The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you this week at our various events, including the Reception Coffee Morning, PTA meeting and our safeguarding talks.

We are incredibly grateful for the positive partnership we share with our parents and families. By working together, we can provide the very best support for our children, not only in their academic learning but also in the many other important aspects of their personal, social and emotional development.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and involvement in school life. It is through this strong home-school partnership that our children are able to thrive, grow in confidence and achieve their very best.



The children have been doing some brilliant learning this week!

Year 2 have been story mapping the adventures of *The Lonely Beast*, using adjectives to describe the different places he visited on his journey. In Art, they have been exploring the work of Andy Goldsworthy, creating and discussing artwork inspired by nature. In Science, they have been learning about the human life cycle and how people change as they grow.

Oak Class enjoyed their first ukulele lessons today as well!



Year 1 have been learning about the Creation Story from a Christian perspective and exploring number pairs to 5 in Maths. In English, they have been describing their favourite toys and using the word "because" to explain why they like them, helping to develop their speaking and writing skills.



Reception children have been creating colourful rainbow bubble artwork, learning to subitise by recognising small groups of objects without counting, and have begun the Little Wandle Phonics programme. This week, they have been introduced to their first four phonemes: s, a, t and p.



Well done to all of our children for their fantastic effort and enthusiasm in their learning this week!

Pattern Week

Next week, all of our children will be taking part in Pattern Week. Spotting and creating patterns is an important skill that helps children develop logical thinking, problem-solving and prediction skills. Patterns are found throughout mathematics, reading, music, art and the world around us, helping children make connections in their learning.

We are looking forward to a week of fun, creative activities as the children discover that patterns really are everywhere!

Wishing you all a lovely weekend!

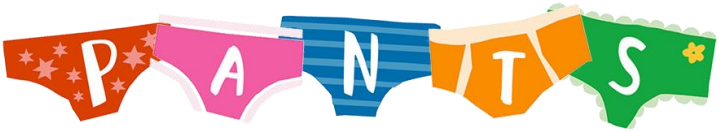
See you on Monday.

Sally Cary

Talking PANTS with Your Child



As part of our commitment to keeping children safe, we've been learning about the NSPCC's PANTS rule in our assemblies this week. This helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should always feel safe and confident to speak up.



The PANTS rule teaches:

Story

click 

PRIVATES ARE PRIVATE

ALWAYS REMEMBER YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU

NO MEANS NO

TALK ABOUT SECRETS THAT UPSET YOU

SPEAK UP, SOMEONE CAN HELP

Song

 click

With help from the little dinosaur of Pantasaurus, we reminded the children that if they ever feel worried or unsure, they should speak to a **trusted adult** — someone they feel safe with and who will listen. You can find helpful resources to continue the conversation at home on the NSPCC website: www.nspcc.org.uk/pants

Thank you for supporting this important message.





Some of our Reception children in their learning this week.



Microsoft Teams for Reception Parents

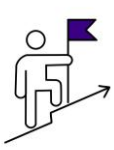
All Reception parents have now received their Microsoft Teams login details. Please take a few minutes to log in and check that you can access the platform successfully. Teams will be used by your child's teachers to share important information, updates and class communications throughout the year, so it is important that you are able to access it regularly.

If you experience any difficulties logging in, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Our Value Award Winners are…

Ash **Marla**	Elm **Harriet**	Holly **Hudson**
Willow **Hugo**	Maple **Boyana**	Rowan **Oscar**
Beech **Adeline**	Oak **Jackson**	Sycamore **Alice**

Courage 

Determination 

Respect 

Kindness 

It always seems impossible until it is done. ~Nelson Mandela

Message from our Governors

The governing body at The Orchard Infant School warmly welcomes all children and their families back for the new school year, and extends a special welcome to those joining our school community for the first time.

At The Orchard, the governing body plays a vital role in supporting the school in providing the best possible education for every child. We are a team of volunteers who bring a range of skills, experience, and perspectives to ensure the school is well-led, financially sound, and continually improving.

Last academic year was a hugely successful one at The Orchard. Our inclusive practice, high-quality teaching, strong EYFS outcomes, excellent early reading progress, and continued curriculum development — alongside our commitment to staff training, pupil voice, and careful monitoring — all contributed to our positive and well-evidenced Ofsted inspection.

