

Dear Parents and Carers,

Once again, we would like to take the opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year! All children have now started their new topics. You will have received a year group leaflet explaining the topics we are covering over the first half of the Spring Term and any help that you can give from home is always very welcome. Thank you to those parents who helped with creative projects over the holidays which have helped to make fantastic classroom displays.

From Monday 27th until Friday 31st January, we will be undertaking 'Work and Enterprise Week' where children will be finding out all sorts of things about the world of work. Some year groups will be finding out what it is like to work in the community as a doctor or a fire fighter, while others will be thinking about how people can realise their ambitions. Following pupil feedback from last year, we have included some new sectors including digital and creative roles. All classes will go on a visit to a place of work or have a visitor from someone who works in the community. If you would like to speak to the children about your own job, please do speak with your child's class teacher.

Work and Enterprise Week forms part of our personal, social and health curriculum, which encompasses life skills and ways to be safe, healthy and happy. If you are interested in knowing more about our curriculum themes, there is more information, including a full topic map of the year on our new website. Following parent feedback, we have updated the website to make it easier to use and find the information that you need.

The world around us has changed very quickly and whilst new technologies offer so many opportunities and exciting new knowledge and ways of communicating than ever before they also hold risks, particularly to children. We work hard to ensure that children understand how to stay safe while using the internet; whether through a computer, telephone or game, and the risks of sending images or being in contact with people they do not know online. You can also help to protect children from putting themselves at risk by monitoring their use of online technologies and restricting access to social media. A gentle reminder that the recommended age for using Whatsapp is 16+. There are many places to seek further advice and information on the ever-changing world of online technologies and the risks to young people. A particularly useful source of information, which contains information as well as activities for parents and children of all ages is www.thinkuknow.co.uk.

Last of all, a reminder about 'School Streets' which is the council's pioneering programme to transform roads outside schools so that pedestrians and cyclists are prioritised at the start and end of the school day. The scheme tackles congestion and improves air quality at the school gates, making it easier and safer to walk and cycle to school. Roving enforcement cameras are regularly parked outside the school and infractions can carry a penalty charge. We encourage all families to walk, scoot or bike to school. There are designated scooter and bike racks in our playgrounds but please ensure you use an appropriate lock to secure anything left on the school site during the day.

Thank you for all of your support.

Ms Felicity Headen - Headteacher | Mr Stephen O'Brien - Executive Headteacher

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Reminders

Punctuality

Please make sure children arrive in good time to line up in the playground with their class. School starts at 8.55am and every minute counts.



Lost Property & School Uniform

If you have misplaced a jumper, lunchbox or other item, please call into the school office who will show you to the lost property cupboard.



The Hungry Caterpillar

This week, EYFS explored dance during PE. They were inspired by The Very Hungry Caterpillar. They used movement to act out the caterpillar's journey, from hatching out of the egg to becoming a butterfly. The children practised stretching, crawling and fluttering, helping to develop their coordination and balance.



History of Healthcare

This week in History, Year 1 have delved into the lives and legacies of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. Through a variety of resources, they explored their remarkable contributions to nursing and examined how they revolutionised healthcare during their era.



Keyboard

This term, children in Year 5 are learning about 'The Planets Suite' - a piece of music composed by Gustav Holst. This week they listened to the first piece from the suite 'Mars, the Bringer of War'. They then used keyboards to compose their own piece of music to represent Mars.





Bike Bus

Last week, 20 dedicated pupils and 4 parents braved the freezing -2°C weather to take part in the very first Orchard bike bus of 2025! The event was a fantastic way to kick off the new year, combining physical activity, environmental consciousness, and community spirit!



School Council

Last week, Orchard school councilors spent some time visiting the mini libraries and reading corners for the school council competition. They were amazed by the effort teachers had put in and are excited to announce the winners later this week!



Key Dates

Pine Class Assembly
Thursday 23rd January at 10:30am

Hazel Class Assembly
Thursday 23rd January at 11am

Work & Enterprise Week
w/b Monday 27th January

Ash Class Assembly
Thursday 30th January at 10:30am

Hawthorn Class Assembly
Thursday 30th January at 11am

Enterprise Fayre
Thursday 30th January at 3:30pm

Children's Mental Health Week
w/b Monday 3rd February

Laurel Class Assembly
Thursday 6th February at 11am

Safer Internet Day
Tuesday 11th February

Children break up for half term
Friday 14th February at 3:30pm

Coffee Mornings

Parents/Carers are invited to drop into our sessions on various themes which are held in the Flexible Space at 9:15am on a Friday. These allow you to meet with other parents as well as to learn more about what the school does and get some practical tips on how to support your child with their learning from home.

Date	Focus
Friday 31st January	<u>Children's Mental Health Week</u> : How can I support my child's wellbeing through developing positive connections? (Children can attend this coffee morning)
Friday 14th February	<u>Online Safety</u> : How can I support my child to use digital technologies responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively? (Safer Internet Day parent workshop)

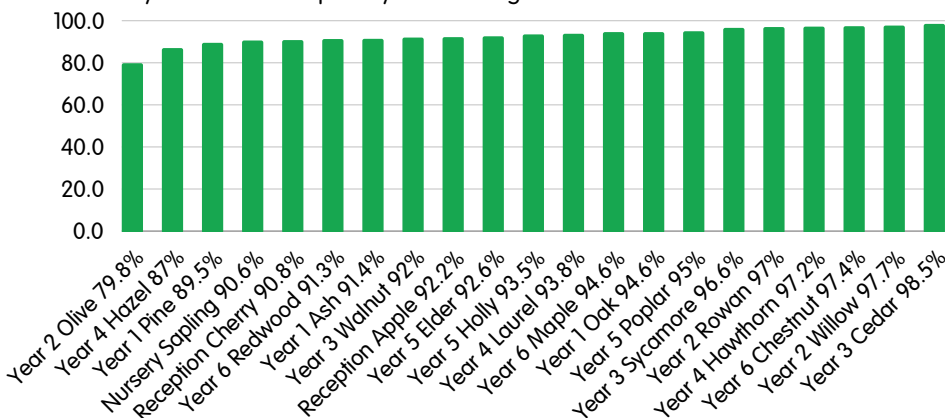
Attendance

The whole school attendance for the last week was 93.5%.

Well done to Year 3 Cedar Class, last week's winners with 98.5% attendance.

Attending school every day makes a real difference.

Please remember that WE DO NOT AUTHORISE HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME and unauthorised absences may result in a fixed penalty notice being issued.



Term End and Start

The first half of the spring term ends on Friday 14th February 2025 at 3:30pm. Please scan the QR code to view our 2024 - 2025 term dates.



School Uniform

Please scan the QR code to order school uniform,



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