

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a great first week back with the children and are pleased with how they are settling in to new routines. Thank you for all your support in getting the children here promptly and then leaving the site swiftly. It really helps keep all the children happy and settled and ensures we do not have all families leaving the site at once as the path becomes very congested.

It was very sad to hear of the Queen's passing yesterday. I spoke to the Year 1 and 2 children in assembly about her and we reflected on some key moments in her life. One of which being her very important meeting with Paddington Bear in the summer. They all knew what she had hidden away in her handbag! They also remembered fondly the Jubilee celebrations we had back in May and going over to St Lawrence. They had opportunities to share thoughts and feelings in class today. I will let you know more details about possible school closures for the funeral as and when I get them.

### Coffee Morning

We would like to invite you in to school for a Coffee Morning with the class teachers in your child's year group. This will take place from 9:00am - 9:30am.

- Year 2 – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September
- Reception Class – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September
- Year 1 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September

(If any of these coincide with the Queen's funeral, we will rearrange it for as soon as possible afterwards.)

This will be an opportunity for you to hear more specifically about your child's year group and some of the exciting learning that will be taking place over the course of this year.

### Assemblies

We have a daily assembly. The assemblies are a mixture of class based, year group based and whole school. One of the assemblies has a singing focus and Mr Bond and I were so impressed with the Year One and Two children's singing this week. Reception children will initially have separate assemblies with me and their class teachers but we will introduce them to whole school ones as soon as we able. Next week our theme will be that each one of is needed and important.

### Kindness Awards

From next Friday we have a kindness assembly in school which will be led by Mrs Turi. One child in each class is chosen for their kindness and wears a medal home to celebrate. This medal must then be returned on a Monday! Thank you

### Communication and Log ins

There are a number of ways in which parents can communicate with the school including telephone, email, face to face on the door, note in the book bag, etc! As mentioned in previous Year group letters, we also have our **Class Teams** and log ins and these have been sent home.

You will also have log ins for the online **Big Cat Collins Books**. These is a fabulous reading resource for you to use at home where children will be able to read the decodable books they are reading in school. They decode, use prosody (expression) and share understanding of the book with the adults in school. It is important that they share them at home as well and 'show off' their developing reading skills.



The books that children in Year 1 and 2 have been reading this week will be assigned by the end of today. You may find that due to the summer rollover that other books have been assigned as well, but please look at this week's book with you child – they will know which one it is.

All of these log ins can be found in the communication books they bring home:

- Year 1 and 2 – Reading Record books
- Reception Class – Contact books

If you wish to talk to me as Head Teacher you can catch me on the school gate in the mornings, telephone the school office number on 020 8979 2945 or email me through [admin@orchard.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@orchard.surrey.sch.uk). This telephone number and email is also used for general admin/office enquiries.

### End of day collection

If another adult is collecting your child at the end of the school day we will not release the child to them without prior permission. Please ensure you have let the teacher know in the morning at the beginning of the day. It is important we are informed in advance.

### Parent Helpers

The Orchard school has always benefited from a large number of supportive volunteers who do a variety of activities and jobs in the school and are really grateful for your help. Parent helpers are required to have an up to date DBS check and have attended our school helper safeguarding session. Parents who were previously helpers in school are required, I am afraid, to renew their DBS checks but are not required to re-do the safeguarding training. Safeguarding Sessions for new Parent helpers will be held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 2.30 pm, Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30 pm. These will take place in the hall. Helpers may then contact class teachers to discuss availability and times needed. Even if you can't help out this term, you may be able to at a future time, so it will be worth attending. Thank you in advance!

Thank you for your understanding.

### Beginning of year reminders/guidance:

Please can all children with **long hair** have it tied back. Thank you.

**Jewellery** (except for small stud earring, watches and jewellery of religious significance such as Sikh bangles) **must not be worn.**

Please ensure all **belongings** such as water bottles, PE bags and clothes, book bags etc. are **named**. It is important that they bring everything with them at the beginning of the day. Parents should avoid returning to the school site during teaching hours unless it is to collect a child who is unwell or has a medical appointment. Thank you.

Please ask your child to **dismount scooters/bikes** as they join the pathway to come in to school or come through the car park gate entrance. It is unsafe for children to be riding at speed when there are so many people on site at drop off and collection times. We also kindly ask that children **do not play on the play trail or with the outside equipment** at the pick up and drop off as well.

### PTA

Please come along to the Poyntz Arms at 8pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September for our first PTA meeting of the year. We really value all the support our PTA give us and the children have directly benefitted from so many things that the PTA have raised funds for. We look forward to meeting together and sharing ideas.



### **Family Support**

Our Family Support worker, Teresa Doe, is here each week on the gate and can see parents who would like any advice or support in matters relating to parenting, behaviour management, bereavement and a range of issues which can affect all families. Chat to Teresa or mention to your child's class teacher, if you would like to use this service. Teresa also leads the excellent **Parenting Puzzle Course** which many of our families have attended and loved. It is so practical and helpful. It is usually held in the evening via Zoom. It is a ten-week course and the cost will be £50 but there are concessions. Teresa's telephone number is 07871079205 and her email is [teresadoefs@outlook.com](mailto:teresadoefs@outlook.com)

I hope you all enjoy a relaxing and restful weekend.

Best wishes

Sally Cary

Head teacher