

5th June 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope that you were able to enjoy the half term break from home learning and make the most of the sunshine we had throughout that week! Thank you for all you are continuing to do to support your children's learning at home. We realise how challenging this continues to be, particularly when some children are returning to school and when you will all have work and other pressures on you.

It has been a very busy few weeks in planning, setting up and organising the school for our Reception children and it has been a really successful start back for them this week.

Year 2 Poetry competition

The year 2 children wrote poems on the theme of "ambition" shortly before schools were closed and Mr Elliott entered their work in to a national "Premier Stars" poetry competition. I am excited to inform you that one of Beech class, India, has been nominated as one of the South East regional winners to be entered in to the national competition. Here is her inspirational poem below. Congratulations India and year 2 children for their excellent poems!

Ambition

Decide what you want to do,

And listen to your heart.

Believe yourself and go on,

Just listen to your heart.

Believe in yourself and listen hard,

Listen to your heart.

Be brave and don't give up,

And listen to your heart.

Home Learning

Thank you very much to all of you who are sending examples of the children's learning and great behaviour at home. The teachers are delighted to see it and provide feedback for the children and you! We hope that this serves to motivate the children and you to keep the routine going. Remember that we are able to provide certificates for the children through the Learning Platform.

Thank you to the teaching staff for continuing to lead and manage this.

Year one competition

Ten children entered this week and winners' certificates have been awarded to Callum and Myla Well done children! A new competition will be announced on Monday 8th June so do look out for that on the Learning Platform.

In year one the new KIRF's (key instant recall facts) will focus on halving and doubling so do look out for the activities on the Learning Platform.

Year two challenges

It has been great to see the inventive ways children are finding to create a parachute and keep it up in the air! It has been also lovely to hear about the range of learning they are doing at home.

Year Two are awarding writer of the week certificates so do encourage your child to share their writing with us.

Parent training course

In both year one and year 2 home learning folders you will find a parent training course. This is for you and not the children. It contains brief films which show the children and my narration which explain the rationale and approach we have to learning at The Orchard. I hope these may be helpful to you.

Useful websites reminder

BBC bitesize are producing good quality material to support English and maths. Also do remember "oxford owl" for e books, phonics and other resources, espresso, mathletics and spelling shed.

Do email the year teams if you need any further guidance.

Return to school

The Government continues to write in our regular updates of their "ambition" for all primary children to return to school before the end of the academic year but have not provided any information as to when their restrictions on class size and all the other regulations will be lifted. We are awaiting, just as you are, news of any further easing of the restrictions. As soon as I have any further information I will write to you immediately. As stated in previous letters, we are using our whole staff team (Teachers and Learning Support Assistants) and our building to full capacity to enable 7 classes of a maximum of fifteen children in each while facilitating the class groups as separate "bubbles" who do not interact with each other. This has been very successful because we are able to use all of the school grounds and areas in addition to the classroom spaces. Our Key Worker class is now full to capacity with more of our critical workers returning to work.

July INSET day

Although I cancelled the June INSET day for staff in order to bring the Reception children back to school as soon as possible I am, at the moment, keeping the INSET day on July 10th so that we can plan further ahead and ensure we facilitate the best induction and transition for all our children as we plan for September 2020 and beyond. I will, however, be flexible and postpone this if there is a need.

Transition for Year 2 to Year 3

Mr Tucker, (Head Teacher at St Lawrence), and I have been discussing arrangements regularly and there are some excellent plans to ensure the best transition possible for the children in year two. St Lawrence will be in touch with year two parents whose children are attending St Lawrence soon and are organising several ways of ensuring the children become familiar with the school, (albeit virtually), and have positive contact and communication with their year three teachers. The Orchard staff will be providing handover information based on prior achievement when they were at school,

attitudes to learning, personal and social skills and any evidence of their home learning achievements.

Feedback and communication

I am meeting with the class reps at a PTA Zoom meeting on Monday evening so will answer more of your questions as far as I am able to in the very uncertain times we inhabit.

Year 2 Leavers events and mementoes

The Year 2 team are planning with me to ensure positive memories and experiences for our year 2 children whether they return to school or not. Next week we will be sending you a song for all the year 2 children to learn. We are planning year 2 after school class tea parties for late in the summer term and will provide the dates and further confirmation in a future newsletter.

We are also planning to create whole class montage photos for you to include the staff. Please look out for details in the next newsletter.

Do continue to communicate through the year group emails, the learning platform and the office email address:

“It’s learning” Learning Platform: <https://elm.itslearning.com/>

This can also be accessed through the front page of our website: www.orchard.surrey.sch.uk

Year one: y1@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

Year two: y2@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

Office and Mrs Rusby: admin@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

For urgent safeguarding concerns: dsl@orchard.surrey.sch.uk

I will continue to write to you regularly.

Thank you very much for all your support for the children and the school.

With very best wishes,

Carol Rusby