



The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 11th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a real pleasure to welcome our new Reception children this week as they begin their journey with us. With Reception now joining the Year 1 and Year 2 children, who returned last week, the school is once again full of energy and activity and the year feels truly underway.

Thank you to the many Year 1 and Year 2 parents who attended our recent Coffee Mornings. We hope you found them informative and helpful. The information shared by class teachers has been sent out via ParentMail and can also be found on our website. We look forward to meeting our Reception families at Monday's Coffee Morning.

Our **Reception** children have made a fantastic start. Starting school is a big step and we are incredibly proud of how they have approached new routines, new friendships and a new environment. I loved my assembly with them yesterday where they sat and listened to the story beautifully and we enjoyed singing some songs together. They have shown great confidence and determination and are already settling well into school life.

Across the school, classrooms have been busy places.

Year 1 children have been immersing themselves in the story of [Blue Kangaroo](#) and creative activities, working together on exciting challenges that have encouraged teamwork, problem-solving and imagination.



Year 2 children have quickly settled into their learning and have been producing some thoughtful writing based on the book [Silly Billy](#), developing their maths skills and learning more about the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom.



As always, we value the partnership between home and school. Your support makes a significant difference to your child's experience and success at school. One way to get involved is through our **PTA**, which plays an important role in supporting school life and creating memorable experiences for our children. Whether you can offer lots of time or just occasional help, new members are always welcome.

The first PTA meeting of the year will take place at **7.30pm at The Poyntz on Monday 14th September.**

We would love to see you there.

A few gentle reminders

Packed lunches

If your child brings a packed lunch, please try to include food and packaging that they can manage independently. This helps to build confidence and ensures they have plenty of time to enjoy their lunch.

Lunch arrangements

Children should either have a **school dinner** or a **packed lunch** on any given day. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer a combination of the two.

Medical Tracker

We use Medical Tracker to notify parents of any first aid treatment or injuries that occur at school; please ensure the Medical Tracker email address is added to your safe senders list to prevent messages going into your junk folder and potentially missing important information.

School site safety

Please remember that:

- Dogs are not permitted on the school site.
- The trim trails and outdoor play equipment must not be used before or after school.
- Parents and visitors should only enter the school building with permission from a member of staff.

Thank you for your continued support and for helping us to keep our school safe, welcoming and running smoothly.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend. See you on Monday!

Sally Cary

Our Value Award Winners are...

Ash

Jensen

Elm

Lola

Holly

Joshua

Willow

Quintin

Maple

Jessica

Rowan

Fearne

Beech

Victoria

Oak

Olivia

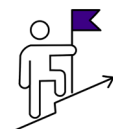
Sycamore

Eva

Courage



Determination



Respect



Kindness



"A ship in harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." - John A. Shedd



Making the Most of Teams

Reception Parents: You will be getting your log ins for Teams next week.

We appreciate that there is a lot of information to take in at the start of a new school year, so we would encourage all parents to take some time to explore **Microsoft Teams** and check the information passed on from our class teachers.

Many of the questions we receive are answered in the parent information documents and class guidance already available on Teams. Checking these resources first can often provide a quick answer and helps ensure that everyone receives accurate and up-to-date information.

While parent WhatsApp groups can be a useful way to connect with other families, information can sometimes become unclear as it is passed on. For this reason, Teams and school communications should always be the first point of reference. **Regularly checking Teams** will help you stay informed and ensure that important messages, resources and announcements are not missed.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain effective communication between home and school.

What to do if your child is unable to attend school



Contact the School Before 9:05am

Let us know on the **first day of absence**, so we know your child is safe.

Call the school office **02089792945**

Leave a message with your child's name, class and the reason for absence.



Absent for More Than One Day?

Please contact the school **each day** your child is absent.

Let us know when they are well enough to return.



Running Late?

School starts promptly at **8:40am**.

If you arrive after this time, please come to the school office with your child so we can record the reason for lateness.



Haven't Contacted Us?

If we haven't heard from you by **9:05am**, a member of staff will contact you to check on your child's whereabouts.



Every Day Counts!

Regular & punctual attendance helps children:

Enjoy learning

Build friendships

Feel confident and settled

Achieve their best

Thank you for your support!

Attendance



Please be reminded that if you take your child(ren) out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.
3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Musical Artist of the Week



One Direction

We'll be singing along to this pop band this coming week!

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/1gOg6g6CmKMnXZvdXGJzYY>

Please Don't Forget

PE Kits

These can be worn on the children's PE days.



