



The Orchard Newsletter



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome everyone! We have had a great first week back with the children and are so pleased with how they are settling in to their new routines. There is always such a lot to get used to at the beginning of the year – for adults and children – but everyone has been fantastic and I am sure it is indicative of what a great year it is going to be.

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 all at once as the path can become very congested. Please remember that class doors close at 8:55am and pick up time is 3pm. We ask you to ensure that your children have everything they need at the beginning for the day rather than dropping it in to the office later in the day.

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Seabrook today as she will be having her baby very soon. We are all very excited for and wish her and husband lots of joy and happiness in the coming weeks. We can't wait to here of the baby's arrival when he or she is finally here.



We also extend a warm welcome to Miss Moutso in Maple class. My apologies that we have not been able to introduce her to Maple class parents properly. She has been enjoying getting to know the children this week and will meet parents more formally in our upcoming Year 1 coffee morning. Please do say hello to her at drop off and collection times so she can get to know who you are. Mrs Pazinas and Mrs Koplick are also supporting the children in Maple class.

As you will have noticed Maple class is now where the old Rowan class used to be and vice versa. I should have made that clear in my letter last Friday but with all the crazy building work that was going on it totally slipped my mind. I am glad that Maple and Rowan class children and parents found their way to the right places. Phew!



Wishing you all a great weekend. Autumn rain and gusty winds will no doubt be just around the corner, so enjoy the glorious weather whilst we still have it.

See you Monday!
Sally Cary

PTA

Please come along to the **Poyntz Arms at 8pm on Thursday 21st September** for our first PTA welcome get together 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 Wednesday 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 her 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

The next course begins on **Thursday 21st September**.

Coffee Mornings

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 on the following days:

- Year 2 – Wednesday 20th September
- Year 1 – Thursday 21st September
- Reception Class – Friday 22nd September



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.

Some parents may not be able to attend due to work commitments, but I will send out the PowerPoint slides after each meeting for you to read and refer to later should you wish.

Reminders

PE Kits

Year 1 and 2

PE kits need to be in school every day. Please check that their trainers fit well.

Reception Children

wear their PE kits all day on Friday and should wear them when they come into school at the beginning of that day.

Hair & Jewellery

Hair that falls below the shoulders must be tied back throughout the day.



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

Scooters and Bikes

I know whizzing up the path to school or across the playground is fun, but please ask your child to **dismount** from their scooters and bikes as they enter the school grounds. This is a safety issue as there have been a couple of near misses this past week.



Play Trails

Please do not allow your child to play with or on the outdoor equipment such as the play trails. Children must only use them if they are being supervised by school staff.

Parent Helpers and Parent Safeguarding Talk

We really appreciate any additional support that parents are able to give in school - whether that be working with groups or individual pupils, helping out with PTA activities or chaperoning on a school trip. In order to do this, parents need to have a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service). There will be cost of £10 for this. Please speak to a member of staff in the office if you are new to the school or have not had one previously and would like to support us in this way.

As well as getting a DBS check, it is important that you also have some additional training on our specific safeguarding policies and practices. I will be holding parent safeguarding talks on **Tuesday 19th September 9am – 9:30am and on Friday 22nd September 2:15pm – 2:45pm** here at the school. There will also be an **online talk on Monday 25th September at 6pm.**

If you would like to attend either of these talks, please could you let the office know by phoning in on 020 8979 2945 to book a preferred date. There will be some reading to go alongside, which will send out to those who have booked on it via Parentmail two days prior to the meetings.

Cleaner Position

Is there a 'Mrs Hinch' inside of you (or someone you know) that is dying to get out?

The school is in desperate need of a cleaner to work 2 hours a day after school. If you are interested, but after school child care is an issue then we would be happy to discuss the added use of our Afterschool club facilities for your child.



Please contact the school office if you are would like further information about it.

admin@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

02089792945



Artist of the Week

Just as we did last year, we will be focusing on a different musical artist every week and the children can hear the music being played around the school at various times. This year, we have the chance to listen to and appreciate a real mix of artists such as Billie Halliday, Vivaldi, The Beatles and Johnny Cash.

This past week we listened to Elton John and next week we will be listening to **Ed Sheeran**.

Here are 5 weird and wonderful facts about this popstar:

- 1) Ed's albums to date have all been named after mathematical singles: + (Plus), x (Multiply), ÷ (Divide), = (Equals) and – (Subtract).
- 2) He has sold more than 150 million records worldwide.
- 3) He is the most followed artist on Spotify.
- 4) Ed supports his local football team Ipswich town and paid to sponsor their kit for the 2021-2022 season.
- 5) In 2019, Ed appeared in an advert for his favourite sauce Heinz Tomato Ketchup. The company then released a limited-edition version of the sauce called 'Edchup'.



You can listen to some of his songs by clicking on this link:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4fBwzmfazyZcFTwP77Taww?si=9d39d963a73f422a>

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 14th September

PTA: Uniform Sale



Year Group Coffee Mornings

9 – 9:30am



Wednesday 20th September

Year 2 Parents

Thursday 21st September

Year 1 Parents

Friday 23rd September

Reception Parents



Thursday 21st September

PTA Welcome

Poyntz Arms 8pm

All Welcome



Tuesday 19th September

Parent Safeguarding Talk 9:00am

Friday 22nd September

Parent Safeguarding Talk 2:30pm

Monday 25th September

Parent Safeguarding Talk Online 6pm



Thursday 21st September

New Parenting Puzzle Course starts



Parent Tour Mornings for Sept 2024 intake

9 – 9:30am

Wednesday 4th Thursday 5th October

Wednesday 11th Thursday 12th October

Wednesday 18th Thursday 19th October



Monday 16th October

Halloween Disco and Pumpkin Competition



Tuesday 17th October

Donut Sale after school



Look out for our full year school planner which will be winging its way to you next week.



St Pauls' Church on Church Road, East Molesey will be hosting Messy Church again this term. They meet 3:15 for a snack and then the children can participate in a variety of fun activities (some of which potentially could get messy!) You can contact stpaulmolesey@gmail.com or call 020 8941 2071 if you would like further information.

Dates this term are as follows:

Tuesday 12th September
Tuesday 10th October
Tuesday 14th November
Tuesday 12th December (this will be Christingle)

To learn more about Messy Church go to the following website: <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/>

School Term and Holiday Dates for 2023/2024



The Autumn Term 2023:

Half Term: Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October
Inset Days: Friday 1st September, Monday 30th October



The Spring Term 2024:

Tuesday 2nd January - Thursday 28th March
Children start on Wednesday 3rd January
Half Term: Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February
Inset Days: Tuesday 2nd January



The Summer Term 2024:

Monday 15th April - Tuesday 23rd July
Children start on Monday 15th April
Half Term: Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May
Inset Days: Monday 3rd June, Friday 12th July