



Orchard Lea Junior School

NEWS



Facebook: OrchardLeaJun

IMPORTANT RE:- COVID-19

If your child is displaying one of the three COVID symptoms (a new, continuous cough; loss of taste or smell; a temperature) please arrange for your child to have a test. Please also ensure that your child self isolates while any other family members are unwell and awaiting test results.

Please inform the school of any test results regardless of whether they are negative or positive before returning to school.

March 2021

Thank you to parents and carers for their ongoing support with home learning this term. Our teachers worked extremely hard to transfer the curriculum to Google Classroom and to communicate regularly with the children. We are also immensely proud of the way in which the children adapted to this way of learning and the improvement in their IT skills for learning has been phenomenal.

Despite this, we are all glad to be back in the classroom! It has been lovely to welcome all of our children back into school this month. The school feels alive and buzzing again. Children have been excited to see their friends (and school staff) again and be able to talk to one another about their learning in lessons.

RSE consultation

You will have been sent documents this week regarding the parent and carer consultation for our school's Relationships and Sex Education policy following the statutory changes made by the government. If you have any comments or questions, please use the Google form via this link <https://forms.gle/9c13c6S3bQxBp15u6> to share your views. The form will be available until Friday 23rd April.

The daily mile track

Our track is being used by all classes which is fantastic. Children are collecting miles towards their target of 'The Great South Run'- 10 miles is an achievement. Where will they walk or run to next? The track is being used when adults are meeting with children to talk, instead of talking in a room and staff are using it regularly to run around or for a walk and a chat with one another.



STEM toys

Thank you to one of our governors who took part in a competition run by LinkedIn and won some STEM toys for our school. The toys include solar robots, a salt water car, a solar multikit, a volcano Kit and some fruit and vegetable clocks. We are looking forward to receiving these shortly to be enjoyed by children across the school.

Healthy snacks

We have noticed more children bringing in crisps and chocolate. We try to encourage children to bring in a healthy snack for break time. We would appreciate parents monitoring their child's snack choice.
Thank you.

School uniform

Now that we are back at school and the weather is getting warmer, please can we remind pupils to wear the correct school uniform to school. Children should be wearing a school sweatshirt or cardigan, not a hoodie. The windows will still be open for ventilation so if your child is feeling chilly, please could they wear layers underneath their school clothes.

We have noticed a lot of children wearing trainers to school. We understand that it can be difficult to buy school shoes at the moment as not all shops are open. Please send a letter to your child's class teacher if your child is not able to wear school shoes.

As children are unable to share paint shirts at the moment, we ask that children bring in an old t-shirt or shirt that can be used for art work if they have one available. Thank you.

Homework and reading

Weekly homework will resume after the Easter holidays. As the children are familiar with using Google Classroom from their home learning, we will be setting homework via this platform.

If your child is unable to access their learning via Google Classroom, they can ask their teacher for a paper copy of the work.

We continue to encourage children to read for 15 minutes each day, preferably with an adult so that they can discuss the text.



Google Classroom

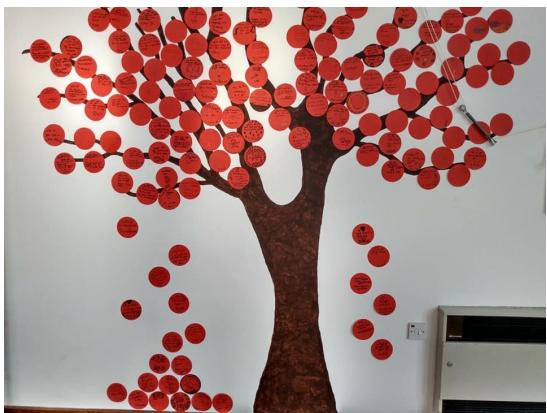
Year 6 Arriving Too Early

We have noticed that there are children arriving before their staggered start times, in particular some of the Year 6 children. If your child walks to school on their own, please could they plan their journey so that they are not waiting at school for their year group start time.

Parking

We would like to remind families to park courteously in the roads around school and where possible walk to and from school. We regularly hear from local residents and families from our school community that the roads are busy and parking does not allow for children to cross roads safely. We would also like to remind families that the school car park is for staff only unless pre-arranged with the school office. Children and adults should stick to the pathways and avoid walking near the carpark.

Red Nose Day and well being



For Red Nose Day this year, our focus has been on raising spirits as well as raising funds to support a good cause. There are children and adults in our school community who have found this lockdown particularly challenging for many reasons. Mrs Pink, our ELSA and PSA, is working closely with staff around the school to support these children. We would also like to remind our families of the resources on the Family Support page of our website which may be of help for those who are struggling with their mental health or the changes as lockdown eases. For Red Nose Day, children

shared jokes with one another which are now on display on the tree in our hall. The children took part in a joke hunt around the school and enjoyed a 'ridiculous relay' around the track by our teachers.

Outdoor learning

As Spring is on its way, we are beginning to give our allotment area and garden areas some much needed TLC after lockdown. Some Year 5 children have already begun work with Mrs Gamble to add some colour to the OLJS letters at the entrance and are turning their attention to the courtyard next. Year 3 are about to begin their topic on Plants so we are excited to see what they will be growing. If there are any keen gardeners out there who may have some cuttings, seeds, plants or compost to support our outdoor learning, please do get in touch. Thank you to Wickes and Homebase for their generous donations of plants and equipment.



Mrs Norton has won some competitions for our school recently. Each class received a copy of 'The Happy News' newspaper which focus on positive news and well being. The school were also fortunate enough to watch two online pantomimes, Wind in the Willows and Treasure Island, which were prizes from one of the competitions. The children thoroughly enjoyed them. Thank you Mrs Norton!



Dear Parents and Carers

This has been another strange term for all our children, parents and staff. Mr Summerton and his staff have continued in their strong support for the children and their families all the way through this term. All staff again rose to the challenge of preparing lessons for those children at home and those in school, so a big thank you to them.

A big thank you, also, to all parents who managed to do some home schooling with their children. This is not an easy task, so well done!

All schools reopened fully from the 8th March with a very detailed plan of measures to keep all children and staff safe. We now hope that schools will stay fully open so all the children can continue with their education and enjoy being at school with their friends.

Now we have federated, and as Covid restrictions are eased, we will see more joint activities between the two schools. The World Book Day story time organised by Mrs Norton and Mrs Thornbury was very successful with 86 families taking part. The new running track in the junior school field is being used by both schools.

The Governing Body have continued with their meetings virtually, and I have attended very enjoyable virtual lessons at both infant and junior schools.

The closing date for the Executive Head Teacher position was the 26th March. Up to date four prospective candidates have had tours of both schools (following a risk assessment drawn up by both schools). We hope to appoint at interviews in the third week in April with the Executive Head Teacher in post for the new school year in September.

I wish you all a Happy Easter with some good weather to enjoy it.

Sue Seaton

Chair of Governors

The Orchard Lea Federation



Calendar Dates

01/02/21	Year 5 Evacuee Day (Year 5 children are invited to wear a costume)
02/04/21-16/04/21	Easter Holidays. Bikeability 06/04/21-09/04/21 for Year 6
19/04/21	INSET Day
03/05/21	Bank Holiday
31/05/21-04/06/21	Half Term
09/06/21	Year 6 Fire Service visit
28/06/21	INSET Day
26/07/21	Summer Holidays start