This year, governors will be supporting leaders in delivering the priorities set out in the School Development Plan: **leadership, governance and monitoring**; **high-quality interactions and foundational learning**; **curriculum development**; and **inclusion and SEND specialist provision**. Our focus remains ensuring every child can access learning and achieve their potential.

This week governors met to plan the year ahead, review these development priorities, and schedule learning walks and visits. We look forward to meeting parents throughout the year at school events, activities, and through our parent liaison group.

Governors come from all walks of life – parents, staff, and members of the local community – and together we bring a wide range of expertise to the role. We are currently looking to appoint **new governors**. If you are keen to support education, have skills or experience you can share, and want to make a difference to the lives of children in our community, we would love to hear from you.

No prior experience as a governor is required – training and support are provided, and it's a rewarding way to contribute to your child's school.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact Chair Sarah Adams or Vice Chair Katie Donaldson.



From The Orchard Governors

https://www.orchard.surrey.sch.uk/Our-Governors/

Join Our Orchard Team!

Do you know someone who would love to make a difference in the lives of young children?

We are currently seeking a **Teaching & Learning Assistant (TLA)** to join our wonderful team at **The Orchard School**. This is a fantastic opportunity to work alongside our dedicated staff, support our amazing children, and become part of our caring school community.

If you, a family member, or a friend would be interested in finding out more, please take a look at the vacancy and application details using the link below:

👉 **Teaching & Learning Assistant Vacancy:**
https://www.eteach.com/careers/orchard-surrey/job/teaching--and--learning-assisant-tla-1572459

We would be very grateful if you could help spread the word amongst friends, family and the local community.

Come and be part of The Orchard family!

What to do if your child is unable to attend school

📞 **Contact the School Before 9:05am**
Let us know on the **first day of absence.**
so we know your child is safe.
Call the school office **02089792945**
Leave a message with your child's name, class and the reason for absence.

🗓️ **Absent for More Than One Day?**
Please contact the school **each day** your child is absent.
Let us know when they are well enough to return.

⏰ **Running Late?**
School starts promptly at **8:40am**.
If you arrive after this time, please come to the school office with your child so we can record the reason for lateness.

📞 **Haven't Contacted Us?**
If we haven't heard from you by **9:05am**, a member of staff will contact you to check on your child's whereabouts.

🌞 **Every Day Counts!**
Regular & punctual attendance helps children:
Enjoy learning
Build friendships
Feel confident and settled
Achieve their best

Thank you for your support!



Click on the picture above to take you to our website.

Attendance



Please be reminded that if you take your child(ren) out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), then the following will apply:

1. If you have not incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children in a rolling 3 year period since 19 August 2024, then the penalty notice will be charged at the rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. This will be reduced to £80.00 if paid within 21 days of receipt of the notice. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

2. If you have incurred a penalty notice relating to this child/children since 19 August 2024, the rolling 3 year period will be activated from the date of the first penalty notice and the second penalty notice will be charged at the flat rate of £160.00, per parent/carer per child, if paid within 28 days. There will be no reduction for payment within 21 days. Failure to pay the Penalty Notice will result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings against you in the Magistrates Court.

3. If you have incurred 2 penalty notices relating to this child/children in the rolling 3 year period since the first penalty notice was issued, then you will NOT receive a third penalty notice – Surrey County Council will have no option but to consider a prosecution, per parent/carer per child, in the Magistrates Court under s 444 Education Act 1996.

Surrey County Council is not responsible for authorising pupil absence and therefore cannot withdraw any Penalty Notice requests without the written permission of the Headteacher.

Musical Artist of the Week



Pet Shop Boys

Electronica music this week!

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6t59T2jLUsLnsfkYvccBNk

UPCOMING EVENTS AUTUMN

THE ORCHARD SCHOOL · PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION ·

2 OCT

Christmas Art Deadline

Order personalised Christmas cards, wraps, mugs and other merchandise through our project with Cauliflower Artwork.

15/16 OCT

Year 2 Bake Sale

Volunteers will sell baked goods after school on the Thu & Fri to raise funds for Year Two enrichment

9 NOV

"Let it Glow Disco"

Tickets must be pre-booked. Reception is 3-4pm, Year 1 is 4-5pm and Year 2 is 5-6pm. Volunteers needed with DBS check.

