

# 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](mailto:safeguarding@opa.gr)  
[eenheartlearning.org](http://eenheartlearning.org)

## **Message from our Headteacher**

*Mrs Walker-Gordon*

Hello everyone!

I do hope you've had a lovely week.

It has been another wonderful week. It has been lovely to see children taking parts in different sporting events this week. Children have represented us at West Heath and took part in archery along with some other schools. Recently too, our year 5's have been to Bournville all through school and have taken part in STEM workshops. They absolutely loved it! Our year 4's recently went to the art gallery too. What a great opportunity to go and see different pieces of impressive art work. We do lots of arts across the school so this would have been an excellent addition for those budding artists!

It was parent mental health day yesterday! I hope you put your feet up! Have a great weekend!



# ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLES

Mrs Flynn

Attendance continues to be a focus for our school and we are working really hard to help improve our school's attendance.

Our ambition is to not only be in line with national averages and local authority averages but to exceed them.

I know as a school community, we can do it. We have got to keep children in school as much as is reasonably possible.

| Place | Class       | %     |
|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1st   | Evergreen 6 | 97.8% |
| 2nd   | Cedar 3     | 95.8% |
| 3rd   | Sycamore 1  | 95.4% |
| 4th   | Willow 4    | 94.8% |
| 5th   | Maple 5     | 93.8% |
| 6th   | Oak 2       | 87.3% |

## FOOD IN SCHOOL REMINDER...

We are a 'healthy snack school'!

No chocolate, sweets or crisps accepted for snack time!  
Lunch time, this is fine in reasonable portions.

For snack time, try:

- Toast
- Cereal bars
- Breadsticks
- Fruit
- Veggie sticks
- Yogurt
- Cheese cubes



# 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*

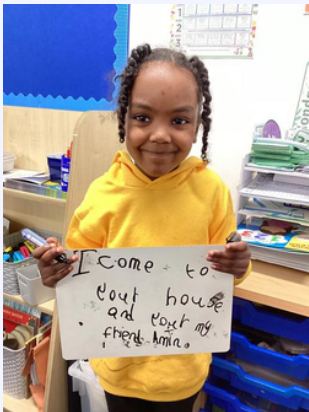


# Class Page

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

## Blossom Class- Ms Hicking

Our story for the next two weeks is Little Red Riding Hood. We have been learning to retell the story and participate in a variety of activities. Like picking flowers, painting and more.



## Sycamore 1- Mrs Hughes

Year 1 have been working really hard this week. The word today was house and here is Jinan with her morning sentence.

## Oak 2- Miss Perkins

This week Year 2 have been exploring the vibrant artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe! Inspired by her iconic floral masterpieces, the children created flowers using a mix of paint, chalk, and collage. Their pieces celebrate bold colours, shapes, and imaginative textures! 🌸 🌺 🌻 🌼



## Cedar 3- Miss Palmer

This week in Year 3 have been practising our passing skills in our hockey unit in PE 😊 we are building up skills to be able to play a match at the end of the half term. 🙌❤️

# Class Page

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

## Willow 4- Miss Busby

This week we have learnt about the Holocaust Memorial Day and the children discussed this year's theme: For a Better Future In DT, the children made prototype 1 of a car chassis!



## Maple 5- Miss Moore

This week We had the best time at the STEM workshop this morning! We were investigating forces and changes in states of matter. 🧬🧪 We also learnt about the famous composer J.S Bach and created some art inspired by his music and the emotions it made up feel while listening.

## Evergreen 6- Mrs Bayley

Year 6 have been busy completing their playground designs in DT this week. In Science, they've been learning how to classify plants by working scientifically. Their attendance has been wonderful and not only did they win last week, but they've also won this week too, which means - more extra play! Well done, Year 6.



## Important Date or Events (next week)

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb - Chinese New Year Workshop in school



# CELEBRATIONS

*Celebrate good times... come on!*



## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY STARS

| Class       | Attribute Awards Winners    | Rainbow Award Winners |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Blossom     | Abi                         | Malaysia/Addison      |
| Sycamore 1  | Dorar                       | Emilia                |
| Oak 2       | Roosalie                    | Ella/Georgia          |
| Cedar 3     | Melody                      | Kellan                |
| Willow 4    | Carter                      | Freya/Yusuf/Ji'air    |
| Maple 5     | Tilly                       |                       |
| Evergreen 6 | Kai'Ren                     |                       |
|             | <b>Headteacher's Award:</b> | Chloe                 |

## 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 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

*"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**