Reception: Friday

Maple:

Tuesday & Wednesday

Rowan:

Monday & Tuesday

Willow:

Tuesday & Wednesday

Beech:

Tuesday & Wednesday

Oak:

Wednesday & Thursday

Sycamore:

Wednesday & Thursday

Hair & Jewellery

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



Jewellery must not be worn including earrings,

with the exception of (non-smart or non-tracking) watches and jewellery of religious significance (such as Sikh bangles).

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.



Car Park

The car park is strictly for staff and those with Orchard School parking permits.

Scooters and Bikes

Please dismount from their scooters and bikes when you are on the school grounds.



No Dogs on Site



Parent Helpers & 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 school resources, supporting with PTA activities or chaperoning on a school trip.

Your child's class teachers will be reaching out to parents in the next few weeks with more details about this.

In order to be able to support your child and the school in this way, we require our volunteers to have a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service). There will be a cost of £12.50 to 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 start this process.

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 in person at the school on:

Wednesday 16th September at 8:00pm – 8:30pm (online)

Friday 18th September 2:20pm – 2:50pm (at school)

Monday 21st September 9:00am – 9:15am (at school)

If you would like to attend any of these talks, please could you let the office know by phoning in on 020 8979 2945 to reserve your preferred date.

There will be some documents to read to go alongside the training.



Family Support

Our Family Support worker, Teresa Doe, is here each Tuesday 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 (Nurturing Programme)** which many of our families have attended and loved. It is so practical and helpful. It is held in the evening (online) and is a ten-week course which is fully funded.

**10-week Nurturing Programme. Tuesday evenings online via MS Teams;
22nd Sept – 1st Dec 2026, 1900-2045
(1 hour 45 minutes), with a break for October half term. Fully funded.**

What is the Nurturing Programme?

Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging. The Nurturing Programme helps deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life. A tried and tested programme, it helps us think about what we do, why we do it and how it makes us feel.

What does it cover?

Over the 10-week Programme, you will look at lots of different topics, including: **Understanding why children behave as they do,**
Recognising the feelings behind behaviour (ours and theirs),
Exploring different approaches to discipline,
Finding ways to develop co-operation and self-discipline in children,
Learning the importance of looking after ourselves
and much more

If you are interested in any of the above, Teresa's telephone number is 07871 079205 and her email is teresadoefs@outlook.com.



The course begins on **Tuesday 22nd September**.

Reception 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. Coffee/Tea and biscuits will be available from 9:00am and then the teachers will share information with you about the upcoming year from 9:15am. The meeting should last about 20 minutes.

•Reception Class – Monday 14th 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 other commitments, but the PowerPoint slides will be sent out after each meeting for you to read and refer to later should you wish.

Parent Tours



As many of our children move on to **St Lawrence Junior School**, parents may be interested to know that the school is hosting a number of parent tours. These visits provide an opportunity to see the school during the learning day, giving parents a real insight into school life. Visitors will be able to observe learning in action and enjoy a guided tour of the school and its facilities. If your child will be transferring to junior school next year, this is a great chance to find out more about what St Lawrence has to offer. Please contact St Lawrence Junior School directly for further information and booking details.

21st September 2026

1st October 2026

7th October 2026

4th November 2026

8th December 2026

7th January 2027

<https://www.stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk/>

Dates for your Diary

 <https://orchard.surrey.sch.uk/Calendar/>

Click on the 'subscribe' button to sync your device to it.

Monday 14th September
Reception Coffee Morning
9:15 – 9:45am



Monday 14th September
PTA Meeting
Poyntz 7:30 pm



Wednesday 16th September
Parent Safeguarding Talk
8pm online



Friday 18th September
Parent Safeguarding Talk
2:20pm

Monday 21st September
Parent Safeguarding Talk
9:00am



Monday 21st September
Maths Pattern Week starts



Tuesday 22nd September
7:00pm – 8:45pm
Parenting Puzzle Course



10th October
**Deadline for Personalised
Christmas Card Orders**



Thursday 8th and Friday 9th
October
**PTA: African Drumming
Workshop**



Tuesday 13th October
**Reception Parent Phonic
Workshop**
9:15 – 9:45



Thursday 15th and Friday
16th October
Year 2 Bake Sale



The Autumn Term 2026:

Inset Day:
Tuesday 1st September

Term:
Wednesday 2nd
September –
Friday 18th December

Half Term:
Monday 19th October –
Friday 30th October



The Spring Term 2027:

Inset Day:
Monday 4th January

Term:
Tuesday 5th January –
Thursday 25th March

Half Term:
Monday 15th February –
Friday 19th February



The Summer Term 2027:

Term:
Monday 12th April –
Friday 23rd July

Half Term: Monday 31st
May – Friday 4th June

Inset Days:
Monday 26th July,
Tuesday 27th July,
Wednesday 28th July

