



The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 4th September 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first weekly newsletter of the new school year!

We have had a great first few days back with our Year 1 and Year 2 children and we are pleased with how the children are settling in to their new classes and 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 putting their best foot forward. Our Reception team have enjoyed attending home visits with children and parents over the last few days and are looking forward to a few more on Monday and then welcoming all the children officially into school next week.

As well as welcoming the children back, we have been pleased to welcome a number of new members of staff. Miss Curlewis and Mrs Ford have joined our teaching team and we have a number of new staff in our wrap around provision. These include Mrs Batten, Mrs Marshall, Miss Philpott and Miss Adams.

We are very happy they have joined us!



This newsletter contains some information about upcoming events that are happening in our school and local community.

In particular, please make note of the reminders section, the diary dates and the information about the year group coffee mornings and parent safeguarding talks.

You will find lots of other information on our website and can sync your phone calendars to our website calendar if that helps:

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

Wishing you all a great weekend.

See you Monday!

Sally Cary

Book Bag Key Rings

Please could you limit the number of key rings attached to your child's book bag to one.

We appreciate that key rings can be very helpful in enabling children to quickly identify and find their own book bags. However, we are finding that book bags with multiple key rings do not fit easily into the classroom storage boxes.

Unfortunately, the additional key rings can also become caught or pulled, resulting in them being damaged or broken, which can be upsetting for children.

To help avoid this, we kindly ask that only **one key ring** is attached to each book bag. Any additional key rings will be removed from next week.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



Musical Artist of the Week



Queen

Please join us this week by listening to the music from this legendary rock band.

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4ZQ7DtL4svl3sUD6gGQEXf>

Reminders

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 small cost 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**.

Year Group 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. Coffee/Tea and a biscuit 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.

- **Year 1 – Wednesday 9th September**
- **Year 2 – Thursday 10th September**
- **Reception Class – Monday 15th 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 7th September
Reception Home Visits



Tuesday 8th September –
Thursday 10th September
**Reception phased start
begins - 8:30am**



**Year Group Coffee
Mornings**



Wednesday 9th September
Year 1 Parents
9:15 – 9:45am

Thursday 10th September
Year 2 Parents
9:15 – 9:45am

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



Monday 14th September
PTA Meeting



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



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



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

