

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been another great week here at the Orchard.



Year Two have been learning about the Great Fire of London and they have done some lovely writing about it and know lots of interesting facts. They also started to learn the recorders this week. Our PTA have kindly funded a year group set of recorders so each child has their own.

We look forward to seeing and hearing how they progress.

Year One have been learning all about the climate in countries that are near the equator: learning about why it is so hot, how that affects the people that live there also about the animal life. The children have also been writing postcards from faraway places as if they were the well-travelled meerkat Sunny that they have been reading about in the book **Meerkat Mail** by Emily Gravett.



The Reception children were delighted (and terrified!) by Sophie the dinosaur on Tuesday. There were a few worried faces when she first came in to the hall, but it didn't take long for the children to be patting her on the leg or laughing hysterically when she swung her tail round and bopped one of the presenting adults on the head. They had experience of being palaeontologists finding fossils and have learned many facts about dinosaurs. They have been developing their writing skills designing 'Wanted' posters for missing dinosaurs and describing their characteristics.

We hope that we give the children lots of great opportunities at The Orchard for growth and development in all areas of life and we also recognise that balance in all our lives is important.

Taking care of one's mental health is as essential for adults as it is for children. Parent Mental Health Day is coming up on January 27th. It is an awareness day that focuses on how parents and carers can successfully adapt to challenging life situations, and deal with their own stress and anxiety, while navigating their family through difficult times. Please find attached a resource pack with lots of support ideas and resources to help us all make sure that our own mental health is a priority.

Wishing you all a happy weekend and we will see you on Monday.

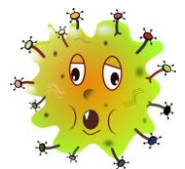
Mrs Cary



I sent an email out this morning regarding winter illnesses that are currently circulating at high levels.

I hope you have all had a chance to look at it.

Thank you for the boxes of tissues that have come in so far. These will help us to avoid spreading those yucky germs. We welcome more boxes. 😊



Thank you for the kind donations already received via our Amazon Wish List.

We really do appreciate them.

Please find the links below if you are able to donate:



amazon
wishlist



The Government has announced a one-off bank holiday on

Monday 8 May 2023

to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

The school will be marking this occasion and won't be open to staff and pupils that day so we can enjoy the celebrations with our families and friends.

Parents, please remember that the **car park is for staff only**.

Please do not use the car park for drop off and pick up, even if picking up later from after school clubs. Parking badges will be issued to visitors/parents that the school have requested to use the car park.



ATTENDANCE

Can I remind parents how important school attendance is?

I know that sickness does play a part, especially at this time of year, and we don't want children to be sent in to school if they are unwell. However, I do want to highlight a few things regarding attendance.

Our whole school attendance for the Autumn term was 95.6% and those parents whose children have less than 90% were sent home attendance details last week.

Although 90% attendance may seem high at first it actually equates to 1 day off school every two weeks.

Over the course of a year, 90% attendance means that your child has missed almost a whole **month** of learning.

We ask that you bear that in mind and ensure that your child maintains as high attendance as possible.

I have included our attendance policy in the attachments for your information.

Kindness Awards

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Frida	Maple	Paige	Beech	Joshua
Elm	Isaac	Rowan	Arlo	Oak	Toby
Holly	Nancy	Willow	Rosie	Sycamore	Sophie



Pine
Odin
"When you are kind to others, it not only changes you, it changes the world." – Harold Kushner



Reminder

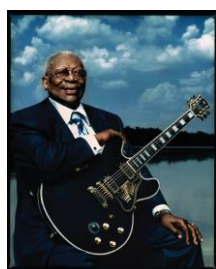


It is really important that all children have all their belongings with them at the beginning of the school day. The school office staff have been inundated with requests lately to take items down to the children in their classrooms after the children have already been dropped off. They are not a delivery service and have many other important things to do in the mornings. Please make sure that everything is taken in when children first go into class.



Thank you

ARTIST OF THE WEEK: B. B. KING



This past week we have been listening to the King of Rock and Roll, this coming week we will be listening to the King of the Blues.

B.B.King was born on a plantation in Mississippi and started playing on street corners but soon found his way to Memphis where every important musician from the South gravitated. He started recording in the 1940s and released over 50 albums, many of them classics. Over the years, B.B. has developed one of the world's most identifiable guitar styles, which has influenced many other great guitarists such as Eric Clapton, George Harrison and the late Jeff Beck, who passed away this week.

Staffing

We are in need of an additional After-School Club assistant to support children in their after-school club activities. If you, or someone you know, is interested in finding out more details of this position, please contact our school office on **020 8979 2945** or via admin@orchard.surrey.sch.uk.

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that there are a couple of corrections and updates from last week.)

Sunday 15th January 2023

Deadline for applications for Reception and Year 3 places - September 2023



Monday 16th January 2023

Consultation for changes to admissions policy ends at 12 noon



Tuesday 17th January 2023

Parenting Puzzle Course starts

Lower Green Community Centre 7-9pm

Please see attached leaflet for more info and contact details.



w/c Monday 23rd January

PTA: Chinese New Year celebrations

(Chinese New Year is Sunday 22nd January)



Friday 27th January 2023

Parent Mental Health Day



Tuesday 7th February 2023

Safer Internet Day



Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd February 2023

Parents Evenings

(more details to follow later in the term)



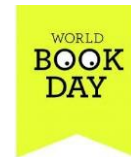
Wednesday 1st March 2023

Whole School
Drama Workshops



Thursday 2nd March 2023

World Book Day



w/c Monday 6th March 2023

Book Fair



w/c Monday 13th March 2023

Science Week



Thursday 16th March 2023

Year 1 and 2 Circus Skills workshop



Friday 17th March 2023

Red Nose Day



Tuesday 28th March 2023

Easter Disco



DATES FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

I am sure that some of you have already started making plans for holiday time for this summer and next year etc. Please be advised of the dates for the 2023/24 start and end of each term, the half term holidays and also our planned INSET days. These can also be found at the Surrey weblink here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates>

Autumn term 2023

Start of term	Half term	End of term
1 September 2023	23 October to 27 October 2023	15 December 2023

Spring term 2024

Start of term	Half term	End of term
2 January 2024	12 February to 16 February 2024	28 March 2024

Summer term 2024

Start of term	Half term	End of term
15 April 2024	27 May to 31 May 2024	23 July 2024



INSET DAYS:

Friday 1st September 2023

Monday 30th October 2023

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Monday 3rd June 2024

Friday 12th July 2024

