

# 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*

What an excellent first week back! Children have settled so beautifully back in school. It has been really calm and settled. Attendance has been good this week; National Average for persistent absence is around 18%. We are at 15% which is a huge success for Orchards seeing as though we have always had persistent absence well above the national average! Well done for doing so well getting to school- even when they have these slight sniffles or headaches. We need to continue on that path of coming to school everyday.

The summer term is fast approaching! We have many exciting Easter activities coming up so stay tuned for an ‘egg-cellent’ few weeks!

Have a fabulous weekend!



# 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	100%
2nd	Maple 5	95.3%
3rd	Cedar 3	92.3%
4th	Willow 4	91.8%
5th	Evergreen 6	91.5%
6th	Oak 2	88.5%

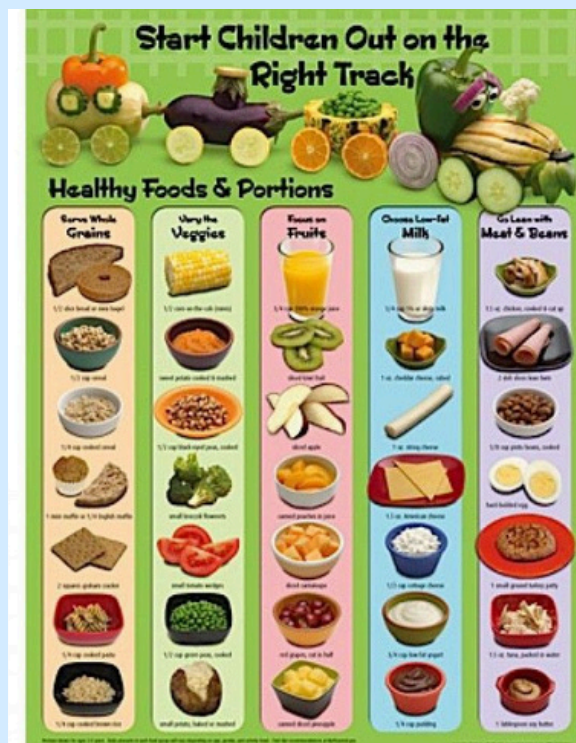
## FOOD IN SCHOOL REMINDER...

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've had a fantastic week celebrating Mrs O'Rourke's birthday! 21 again! We have celebrated with balloons, cake, presents and flowers. For literacy this week we are reading *What did the tree see*. we went for a long walk around school . We used our magnifying glasses and binoculars to look for things that had fallen from the trees.



## **Sycamore 1- Mrs Hughes**

Year one have had a great week discussing space and the planets. They took part in some astronaut training and made themselves a name tag. Here in the middle, is the book that will form the next few weeks of Literacy.

## **Oak 2- Miss Perkins**

Year 2 have been creating fantastic artefacts in science after our research on fire. We have been using artefacts such as a leather fire hat and a wooden fire hat. We learnt all about how the fire was left of London after the fire.



## **Cedar 3- Miss Palmer**

This week in year 3 have been learning about all the different climate zones around the world in Geography and in Science we are using the laptops to research different rocks and their characteristics and uses.

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## **Willow 4- Miss Busby**

This week year 4 started a new book called The Wild Robot and we had a debate on the question "Should robots live in the woods?" The children did some fantastic research in English about World War 2 and in Art they practiced drawing 3D shapes using shadow and tone. In PE, we've started cricket!



## **Maple 5- Miss Moore**

This week we have been practising our French. We had a ukulele session and after 5 weeks of developing our hockey skills we played our very own game. We had a great dance lesson in PE and in computing this afternoon, we were learning all about animation and even had a go at creating our own Thaumatrope!

## **Evergreen 6- Mrs Bayley**

Year 6 had a super day at the University of Wolverhampton. They had a tour of the campus, took part in sports activities and learnt all about germs from a nurse lecturer. They represented The Orchards well and asked the University Ambassadors many questions about University life.



## **Important Date or Events (next week)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> March - TOPA Playgroup 9:15-10:45**

**4<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day - Children dress up  
- Hat Competition**



# CELEBRATIONS

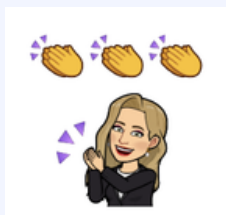
*Celebrate good times... come on!*

## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY STARS



Class	Attribute Awards Winners	Rainbow Award Winners	Manners Award Winners	Perfect Presentation Award Winners
Blossom	Phoebe-Mae	Bonnie/Omar	Ariyah-Le	
Sycamore 1	George	Emilia	Amelia	Khiri
Oak 2	Omar	Osswa	Grayson	Ella
Cedar 3	Kobi		Olivia	Melody
Willow 4	Carter		Elliott	Ahmed
Maple 5	Hamza		Joshua	Marie
Evergreen 6	Junhao	Isobel/Sriaryan	Estefania	Alexander
	<b>Headteacher's Award:</b>			

## 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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**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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