

Dear Parents / Carers,

It was a very strange week this week, with strike action half way through. Thank you very much for your co-operation with it all. I understand that it may have been challenging for some of you to find alternative care for your children and am grateful for your support. I am in agreement that change needs to happen in the way our education system is funded. Without trying to get too political, I hope that something will be done to support schools in real terms. I massively value our teachers and support staff here, but the funding for schools has reached crisis point and budgets are being squeezed so much that I can only see it being a detriment to our children. Further strikes are planned for March and I will keep you as informed as I am able as we draw closer to those dates.

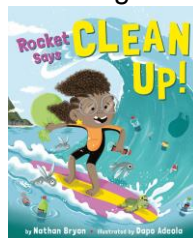
Much learning still continued here this week!
The children have shared with me some lovely things.

Year One have been learning about the work of Kandinsky and using all those hot and cold colours to create some mesmerising art work. In PSHE the children have been thinking about feelings and specifically what they can do make themselves feel better when they are feeling lonely.



In Science, our Year Two children have been learning about the characteristics of living things. There were a few understandable giggles when they realised what it meant that all living things get rid of waste products! They also created some fiery art work using different shade of orange to create a scene from the Great Fire of London. These have been displayed in one of our corridors and they look fantastic!

Our Reception children have been making pictures using 'natural' resources and excitedly shared with me a book they have been reading called "Rocket says Clean Up" by Nathan Bryon. It is very inspiring as it teaches them about looking after our planet. The children have created some wonderful posters that have been displayed in class to encourage others to look after our planet.



Early on this week we had a fire drill and the children's behaviour was very good. There were no warnings given and all children and staff were accounted for within just over two minutes. The children remained calm and sensible the whole time. I will be sure to tell our visiting fire crew on Monday who are coming in to see the Reception children. They will be bringing their fire engine as well!

Have a lovely weekend and I will see you on Monday.

Mrs Cary

School Communication

During the pandemic and with limited face-to-face contact, Teams was used at The Orchard with open access to message teachers. Circumstances are much improved now and this form of direct and immediate communication with class teachers is no longer required.

If your child is unwell we ask that you call in to the school office via telephone on **0208 979 2945** if your child is unwell. It is important that we speak to you directly so that we can get all the information that we need for our records.

Thank you

We do have an open-door policy here and aim to keep you as informed as possible about things that happen in school. We also communicate through weekly newsletters and Year group weekly learning overviews.

If you do have a message that you need to get to the teacher and are unable to tell him/her face-to-face at pick up or drop off, please email the school office.

office@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

The email will then be forwarded on to class teachers who will get in touch with you.

Year Leaders will continue to post weekly learning overviews via Teams for parents to see and class teachers will post whole class messages / reminders as needed.

PARENTS' EVENING

From today at **4:30pm**, our booking system has been available for you to book a 10-minute face-to-face appointment with your child's class teacher. This is a great opportunity to discuss with them your child's progress, their strengths and areas of development. Please make this a priority.

If you have already made arrangements to meet with your child's class teacher for an ISP meeting, you do not need to make an additional appointment as they will share with you progress information in that meeting as well.

I sent an email to you earlier today explaining how to make those bookings. For quick reference, you need to go to <https://orchardsurrey.schoolcloud.co.uk/>



The booking system closes on Friday 17th November at 9:30am.



Kindness Awards

Thank you to these very lovely human beings!



Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Poppy G	Maple	Alecia	Beech	Quentin
Elm	Thomas	Rowan	Sophie	Oak	Emily
Holly	Vladimir	Willow	Ben	Sycamore	Hannah
		Pine	Joshua		

"If you want to lift yourself up, lift someone else up." – Booker T. Washington



Family Learning Courses

Find out more and book your space on some free, interactive Family Learning courses and workshops. Please see the attached flyer alongside this newsletter. There are a range of a parenting courses as well as some specific courses aimed at parents who have English as an additional language.

Daytime and evening sessions are available.





Coffee Morning



with our Family Support Worker, Teresa Doe.

Wednesday 22nd February

9am in the school hall

This will be a great opportunity for parents to connect, share experiences and get to know each other, as well as meet Teresa who does so many great things to support families across our school.