25 NOV

Wreath Workshop

Create a lovely festive wreath for your front door. This event is open to the community. Pre-booking essential.

4 DEC

Christmas tree pickup

Pre-order and buy your Christmas Tree via PTA Events for pick up on 4 Dec from a local address.

5 DEC

Christmas Fair

Santa's grotto, games, raffle, bar and much more. This is a key fundraiser in the year. Volunteers needed to run the stalls.

15 DEC

Christmas Plays

The children will be treated to a Christmas show from a theatre company - funded by the PTA due to your contributions.

Please Don't Forget

PE Kits

These can be worn on the children's PE days.



Reception: Friday

Maple:
Tuesday & Wednesday
Rowan:
Monday & Tuesday
Willow:
Tuesday & Wednesday

Beech:
Tuesday & Wednesday
Oak:
Wednesday & Thursday
Sycamore:
Wednesday & Thursday

Hair & Jewellery

Hair that falls below the shoulders must be tied back throughout the day.



Jewellery must not be worn including earrings,

with the exception of (non-smart or non-tracking) watches and jewellery of religious significance (such as Sikh bangles).

Play Trails

Please do not allow your child to play with or on the outdoor equipment such as the play trails.

Children must only use them if they are being supervised by school staff.



Car Park

The car park is strictly for staff and those with Orchard School parking permits.

Scooters and Bikes

Please dismount from their scooters and bikes when you are on the school grounds.



No Dogs on Site



Parent Helpers & Parent Safeguarding Talk



We really appreciate any additional support that parents are able to give in school - whether that be working with groups or individual pupils, helping out with school resources, supporting with PTA activities or chaperoning on a school trip.
Your child's class teachers will be reaching out to parents in the next few weeks with more details about this.
In order to be able to support your child and the school in this way, we require our volunteers to have a DBS check (Disclosure and Barring Service). There will be a cost of £12.50 to this. Please speak to a member of staff in the office if you are new to the school or have not had one previously and would like to start this process.
As well as getting a DBS check, it is important that you also have some additional training on our specific safeguarding policies and practices. I will be holding parent safeguarding talks in person at the school on:

Our final safeguarding talk this term is on
Monday 21st September 9:00am – 9:30am (at school)

If you would like to attend any of these talks, please could you let the office know by phoning in on
020 8979 2945 to reserve your preferred date.
There will be some documents to read to go alongside the training.



Dates for your Diary

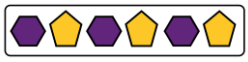
https://orchard.surrey.sch.uk/Calendar/

Click on the *'subscribe'* button to sync your device to it.

Monday 21st September
Parent Safeguarding Talk
9:00am



Monday 21st September
Maths Pattern Week starts



Tuesday 22nd September
7:00pm – 8:45pm
Parenting Puzzle Course



Thursday 8th and
Friday 9th October
PTA: African Drumming Workshop



Thursday 8th October
Deadline for Personalised Christmas Card Orders



Tuesday 13th October
Reception Parent Phonic Workshop
9:15 – 9:45



Thursday 15th and Friday 16th October
Year 2 Bake Sale



Friday 24th October
Harvest Celebration and Collection for Elmbridge Food Bank



19th - 30th October
HALF TERM



Thursday 16th October
6pm
Deadline for Disco Ticket purchases



Monday 9th November
'Let it Glow' Disco



Wednesday 11th November
Remembrance Day



Wednesday 11th November
Individual School Photos



WE ARE AN

ALLERGY AWARE

SCHOOL



Please do not bring any peanuts, tree nuts or sesame seeds into this school.

This would include Nutella, hummus, pesto pasta if made with cashews and **anything** that physically contains nuts or sesame.

Please be extra vigilant with this.

Parent Tours

As many of our children move on to

St Lawrence Junior School,

parents may be interested to know that the school is hosting a number of parent tours. These visits provide an opportunity to see the school during the learning day, giving parents a real insight into school life. Visitors will be able to observe learning in action and enjoy a guided tour of the school and its facilities.

If your child will be transferring to junior school next year, this is a great chance to find out more about what St Lawrence has to offer. Please contact St Lawrence Junior School directly for further information and booking details.

21st September 2026
1st October 2026
7th October 2026
4th November 2026
8th December 2026
7th January 2027

https://www.stlawrence-junior.surrey.sch.uk/