

15th July 2020

Dear Parents,

I could never have imagined last September what the final term of this academic year would have looked like. For all of us the last few months have been extraordinary, challenging, worrying, saddening, exhausting and so different from our usual routine and expectations. However, what has become clear is the strength, resilience and positivity which comes from belonging to a close knit and supportive community. It has been a privilege to work with our fantastic staff team and with all of you to ensure that The Orchard Community has continued to serve and thrive.

Congratulations to you all as parents for managing the day to day home learning with resilience and determination while trying to work and attend to all your other responsibilities. We have been overwhelmed by the quality of so much of the children's learning and their engagement throughout these seemingly endless weeks! We also know how it has been a struggle for many of you and how frustrated you will have been if your children have not returned to school. We have shared your frustration.

Congratulations to the children who have had their routine turned upside down and have missed their friends and yet have kept going with their learning. We have missed them all and it has been wonderful to see them for their visits.

Congratulations to my whole staff team who have responded to every change and new challenge with flexibility, positivity and conscientiousness, consistently working together to do their best for the children and the school. I am incredibly proud of our Orchard Team.

Thank you to the Governing Body who have supported, guided, listened and read the endless documents we have had to digest on a daily basis.

Good Bye to all our Year Two Children and Families

It is with mixed feelings we say good bye to all our year two children this year. We are pleased that we will see each class and their parents at the tea parties. We will be emailing you the wonderful **collage class photos** for each class and the **film** of them singing our end of year song. Thank you for helping us to create these and thank you to Mr Tynegate for putting them together.

We will miss the children very much yet we know that they will go on to their new schools with resilience, determination and courage. We know that they have learned to respect one another during their time at The Orchard, to show kindness and to work hard. The children have learned how to collaborate, to solve problems and to talk about their ideas and their feelings. Our hope is that all these qualities and skills, so embedded in our whole school Orchard approach, will serve them as they move on to year three and throughout their lives. We hope that they will have happy, life long memories of their days at The Orchard.

Good Luck Year Two children! We are really proud of you and know you will enjoy success at your new schools. Well done to everyone!

Tea Party Arrangements:

The Tea Parties for Year Two will take place between 3.15 and 4.15 pm. Please drop your child to us in the playground and return to see the self- portrait displays and class singing at 4.05 pm. In the event of rain, we will host the tea party in the hall but sing outside under the Year One classes

canopy. Children may wear their own clothes and need to bring a named carrier bag to bring home their work. We will provide the tea (individually wrapped items) for them.

Please also return any remaining reading books you have at home- Thank-you!

The remaining dates for After School Visits and Tea Parties are as follows:

Week beginning July 13th: Second Visit

W Beech 1 – *Today 15th July*

Th Beech 2

F Oak Class **Outdoor Tea Party**

Week beginning July 20th

M Sycamore Class **Outdoor Tea Party**

T Beech Class **Outdoor Tea Party**

Reading books

Please may I remind parents to return reading books which were taken home in March. Our resources are depleted and we really want to be able to offer the full range of reading books in September. Please bring them on your final visit to the school before the summer break. Many thanks.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

Thank you very much for following the instructions to ensure club bookings could be processed electronically and fairly. We are delighted that we have been able to provide places for everybody who booked for Breakfast club with all the sessions required. We have been able to provide places for almost everybody for all sessions for After School club. We will be emailing you tomorrow with confirmation of places. The clubs will be organised with three different smaller year groups within the hall and other areas of the school when needed. Drop off and Collection will be via the school hall door accessed through the Reception Playground.

Football Club will be taking place in September on a Thursday and a Friday for Year One and Two. Booking forms and details will be sent out via Parent mail during the first week in September before the children start school. Football for Reception children will start later in the Academic Year.

Playball Club will also be taking place at The Orchard. I am confirming arrangements with Gareth on Thursday. Letters with booking details will come out to you via Parent mail before the end of this term. This club will be available to all year groups and organised in small, year group classes.

End of year letters and homework information for current Year Groups

We will be sending out end of year individual letters for you and the children describing some of their achievements.

Reception and Year Two children will take the letters and information home by hand, (Year Two children will receive these at the Tea Parties), and we will email our Year One families.

Year One and Two families will receive the maths revision and consolidation text book for the summer holidays on their final after school visit. Many of you will have received this by now.

Current Reception Children

Current Reception children will bring home reading books for the summer.

Please can you bring another **named carrier bag** on their last day of school so that they can bring home their things. Thank you.

Well done to the Reception children who have been fantastic since the 1st June! They have impressed us so much with their enthusiasm and eagerness to learn as well as their resilience in response to new routines, teachers and organisation. Thank you to all of our Reception Parents for trusting us and supporting us in bringing so many children back to school.

Here is a reminder of the finishing times:

End of Term Dates

We will be finishing from 1.15 pm on **Wednesday 22nd July for the Summer holidays**. Collection times are as follows:

Holly 1: 1.15pm Holly 2: 1.25 pm Elm 1: 1.30pm Elm 2: 1.20 pm

Ash 1: 1.35pm Ash 2: 1.40 pm Year One and Two Key worker Classes: 1.45pm

Things to remember in September:

Class/Year Group	Drop off	Collection
Year Two: Oak, Beech, Sycamore	8.40	2.50 pm
Year One: Willow, Rowan, Maple	8.50	3.00 pm
Any children who have siblings at <i>St Lawrence</i> for Yr R, Yr1 and Yr2	9.00	See year group time
Reception Year: Holly, Elm, Ash	9.10	2.40 pm

- **Year One and Two** families and families with siblings at St Lawrence must enter via Hansler Grove and leave promptly through Bridge Gardens
- **Reception** families arriving at 9.10 may enter and leave through Bridge Gardens if they wish as they are the last group entering the school site.
- **Attendance and Punctuality** are vitally important as your children have already missed so much school. The usual policies, procedures and fixed penalty notices will be applied as usual from September. Please refer to our attendance policy on the website.
- The timings and organisation of the drop off and collection arrangements will be monitored and reviewed early in the term to ensure this is working effectively.

Please bring

- Named Book bags each day
- Named PE kit in your child's named PE bag

- Named Water bottle to bring on a Monday and take home on a Friday (staff will refill each day and as needed)
- Named Scooters- to be parked in usual scooter pods
- Named coat

Summer Holiday online resources

I will be sending a leaflet with a new online “Centre for Language in Primary Education” resource for all year groups which we have paid for as a school. This will also be available through a link on the front page of our website. The leaflet will also include reminders about the other online resources you may use in the holidays.

Good wishes from all the Staff to all our Orchard families

I look forward to seeing our Year Two families at the Tea Parties to say “Good Bye “and to give our best wishes in person!

The staff and I are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Reception, Year One and Two children in to their new classes in September.

Finally, I would like to wish you and all your families a very healthy and happy Summer break.

With very best wishes,

Carol Rusby