

# TOPA Newsletter

“Where learning has no limits... and where personal growth is endless...”



**WE ARE  
COMMITTED TO  
SAFEGUARDING!**

**IF YOU HAVE  
CONCERNS  
ABOUT A CHILD  
OR A FAMILY:**

Ask to speak to our  
Headteacher Mrs  
Walker-Gordon, Mrs  
Flynn, or Mrs Bayley.

Email:  
[safeguarding@opa.gr  
eenheartlearning.org](mailto:safeguarding@opa.greenheartlearning.org)

## Message from our Headteacher

*Mrs Walker-Gordon*

What another fantastic week at Orchards!

Having the athletes in school with us was a real highlight. It really embedded the message that no matter what life throws at you, you can push forward and become the very best version of yourself. Jack particularly, the Paralympian, was extremely popular. Despite his visual and hearing impairment, he was number 1 in the world in Judo! It was safe to say that the children couldn't wait to give it a go!

This week also saw parents come to join us for parents' evenings spread over the two nights. It was lovely to see so many of you come to join us. What was interesting was how many parents asked us when our next TikTok videos are coming- it seems they're a real hit. You have my assurance that we are still going and we are really pleased that they entertain you. They give you a glimpse into the human side of our school team and hopefully, help you feel part of our community.

This week we also hosted colleagues once again from our academy trust for a Mathematics network meeting where we discussed all things strategy in Maths from across the entire of the 10 schools. A valuable and exciting piece of work! We also welcomed Mr Chambers, our Director of Education, this week. The children were pleased to see him. Have a lovely weekend and week ahead!



## ATTENDANCE LEAGUE

What an amazing week for attendance. We have seen classes across the school hitting 100% still in attendance which is super. Did you know if your child's class achieves 100%, they win extra play that day? They are also in with a chance of winning a rewards afternoon at the end of the Half-Term!

We have noticed an increase with parents requesting Leave in Term Time forms from the office. Birmingham City Council and the Department for Education are cracking down on families taking holidays during term time and we have already submitted 3 different applications to Birmingham City Council who then issue parents with a £90 fine, per parent in the household. Unfortunately, If this fine is not paid, It will be directed to the Legal Courts where the fines hit over £1000. This has already happened this term at The Orchards.

Place	Class	%
1st	Sycamore 1	100%
2nd	Evergreen 6	99.2%
3rd	Cedar 3	96.3%
4th	Willow 4	95%
5th	Oak 2	92.3%
6th	Maple 5	91.9%

## SPORTING NEWS...

*“Always train hard, work hard, never give up, never give in and believe in you!”*

**Marcus Rashford, MBE**

Netball club has begun with Mr Thompson and he has already spotted some superb talent amongst them. The football team continues to work hard to work together as a team ready for their matches as we begin to compete.

With the football team, I have many requests for children to join. We will aim to rotate groups to give them all an opportunity should they wish. It is difficult to make the groups too large as it will water down the impact that the coach can have. There are also lots of opportunities to play in school too!



# School Uniform

## Policy and Expectations

School uniform is a critical part of school life. We pride ourselves in our identity and pride ourselves in our standards.

If children arrive at school not in the correct uniform or not adhering to policy, parents will be called to bring in a change of clothing. If uniform standards continue to be poor, parents/carers will be called for a meeting to discuss reasons for this.

There are many benefits to a strong school uniform policy:

- Strong mindsets and attitudes to learning
- Feeling like 'part of the family'
- Preparedness for life in society and work
- Promotes equality
- Reduces peer pressure/bullying incidents
- Improves safety
- Creates a positive school image

## Our Uniform

### Years Reception to Year 3

- Royal blue round neck jumper
- White **polo** shirt
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Black, grey or white socks
- Black shoes

### Years 4 to 6

- **Royal blue** V-neck jumper
- White **cotton** shirt
- **Navy blue** plain tie
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
- Black, grey or white socks
- Black shoes

### PE Kit

- Plain or logo house colour t-shirt or polo shirt
- Plain or logo house colour or black hoodie
- Black shorts, tracksuit bottoms, or leggings
- Black or white trainers or pumps

