

## Orchards' Newsletter

Dear Orchards' families

We are now in the fourth week of the autumn term and the school has settled back into its systems and routines. Lots of great learning has already been taking place in classes across school; our new Reception children have settled in and there are a lot of happy, friendly children in school.

A new year includes new school rules which are now

**Be Kind  
Work hard  
Aim high**

Over the course of this academic year, we will be further delving into what these rules look like around our school so that every child is able to be their best.

We will also be reinforcing our school values of **Ambition, Perseverance, Respect** and **Responsibility**.

As the new headteacher, it is my aim to continue and build upon all of the previous hard work that has taken place at Orchards to ensure that our school is a safe and calm place where pupils enjoy the challenges that we set them and acquire a thirst for knowledge.

This year, I would also like to work even more closely with our families to see how best school can help and support you, so that together we give our children the very best start to their futures.

Regards

Dr Homden

*Be kind  
Work hard  
Aim high*

### Gate times:

Please can I bring to your attention the new gates times. These have been changed so that the school site can be secured quicker at the start and end of the day.

Morning timings – the gates and doors **open at 8:20 and close at 8:30**. If you arrive at school after this time, you will need to drop your child at the school office.

Afternoon timings – the gates will **open at 14:55 and will be locked at 15:15**.

We have altered our timetables in school and have moved assembly to before break time. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly in the morning so that they don't miss any teaching.

### Attendance:

Your child's attendance at school is extremely important. Government and school targets for attendance are currently **96%** for the academic year but may increase as guidance around attendance is updated. Our current whole school figure for attendance is **93.1%** which is already far too low.

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please make sure to contact the school office as soon as possible to let us know the reason – please be prepared to explain how your child is ill as we won't authorise the absence for 'unwell' being given. Runny noses, tiredness and a headache are not reasons in themselves for keeping a child off school. If a child comes to school and is too unwell to remain in class, we will of course contact parents to come and collect.

We need to know each and every day that your child is absent from school. If we **DO NOT** hear about the location of a child who should be in school, we are required to **carry out a home-visit** to ensure that they are safe and well.

**Attendance by class for 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

1S 92.7	1K 96.8
2E 91.4	2W 93.3
3C 90.4	3W 94.7
4E 95.0	4S 87.7
5B 95.2	5S 92.9
6R 95.5	6C 85.7

Well done 1K (KS1) and 6R (KS2) for having the best attendance last week!

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**Headteacher:** Dr Damien Homden

### School uniform and PE kit:

At the start of the academic year, the new uniforms and school shoes always look so smart! In order to maximise time spent in PE lessons, we have also said that children are allowed to come to school in their PE kits to avoid having to get changed (it also helps to minimize lost property!).

Our school website has details of what our school uniform and PE kits are, how to purchase them as well as expectations around jewelry and other areas so as nails and hair colouring.

<https://orchards.demat.org.uk/uniform>

If you have any difficulty in purchasing uniform etc, please come and speak to a member of staff.

### Dates for the diary:

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September:** Parents' evening 3:30 – 6:00 (slips to book have already been sent home)

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October:** Parents' evening 3:30 – 5:00 (slips to book have already been sent home)

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October:** School closed for teacher training day

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October:** Half term

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November:** Children back to school for start of autumn 2 half term

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Aim high*