

Dear Parents,

I hope that you continue to stay well and are enjoying some success with your children's learning alongside managing your own work and other responsibilities. We do recognise the challenges you are all facing and sincerely hope that the materials and support we have been providing help you to navigate these difficult times. The staff and I would like to thank you all for the positive feedback and overwhelming support we have received.

We have seen an increase in the number of parents accessing the Learning Platform. This is great news and we thank you for all that you are doing to support the children. Remember that we are here to help answer questions and guide you.

(It's learning- accessible through the front page of our website: www.orchard.surrey.sch.uk)

We have named our new, small, mixed age group class as "Cedar Class". A team of six to eight staff are in school each day on a part time rota including a class teacher, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, four or five Learning Support Assistants, our Cook our Caretaker, our Office Manager and myself. Thank you very much to all the staff for their continuing efforts at home and at work to ensure we can provide on line learning and daily provision for "Cedar Class".

The Orchard is closing for the Easter two -week holiday period as there was insufficient demand for holiday care from the parents of Cedar Class.

I have communicated with the whole staff team and asked them to cease the daily learning provision and email communications for this two- week period to enable them to rest and focus on their families and their own well- being. **Staff will not respond to emails for the next two weeks.**

During the holiday period, of course, you may still access the materials we have provided during the past two weeks and you will also be able to access the other online materials we have purchased as a school: "mathletics", "spelling shed", "espresso" and "oxford owl" (free). Year group teachers have, I know, also recommended other online resources to you through the learning platform communications.

Daily online learning materials will be available again from **Monday 20th April.**

We are not able to provide live streaming of lessons as some parents have requested as teachers are not all in school but working from home doing planning for online lessons and carrying out their own leadership and professional development responsibilities. When in school, teachers are not teaching whole class lessons but small group and 1:1 teaching according to the children in the class that day and need to focus on these responsibilities.

The teachers have, however, begun to film some story telling sessions for the children which will be uploaded to the Learning Platform. We hope the children will enjoy these stories which are related to their other learning tasks and also be pleased to see the teachers!

Staff news

Congratulations to Mrs Coburn (LSA, Oak class), who has got a new job starting at the beginning of May. We will miss her greatly and thank her for her constant enthusiasm, professionalism and work for the children in Oak Class.

I am excited to announce that Mr Lavall, (Holly Class Teacher), and his wife are expecting a baby in August. I am pleased to share this wonderful news with you all. Congratulations to them both!

Wishing you all a peaceful break. Thank you again for all you are doing for the children. We miss them! We hope you all remain well and can enjoy some sunshine!

We will look forward to communicating with you all and hearing from you after Easter.

With very best wishes,

C. Rusby