**\*\* House colours are red, yellow, green, blue**



**“This school has high expectations for pupils’ behaviour. Pupils are very polite and respectful.” Ofsted 2024**

**“All children spoken to felt safe and supported at this school. They have trust in the adults to help and support them.”**

**Brightcore Safeguarding Audit 2025**



# Class Page

*An update from your child's class teachers based on their learning this week...*

## **Blossom Class- Mrs Baz**

For math's this week, we have been learning about conservation of numbers within six. We looked at different arrangements of six objects and noticed that the amount stays the same however we may place them on the floor. During literacy, we used phonemes we have learnt to help use write words to complete a sentence. This week we have been lucky to have two Athletes come in and show us how they prepare for their chosen sports during 'Olympian Sports Day' which was lots of fun! We have also been working hard to learn our lines and make a scarecrow for our 'Harvest Assembly'.



## **Sycamore 1- Mrs Hughes**

Been a busy week this week practicing for the KS1 and Reception Assembly all about Harvest. It was lovely to see so many parents and friends there. In between rehearsals we still managed to work on our Maths and Literacy. In maths the children use concrete resources to help them. This week we introduced them to bead strings to help addition and subtraction. Here is Patrick with his bead string solving his number bond challenge.

## **Oak 2- Miss Perkins**

Year 2 have been learning all about Goldilocks and The Three Bears in Literacy! They started their learning with a hook into the story whereby clues were found around the classroom that someone had been inside and eaten the bears porridge! The children were so excited and have been learning the skills to write a WANTED poster in search of Goldilocks!



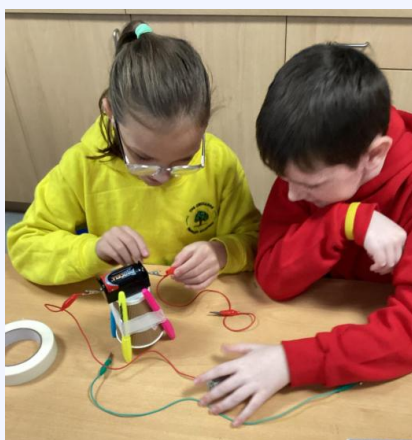
## **Cedar 3- Miss Palmer**

Year 3 have been busy beginning their Big Write, creating magical setting descriptions inspired by Leon and the Place Between. It's been wonderful to see the children confidently using the descriptive writing skills they've been developing over the past few weeks. In Design and Technology, the class used iPad software to design imaginative point-of-sale displays for smartwatches. To top off an exciting week, the children were inspired by special workshops led by Paralympic athletes, learning about determination, resilience, and teamwork.

# Class Page

*An update from your child's class teachers based on their learning this week...*

## Willow 4- Miss Busby



## Maple 5- Miss Moore

We have had such a fun week in year 5! During DT, we turned our designs into reality and created our very own moving doodlers. We used circuits including a motor to make our doodlers move and had to focus on counterbalance to ensure our doodler didn't fall down. We then tested out doodlers on a piece of paper, allowing it to create its very own piece of art!

We also loved the visit we had from Tom and Jack, two inspiring Olympic athletes. We were introduced to high jumping and Judo wrestling and took part in two workshops where we were able to have a go at these sports for ourselves!

## Evergreen 6- Mrs Bayley

They've worked really hard this week completing a KS2 SATs baseline assessment. We will use these results to personalise their learning and focus on gaps/misconceptions that have arisen. In addition to this, next week, we have Mr Palmer joining us for two days each week to provide rapid booster support for groups of children.

They had a short break from their studies to take part in a whole school assembly with some inspirational athletes: one Paralympian, and one Olympian. They shared some wonderfully positive messages with the children about resilience, perseverance and ambition. This was followed by two workshops: Judo and High Jump.

On Mental Health Day (last Friday), the children created some wonderful pieces of artwork to capture the theme of the day. Engaging in painting helps reduce stress levels and promotes relaxation and calm. It also encourages mindfulness, which helps reduce anxious thoughts and improves overall mental health.

