

The Orchards Primary Academy

Newsletter

6th November 2020 / Autumn Term



Dear Parents/Carers,

Once again, we find ourselves in another national lockdown due to Covid-19. As you are aware, the Government has taken the decision to keep schools open this time around and children are expected to attend school where they are fit and well to do so.

As life is anything but usual for our children right now, we are trying to keep things as normal as possible inside of school. This week has seen our class elections for School Parliament members, where the children vote for their peers to represent their class. I am pleased to share with you our School Parliament members for the 2020-2021 academic year!

Year 2 – Anna & Vincent

Year 3 – Frankie & Sahara

Year 4 – Shae & Charlie D

Year 5 – Elizeth & Joshua R

Year 6 – Lewie & Sophie

Chair – Rio V (year 6)

Congratulations to these children; it means a lot when your friends show faith in you!

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Carrier

Important Information

As you may now be aware, we have had confirmed cases of COVID19 in school today. This affects Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and our breakfast club.

Letters have been sent out detailing actions that need to be taken, if your child's bubble has been affected. All other children are expected to continue to attend school as they have not been in contact with the affected people.

Updates

On Monday 2nd November, we had a teacher training day for staff in school. The day was divided up into two parts; refining the teaching of children's writing and the wider curriculum.

Part of this work involved the 6 R's that we use for our writing process. Your child should be able to talk about these and know which stage they are at! Please talk to them about the text they are working on in their English lessons and what genre of writing they are focusing on.



Parents' Evening

Our parent evening sessions were held this week via telephone consultation rather than the usual face to face meetings. We really hope that you found these discussions just as useful. Thank you to everyone who made themselves available for the time slot you were given; we felt that the meetings went really well given the difficult circumstances that we find ourselves in.

Rebuild update!

Next week will see the start of the demolition of the old Year 5 and 6 corridor in the junior building. We are really excited for this next phase of building works but expect lots of noise and dirt around!

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News from Early Years

Pre-School

The children are learning about Remembrance Day. They have made poppies and held the two minutes' silence to remember those who were lost. The children have also started to learn about the topic *Autumn*.

Nursery

The children have celebrated Halloween. They dressed up in costumes and even made a wand. They children have also carved a pumpkin in their family groups!

Reception

The children have started their topic by trying to answer the question 'do witches really exist?' They have enjoyed making spells using a cauldron and they have been learning through the story 'The Room on the Broom'.

Attendance

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

Whole school attendance: 94.7%

Highest class attendance: Year 6,

96.1%



Social Media

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News from KS1

The children have all made a fantastic start to the second half of the Autumn term and we have enjoyed hearing all about their half term relaxation and recreation. Across all KS1 year groups, the children are thoroughly engaged in their termly topics; their knowledge and skills linked to the following topics are improving daily:

Y1- *Street Detectives*

Y2- *The Tudors & Stuarts*

Y3- *Stone Age & Bronze Age*

Within English lessons, your children are also reading texts which link directly to these topics, giving them the opportunity to recall and apply their historical and geographical knowledge and skills across the curriculum.

News from KS2

Y6: This half term we will be learning about and extending our knowledge with fractions. For English, the children will be studying the Shakespearean masterpiece of 'Macbeth'. Children are also looking forward to the change in their science topic from Healthy Bodies to Evolution and Inheritance, where we observe and examine the differences and similarities between us.

Y5: We have been writing our own 'War' poetry and commemorating those who have passed during the war. We have a new topic related to addition and subtraction and this will be fundamental to our learning in other areas of mathematics as we proceed during the year.

Y4: This half term the children have learned about the art of persuasion and the techniques involved in creating persuasive pieces of writing. They have also learned about what causes teeth to decay and ways to present their findings after conducting experiments.