

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

Message from our Headteacher

Mrs Walker-Gordon

It seems like we have blinked and that Christmas was a distant memory! We break up on Friday for a week and I'm sure the children are looking forward to a well-deserved rest. Hopefully, when we return, the nights will get lighter and the sun will begin to shine!

It has been lovely in school seeing the range of activities going on. We had a poet in called Ian who worked with the children for “National Story Telling Week”. A huge well done to Mrs Bayley for organising such a great event. It was also Chinese New Year! So happy new year for all of our families who are celebrating! We had a Dragon Dance workshop in school this week to celebrate and mark this key time in the Chinese annual calendar.
Have a lovely weekend everyone.



ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLES

Mrs Flynn

We've recently been working with the RISE team at Northfield's Attendance Hub to deep dive what's going well with our attendance data and where we can improve. Look out for new and exciting changes coming soon.

Our ambition is to not only be in line with national averages and local authority averages but to exceed them. The DFE and OFSTED are focusing on attendance and so are we.

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	Sycamore 1	99.3%
2nd	Evergreen 6	94.8%
3rd	Cedar 3	93.9%
4th	Maple 5	93.8%
5th	Willow 4	91.2%
6th	Oak 2	89.2%

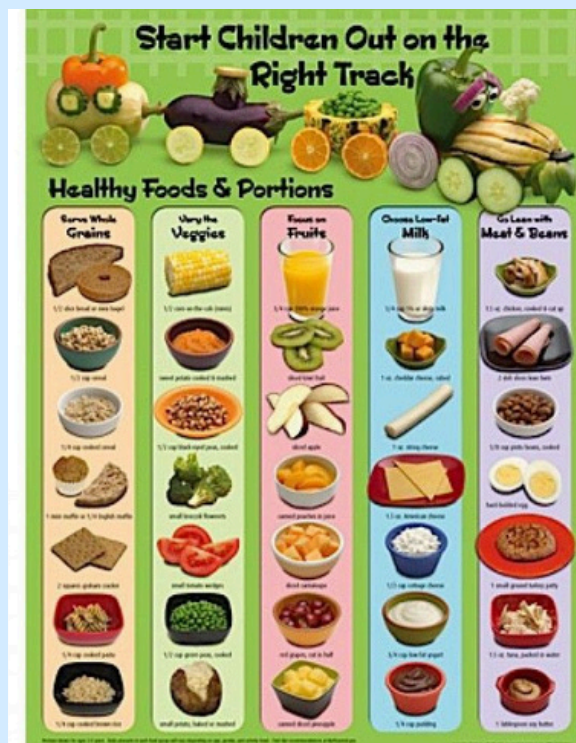
FOOD IN SCHOOL REMINDER...

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

We have been learning to retell the story of Little Red Riding Hood. We made cupcakes! They were so yummy. We enjoyed the poem with Ian and celebrating Chinese New Year.



Sycamore 1- Mrs Hughes

A great time today in Year 1 taking part in our Chinese New Year workshop.

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 took part in an amazing poetry workshop with a very special guest 😊💚😊

Class Page

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

Willow 4- Miss Busby

This week we made slingshot cars in DT, we had a Chinese new afternoon, we had a poetry workshop on Wednesday and today they did beautiful work in science!

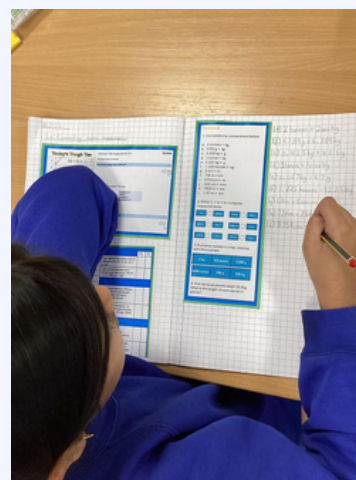


Maple 5- Miss Moore

This week We had the best time in our Chinese New Year Dance workshop yesterday! We even performed our final fan dance to the rest of the school.

Evergreen 6- Mrs Bayley

Year 6 have been busy this week during mock SATs, they're continuing to work hard in maths - converting measures.



Important Date or Events (next week)

11th Feb - Phase 2 Valentines Disco 3:30-5pm

12th Feb - Phase 1 Valentines Disco 3:30-5pm

13th Feb - Break up for half term



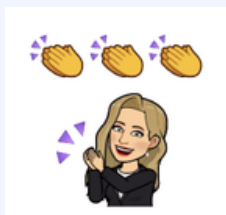
CELEBRATIONS

Celebrate good times... come on!

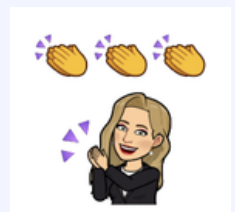
CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY STARS



Class	Attribute Awards Winners	Rainbow Award Winners	Manners Award Winners	Perfect Presentation Award Winners
Blossom	Harlen	Rupert	Mylee	
Sycamore 1	Nour	Romeo	Patrick	Amelia
Oak 2	Eva	Amiyah/Arya	Arlo	Omar
Cedar 3	Sultan		Ibrahim	Brogan
Willow 4	Tommy	Yusuf	Freya	Tasia-Rose
Maple 5	Joshua		Elijah	Lucy
Evergreen 6	Zayaan		Tina	Estefania
	Headteacher's Award:			



Mrs Walker-Gordon's Shout Outs!



SAFEGUARDING

Support for Parents

Parent Guide of the Week:

As It's Child Mental Health Week 2026, we thought this might be a supportive tool to access.

Talking to children about mental health hard sometimes: even to the point that adults can put off raising the topic, not wanting to unearth problems or discuss overwhelming subjects that we perceive our child is too young or not ready for. Rather than keeping children in the dark, however, this guide is designed to help you confidently talk about mental health, so that youngsters feel comfortable talking about their own worries and end any stigma before it begins.

In the guide, you'll find tips on talking about mental health naturally, being open and honest and asking twice.



Useful Numbers for Family Support:

Malachi Specialist Family Support:

- 01214414665

Birmingham Community Matters:

- 01217512992

Approachable Parenting:

- 01217738463

Early Help Birmingham:

- 01213031888

Barnardos:

- 01215505271



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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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