

The Orchards Primary Academy

Newsletter

28th February 2020 / Spring Term



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term.

There is a lot going on in school over the next few weeks, starting with our Parent Evening sessions which will be held next week. This is a really important opportunity for you to meet with your child's teacher and see how they are getting on. We are now half way through the school year so we are at a critical point for reviewing the children's progress and seeing what we can put in to place to ensure they meet their potential by the end of the school year. We look forward to seeing lots of you there!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Carrier

Important Dates

Tuesday 3rd March – Y4 & Y5 parents meeting Children's University

Wednesday 4th March – Parents Evening until 7pm

Thursday 5th March – Parents Evening until 5pm

Thursday 5th March – World Book Day. Children to dress up in Disney theme

Wednesday 18th March – Year 3 and 4 Holi workshop

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th March – Pre-School closed for staff training

Thursday 2nd April – Children's last day

Friday 3rd April – TEACHER DAY. Last day of term

Holidays in term time

As you are aware, we are unable to authorise holidays in term time. Unfortunately, we have recently had to issue a fine to families who attend The Orchards due to unauthorised absences at a cost of £60 per parent.

Reading

A few weeks ago, we asked the children across the school to complete a questionnaire to gauge their attitudes to reading.

Reading is something that we are always working on in school, with the aim of developing children who have a love for engaging with books.

With this in mind, we have created an area in school where years 3 – 6 can borrow books, at the right level for their age, to read in the school day during playtime and lunchtime.

The children will need to sign the books out and read them at their pleasure; these books will need to remain in school. We hope to see lots of children signing books out on loan and reading them around school!



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News from Early Years

Reception This week the children have written a shopping list for their trip to Northfield. The children had a great time, especially shopping at Sainsbury's. Next week to celebrate 'World Book Day' the children are learning through the story 'The Little Red Hen'. The children will make and taste a variety of breads. They will decide which they liked the best and then in maths they will complete a class tally chart and discuss their findings.

Nursery The children are now learning about 'Superheroes'. They have painted their own superhero and labelled it. To celebrate 'World Book Day' the children will be learning through the book 'Aliens Wear Underpants'. As part of this work, the children will learn about the NSPCC 'Pants' rule which teaches them how to keep themselves safe. For more information, take a look at the NSPCC website

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/underwear-rule/>

Attendance

Number for reporting absences 0121 464 4302 Mr Hadley. School must be informed of absences before 9.30am on each day of absence.

Whole school attendance: 96.6%

Highest class attendance this week: Year 3, 98.6%

Social Media

Follow us on...

www.theorchardsprimary.com

@orchardsac on Twitter

News from KS1

Year 1 - Linked to their Birmingham topic, year 1 enjoyed a fantastic day out at the Legoland Discovery Centre. They were able to demonstrate their understanding when exploring the Lego Miniland (an interactive city which changes from day to night). They will be completing work based on their trip next week in the classroom.

Year 2 have been busy perfecting their Close Reading skills. The children are regularly exposed to unfamiliar vocabulary and through discussion, are able to internalise and apply this vocabulary in their independent writing. Please discuss new vocabulary when reading with your child.

Year 3 now have access to a newly developed book loan service. At the end of their corridor, there is a reading display and books have been organised into appropriate reads for years 3-6. The children are able to loan books so that they can enjoy reading during their free time in school. Please encourage your child to take up this offer of a book loan.

News from KS2

This term is especially important for year six pupils who will see the final countdown to their SATs tests in May. To assist the children, we have opened the morning mathematics clubs to all year 6 pupils on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and it is extremely beneficial for all pupils to attend to give them extra practice. The club starts at 8.10am on these days.

Hopefully both children and parents have benefitted from the materials provided in the Year 4 workshop regarding the multiplication tables. Children now really need to focus upon their 6,7,8,9 and 12 times tables so that they can recall facts quickly. If you could spend just ten minutes every other day helping your child with this, I am sure your child will appreciate and benefit from this.

Year 5 continue to study their topic about water around the world- this has been very appropriate considering the weather we've had over the last couple of weeks! Once again, thank you for your continued support with your child's learning!