All Welcome!

Please find the links below if you are able to donate using our Amazon Wish Lists:



Safer Internet Day

Especially now we have our brilliant new iPads, it is so important to remind children about online safety. There is so much more to think about than just being vulnerable to online predators or viewing inappropriate images and videos. As part of our online safety curriculum we support pupils with their self-image and identity, online relationships and reputation, online bullying, managing information, health, wellbeing and lifestyle, privacy and security, and copyright and ownership.

We will celebrate Safer Internet Day at The Orchard on 7th February with a range of activities. The theme for 2023 is:

'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.



At school we have developed an acceptable use agreement which we expect all children to follow when using devices at school.

When using computers at school I will:

- ask a teacher or suitable adult if I want to use the computers/tablets
 - use technology safely, sensibly and respectfully
 - use websites that I have been directed towards by my teacher
- not go on a website or download anything without permission from my teacher
 - inform an adult if I see something that upsets me
 - not give out any of my personal information online
 - treat others kindly and respectfully
 - ask for help or guidance if I need it
 - have fun, enjoy my learning and stay safe

We continue to monitor pupil and staff use of the internet and children can also alert staff via our Bee Safe Button if they see something that causes concern or upsets them.

This is a great time perhaps for parents to review settings/restrictions on devices!

As well as setting up parental controls on the device itself, remember to check any apps your child would like on their device. Is it suitable for their age? Review all settings and privacy options for each app. For the devices themselves use the available settings to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPads: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

Google Play: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Dates for the Diary

(Please note that we will rearrange activities where we can if they are affected by strike action.)

Monday 6th February

Reception – Fire Engine Visit and Fire Safety Talk



Monday 6th February

PTA: Year 1 Bake Sale



Monday 6th – 12th February
Children's Mental Health Week



Tuesday 7th February 2023

Safer Internet Day



Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd February 2023

Parents' Evenings



Tuesday 21st February

PTA Meeting – Poyntz Pub @ 8pm



Wednesday 22nd February 2023

Parent Coffee Morning
with our Family Support Worker, Teresa Doe
All invited @ 9am



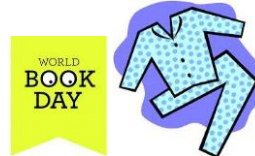
Wednesday 1st March 2023

Whole School - Drama Workshops



Thursday 2nd March 2023

World Book Day - Pyjama Day



w/c Monday 6th March 2023

Book Fair



Monday 10th March 2023

Year 2 – Wisley Trip



w/c Monday 13th March 2023

Science Week



Monday 13th March 2023

Mother's Day Gift Sale



Thursday 16th March 2023

Year 1 and 2 Circus Skills workshop



Friday 17th March 2023

Red Nose Day



Tuesday 28th March 2023

PTA: Easter Disco



Artist of the Week: *Dean Martin*



Dean Martin was born in Ohio, USA and spoke only Italian for the first five years of his life. Before, he hit the big time as an actor, singer and comedian he worked his way through several different jobs including a boxer, a steel mill worker, a gas station worker and a dealer in a casino. He couldn't read music but he recorded more than 100 albums and 600 songs, including Aint' that a Kick in the Head? and That's Amore. He worked alongside Jerry Lewis for many years and he eventually became part of the legendary 'Rat Pack, alongside the likes of Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr.

There's nothing quite like dancing round the kitchen to a Dean Martin song - try it this coming week!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pDOWbWf_-c

Children's Mental Health Week 6th - 12th February 2023

Human beings thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing, and our survival. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. And when our need for rewarding social connections is not met, we can sometimes feel isolated and lonely – which can have a negative impact on our mental health.



Let's Connect is about making meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week - and beyond.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging people to connect with others in healthy, rewarding, and meaningful ways. We will be doing a variety of activities over the week to help promote positive mental health in our children and will be giving them ideas that they can use beyond the classroom.

Please see the attached resource for parents.

You may also want to watch the video clip at the following link to learn more about the theme.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/news-and-blogs/2022/october/place2be-announces-theme-for-children-s-mental-health-week-2023/>

