velcro strap, bar and buckle or laces (no fashion heeled shoes). Trainers should only be worn for PE.

### **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.

Swimming costume and towel when required (1 piece, not tankini or bikini) or swimming trunks for boys.

### **Purchasing Uniform**

New uniform can be purchased from the school office. The PTA operate a second hand/nearly new uniform store and there are a number of opportunities to buy or swap throughout the school year. Any used uniform can be donated to the school, should you wish to do so.

### **Jewellery, Hair and Nails**

Jewellery should be kept to a minimum for health and safety reasons, and for security. Watches and medical bracelets only are allowed.

No nail varnish or nail extensions

Pierced ears should have small studs only - no other piercings are permitted e.g. nose etc.

Please avoid extreme hairstyles, including dyed hair. Hair shoulder length or longer should be tied back with a plain coloured headband or bow.

Shoes are always a bone of contention and we know that some shoes might be described as trainers by some people. As an example though, the following would be acceptable (and relatively inexpensive):



...whilst the following would not be acceptable (and much more expensive):



More obvious trainers – like the second example above – would be allowed as part of the PE uniform.

### Wisbech Museum

Although the main parts of the museum is closed for renovations, the Schools' Summer Show is still available to view. This project involved numerous school across Wisbech including Orchards. Please make sure to visit the free exhibition to see the fantastic clay work that our Year 4 children produced!

<https://www.wisbechmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/>

### Summer Reading Challenge

Don't forget that Wisbech library is open and the summer reading challenge begins soon! This year's theme is Wild World Heroes!

**Welcome to Wild World Heroes!**  
The Summer Reading Challenge 2021 is here!

Join the Wild World Heroes for a summer of reading fun that will inspire you to stand up for our planet

Find out everything you need to know about this year's Challenge on our blog

**Go wild for reading this summer!**

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A cartoon illustration of a young boy with red hair, wearing a blue shirt and a white headband, looking towards the right.

## Attendance

Below is the attendance for each class since the children returned to school on March 8<sup>th</sup> after Lockdown:

**Early Years** – Cherry – 95.7%; Apple – 91.9%; Peach – 88.9%.

**Key Stage 1** – Pine – 95.2%; Willow – 90.1%; Hazel – 95.1%; Maple – 95.5%.

**Key Stage 2** – Hawthorn – 93.6%; Juniper – 95.9%; Holly – 95.5%; Almond – 96.8%; Laburnum – 94.6%; Cypress – 93.1%; Elm – 94.1%; Ash – 93.1%; Cedar – 97.4%; Oak – 93.7%; Yew – 94.4%.

Whole school attendance was: 94.4%.

Well done to Cedar Class for having the best attendance in school during this time.

## And Finally...

This is goodbye from me. It has been an absolute privilege for me to work at Orchards for the past three years – first as Deputy Head then as Acting Headteacher since January. We have been through some challenging moments together – not the least of which has been trying to navigate a worldwide Pandemic for the past 18 months, and we couldn't have managed it so successfully without such great support from children, staff and parents. This school and community have become very close to my heart in the time that I have been here and I will look back on my time at Orchards with great fondness. I thank you all for your kindness and hard work – as well as your never ending ability to put up with my terrible jokes. Rio also thanks you and will miss the children – particularly his special friends who always give him a treat at the back gate – you know who you are!

Mr Jonathan Steeden

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







Congratulations to the following children for achieving the highest number of Dojo points in class this year...

Apple – Cody, Phoebe  
Cherry – Keilija, Louis  
Peach – Archie, Tyler  
Pine – Viktor, Benas  
Willow – Jobee, Oliver  
Hazel – Chanelle, Julia  
Maple – Hollie-May, Alex  
Almond – Natalia, Ksenija  
Hawthorn – Kimberley, Lena  
Laburnum – Kevin, Nikole  
Holly – Denise, Eimantas  
Juniper – Julia, Minnie  
Cypress - Austeja, Amelia  
Elm – Jessica, Kristofer  
Ash – Ilja, Leona  
Cedar – Wiktorija, Lia  
Oak – Alfie, Harley



SOUNDS - WRITE  
First Rate Phonics

# ORCHARDS

## Phonics at Orchards.

From September, we are excited to be implementing the Sounds Write approach to the teaching of phonics across school.

Following the Sounds Write approach, children are taught the three skills of blending (pushing sounds together to build words), segmenting (pulling apart the sounds in words) and phoneme manipulation (inserting and deleting sounds in words).

Using this approach, sounds are taught within the context of whole words, as opposed to previous phonics approaches where sounds have been taught individually.

Children will continue to begin their phonics journey in Nursery, through listening and attention skill building, recognising rhythm and rhyme and orally segmenting and blending.

Formal phonics teaching using the Sounds Write approach will begin in Reception, learning the 'Initial Code' and to read, write and spell simple words and sentences.

From Year One onwards, children will learn the 'Extended Code', which will explore how sounds can be spelled in more than one way. They will also explore that many spellings can represent more than one sound.

Sounds Write will support children's spellings throughout their school journey as it will equip them with the knowledge and skills from Reception onwards.

If you would like more information, please see our website:

<https://www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk/website/phonics/550472>