## Important Date or Events (next week)

**21<sup>st</sup> – TOPA Playgroup 9:15**  
**- Halloween Disco Phase 2 at 3:30-5pm**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Halloween Disco Phase 1 at 3:30-5pm**

**24<sup>th</sup>- Break up for half term**



# CELEBRATIONS

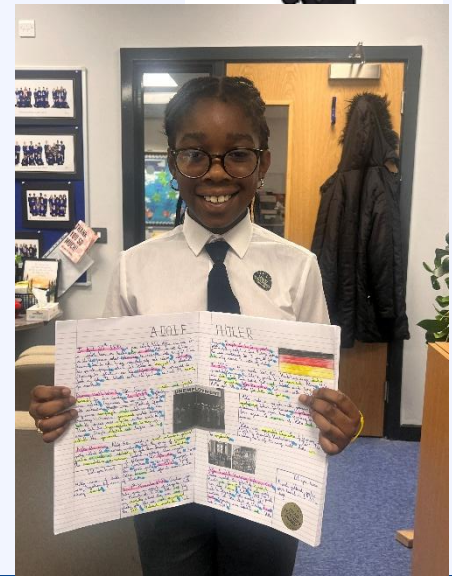
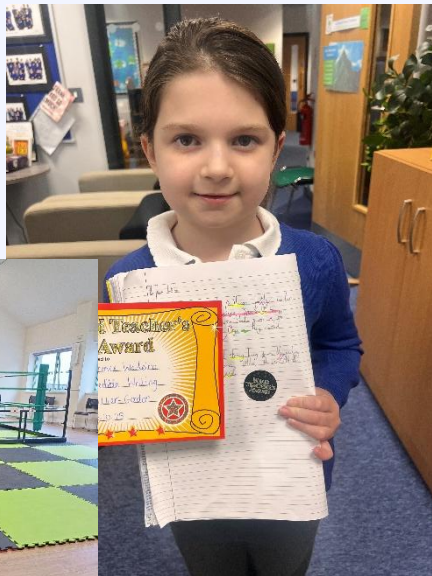
*Celebrate good times... come on!*



## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY STARS

Class	Attribute Awards Winners	Rainbow Award Winners
Blossom	Douglas	Masie
Sycamore 1	Caia	Destiny
Oak 2	Grayson	Ella/Georgia
Cedar 3	Raees	Eden
Willow 4	Jenson	Jason/Carter
Maple 5	Lucy	Thyago
Evergreen 6	Bethiel	
	<b>Headteacher's Award:</b>	

## Mrs Walker-Gordon's Shout Outs!



# SAFEGUARDING

## Support for Parents



### Parent Guide of the Week:

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YouTube.

<https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youtube-2022>

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities. In this guide, you'll find tips on avoiding potential risks such as connecting with strangers, inappropriate content and high visibility.



## Useful Numbers for Family Support:

**Malachi Specialist Family Support:**

- 01214414665

**Birmingham Community Matters:**

- 01217512992

**Approachable Parenting:**

- 01217738463

**Early Help Birmingham:**

- 01213031888

**Barnardos:**

- 01215505271

*“All children spoken to felt safe and supported at this school. They have trust in the adults to help and support them.”*

**Brightcore Safeguarding Audit 2025**

# SOCIAL MEDIA

*Do you follow us?*

## Join in the fun...

Our social media aims to do these three things...

1. Provide a window into the joy that is The Orchards! We are very proud of our school and our team; and not only that, we want to build our community where you get to see the love, the care and the fun that lies behind our high and exemplary standards.
2. Provide you with updates on what your children get up to while they're at school.
3. Advertises and markets our school to keep our pupil numbers coming in. Our school is uniquely special, and as a result, we believe that more children and families deserve to be a part of it.

Please remember, we can only post your children if you have provided us with your written consent on the consent slips. We unfortunately cannot accept verbal consent.



## Our Social Media:

### How to Find Us!

#### Facebook:

- Search “Orchards Primary Academy, Birmingham”

#### Twitter/X:

- Search “@orchardsac”

#### Dojo:

- Speak to your child's class teacher- they will give you a login. You will get regular updates on this!

#### TikTok:

- Search @the.orchards.prim

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