



**The Orchards Primary Academy**  
Rhayader Road  
Northfield  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B31 1TX

Headteacher: Hayley Carrier

Tel: 0121 464 4302

Email: [enquiry@theorchards.uwmat.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@theorchards.uwmat.co.uk)

Website: [www.theorchardsprimary.co.uk](http://www.theorchardsprimary.co.uk)

**3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, Happy New Year to all of our children and families. We are very much looking forward to a better year for all, with hope of new vaccines and a much-needed return to normality.

You will be aware that there is an increasing amount of press attention currently surrounding the return to school for pupils following the Christmas break. The DfE have made it clear that schools should be open to Primary age pupils, and that it is safe to do so.

I am very aware that this will be causing significant concern and worry for many of you and I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that senior leaders have continued to review the risk assessments that are in place to keep all of our children and families safe.

We will continue with the very stringent measures that we have put in place such as staggered arrival and departure times, minimal adults on the school site, on-going cleaning throughout the day as well as keeping children contained within their bubbles. All of our risk assessments can be found on our school website under the 'Parents' tab and then 'Risk Assessments'.

As you will be aware, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is a teacher training day and staff will be using this opportunity to review the risk assessments in place and evaluate and make amendments where necessary. Senior staff will also be carrying out a site walk to ensure that all elements of our risk assessments remain in place. Any updates will be shared with parents via email and made available on our school website.

I am very aware that this is an incredibly difficult situation for all of us and you will have the health and safety of your family at the forefront of your concerns, but I want to reassure you as best as I can that we are taking our responsibilities very seriously and have made our school as safe as possible. All children are expected to attend at their correct arrival time on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back after their Christmas break.

Stay safe,

Mrs Carrier  
Head Teacher

