

Newsletter 1

Friday 3rd September 2021

Welcome back!

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. I am delighted to see you all returning to school today, looking super-smart in your new school uniforms. The school team has been working hard to prepare for the new year, cleaning, tidying and organising. I am so excited to see the teaching and learning underway. I just know this is going to be an amazing year.



Thank you to all the children and families that have made me feel so welcome. I am extremely proud to be your Headteacher and I am sure we are going to enjoy working together to make Orchards the best it possibly can be for your children.

I will be on the playground most mornings and afternoons, please do come and chat. The school leadership team Ms Newell, Mrs Harrison and Mr Homden will also be around the playgrounds each day to support you and your children in any way we can. Let us know what you think of the new start/end of day systems, how we can help to improve the grounds, we welcome your opinions.

COVID 19

As you will know, a lot of COVID restrictions have been lifted, but I am sure you will agree that we need to remain cautious. The new start of day (gates open at 8:25 and all children go straight into class) aims to avoid parents/carers gathering within the school grounds. Please leave the site via the nearest exit, once you have dropped your child into class.

At the moment, we will not be inviting parents in to assemblies and events. We will review this situation regularly and you will be invited in the near future as we do believe that it is important that parents are able to be part of their children's learning journey.

Please take the time to read our Risk Assessment and Outbreak Management Plan, which can be found on the school website.

Thank you for your support

School Uniform

At Orchards, we believe that a school uniform is an important part of school life and we ask that all children follow the uniform policy. Uniform items can be purchased from the school office.

PE Kits

Children will now return to changing IN SCHOOL for PE lessons. It is important that your child's PE kit is all clearly labelled and in a bag that can be easily hung on a peg, which also has their name on.

Awards at Orchards

We will be introducing 'School Values Awards'. Each teacher will nominate 2 children per week for following and demonstrating the school values. These children will be awarded certificates in assembly every Thursday. We are hoping to be able to invite parents to attend these assemblies eventually.

Attendance will also be rewarded through a certificate each half term. Children who achieve 100% attendance for a half term will also have their name placed in a hat and at the end of the year a name will be pulled out to win an amazing prize!! We will be introducing this prize to the children in the next few weeks.



Library

Orchards is extremely lucky to have a beautiful library space. Over the summer we have had an amazing volunteer who has been cataloguing all the books and getting the library ready for your children to use. We have also invested in lots and lots of exciting new books. I cannot wait to see the children choosing books in the library again!

Please could you have a quick check at home for any books that belong to Orchards and return these to the school office. We do need to make sure that we look after and care for these books. Thank you.

Assembly theme:

For this half term we will be focusing on the school values:

- Respect
- Ambition
- Perseverance
- Responsibility

I am looking forward to working together with you all, to support your children as they continue their learning journey with us at Orchards. Thank you for your support.

Best wishes

Mrs Sarah Cullen
Headteacher