

Orchards' Newsletter

Dear Orchards' families

We are now half way through this academic year – the time has flown by! I'm excited to see the start of our wrap-around care starting after the half term break. Places are limited to a maximum of 16 children for each session. The office have sent out details of how to book onto these sessions.

With a renewed focus on our routines and structures in school, it has really impressed my how engaged the children are with their learning. We have also had a half term with our updated behaviour curriculum. Thank you to all of the parents who have supported the school around behaviour and behaviour for learning. It is really important that every child makes the most of their time at Orchards and gets the most out of their learning.

School uniforms and PE kits are becoming a concern for some children. I have included details of what our uniforms are later in the newsletter. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniforms to school. PE kits especially are beginning to look like non-uniform days which is not appropriate. Children who repeatedly wear the incorrect uniform, will be asked to come to school in their school uniform.

As the year has progressed, it is nice to see some of the activities taking place in school. Below is a small selection of the different activities children have experienced this term.

I hope you all have a relaxing half term and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 23rd February – along with some nicer weather!

Regards

Dr Homden

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Reception planetarium visit!



Monday 9th February was a day to remember in Reception, when we took a virtual journey to space! We crawled through a tunnel into an inflatable, dome planetarium. At first it was dark, but the twinkling stars soon lit up the sky. We were given a tour of the planets. We were able to share all of our knowledge about Neil Armstrong (the first man on the moon) and the names of the planets, but also learn new facts! At the end we had a dazzling star show, where we were able to find constellations and see different animals in the sky. What an exciting adventure we had!

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic interactive assembly with the Museum of Classical Archaeology as part of their learning about Greek myths in English. The children saw fascinating artefacts and discovered more about the gods, goddesses and legendary heroes they have been reading about in class. Through storytelling, the session brought their learning to life and sparked lots of thoughtful questions and excitement. It was a wonderful opportunity to deepen their understanding and enthusiasm for Greek mythology!



*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden



Contact Information

If you have changed your telephone number or email address, please let us know, as these are our main form of communication.

Attendance and punctuality:

Your child's attendance at school is extremely important. We are still well below our target of 96%. The current figure for the school has fallen to 91.4%. We are also seeing a lot of children arriving late in the morning. Please ensure that your child is **in school by 8:30 every morning**. The gates open at 8:20, class doors open at 8:25 and the school gates are closed at 8:30.

Attendance by class for the first half term

1S 93.9%	1K 94.4%
2E 91.5%	2W 93.1%
3C 94.3%	3W 94.4%
4E 91%	4S 92.2%
5B 93.8 %	5S 93.5%
6R 93.9%	6C <90%

Well done 1K and 3W who have the best overall attendance in school this half term.

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Cherry Road, Wisbech,
Cambridgeshire, PE13 3NP

Tel: 01945 583799

Email: office@orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Web: www.orchards.cambs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Dr Damien Homden

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 – you are by far the majority of our families and your support is very much appreciated.

School uniform is a key part of helping the children to feel like they belong to our school community which is really important for children to be able to feel safe and secure. It removes barriers over who has the best designer label and it helps to keep costs down and non-branded items are readily available from supermarkets. It also prepares the older children for secondary school where expectations around school uniform are even higher than at primary school.

Over the course of next half term, messages will be sent home if a child is not in the correct uniform. From the summer term, we will be calling to request that the correct uniform or PE kit is brought into school. Where PE kit is an issue, children will be expected to wear their school uniform and will have to change before their PE lesson.

**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.

Please ensure that from next half term, your child is dressed appropriately for school at all times – including school shoes.

We understand that for a very small portion of our school community, extra needs such as increased sensory needs may make the wearing of the full school uniform incredibly difficult. As a school, we want to support all children to thrive and achieve and are able to make adjustments based on the individual child. This needs to be done in collaboration with Mrs Horlock our SENCo.

*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*

Dates for the diary:

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February Half term

Monday 23rd February Start of half term

Friday 27th March Last day of term

Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April Easter holidays

Monday 13th April Start of summer term



*Be kind
Work hard
Aim high*