

## Orchards' Newsletter

Dear Orchards' families

The nights are already starting to draw in and the temperature in the mornings is a little fresh!

Yesterday in assembly we welcomed Reverend Paul to our harvest assembly. It was lovely to see him and I hope that over the course of this year and beyond, we will be able to cement strong bonds between school and St Peter and St Paul's church.

During assembly we discussed how harvest is a time of celebration for all of the food produced. It is a time to say thank you to the farmers etc who have worked tirelessly to produce the bountiful food.

Harvest is also a time where we can **be kind** and display **respect** and **responsibility** by thinking of those people less fortunate than us who need our help and support.

This year will be collecting for the local food bank and the local refuge from domestic violence. Your donations will go directly towards supporting our local community and to those who may be finding things difficult at the moment.

Our suggestions for donations are the following:

Toiletries, sanitary products, baby products, tinned foods, sauces, pasta, biscuits, tea, coffee, crisps and chocolates

Please check best before dates for any perishable items.

Thank you in advance for all your generosity – your donations will make a huge impact.

Please send your donations in with your child or pass them to the office. We will collect items until half-term, after which we will take them to the relevant places for distribution.

Regards

Dr Homden

*Be kind  
Work hard  
Aim high*

### School uniform and PE kit:

Thank you to all of the families who are sending children into school with the correct school uniform and PE kit.

Standing in assembly today, I am noticing that more and more items are starting to creep in that are not part of our uniform or PE kit. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately.

School uniform: Grey or black skirt/skort/pinafore/trousers  
red polo shirt, green cardigan/jumper /sweatshirt\*.

Grey or black tights or white socks (ankle or knee length), to be worn with a skirt, skort or pinafore.

*Jeans, jogging bottoms and sports shorts are not acceptable as part of the main school uniform*

PE kit: Black/green shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms, plain black/white/green t-shirt or polo shirt (no sleeveless vests) and plain, black/green coloured fleece; trainers.

Sadly, if there is a continued decline in the standard of PE kit, we will have to go back to wearing school uniform at all times and changing for PE lessons.

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### 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 **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 **has fallen to 92.3%** 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 22<sup>nd</sup> September to 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025**

1S	95.9	1K	82.8
2E	92.1	2W	93.8
3C	89.3	3W	92.7
4E	90.8	4S	88.9
5B	94.1	5S	94.6
6R	96.4	6C	88.0

Well done 1S and very well done to 6R who are over the 96% target!

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**Headteacher:** Dr Damien Homden

### Dates for the diary:

**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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