

# 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:**

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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 Executive Headteacher**

*Mrs Walker-Gordon*

Welcome back everyone! I hope you all had the most amazing Easter- and didn't eat too much chocolate (only joking!). The children this week have settled back so beautifully and I'm extremely proud of how quickly the children have fitted back in to normal routines. Well done everyone!



# ATTENDANCE LEAGUE TABLES

Mrs Flynn

Welcome back after the Easter break. Sycamore 1 have come back and smashed attendance and all pupils have been in every day this week, well done.

Our Persistently absence rate has dipped to 16%. This time last year we were at 22%, this is amazing progress too!

We have had a number of leave in term time requests too. Remember, you may face a fine from Birmingham City Council if you do decide to take your child out of school during term time.

Every Day Counts.

Being. Becoming. Belonging

Place	Class	%
1st	Sycamore 1	100%
2nd	Cedar 3	96%
3rd	Willow 4	95.4%
4th	Oak 2	95.2%
5th	Maple 5	92.3%
6th	Evergreen 6	91.8%

## 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**

Exciting news.... Receptions caterpillars are now beautiful butterflies!! In DT this week we have learnt to sew, the children have been concentrating really well whilst sewing. This week we also turned our home corner into a birthday party and the children loved wrapping presents, singing and dancing.

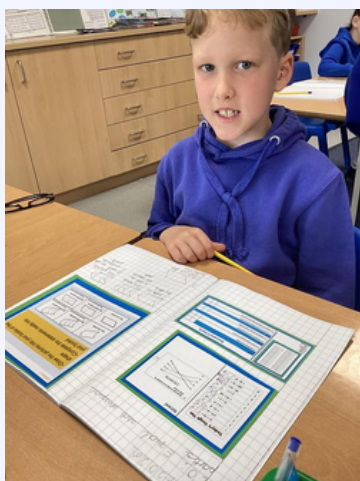


## **Sycamore 1- Mrs Hughes**

Year 1 have been learning about Leo and the octopus in literacy. In science we have been classifying animals and in DT its super excited as were making smoothies!

## **Oak 2- Miss Perkins**

Year 2 have been learning all about product analysis with mechanisms in DT. We've been searching for clues in our immersive hook into our new text - The Journey Home.



## **Cedar 3- Miss Palmer**

This week Year 3 have been in the forest garden carrying out their scientific enquiry of what we can find in soil. The children had a great time. In maths we have been learning about equal and unequal parts of a shape.

# Class Page

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

## Willow 4- Miss Busby

Year 4 had a great time learning about their new topic in DT, we are investigating electronic systems. We did a timestables competition! and we have been learning about romans in history this week. In P.E we are learning Tennis.



## Maple 5- Miss Moore

This week in science we have been learning about the different planets in our solar system.

## Evergreen 6- Mrs Bayley

Year 6 have been working really hard this week doing their SATs revision, I'm so proud!



## Important Date or Events (next week)

**13<sup>h</sup> April - Welcome Back**

**21<sup>st</sup> April - TOPA Playgroup**

# CELEBRATIONS

*Celebrate good times... come on!*



## CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY STARS

Class	Attribute Awards Winners	Rainbow Award Winners	Manners Award Winners	Perfect Presentation Award Winners
<b>Blossom</b>	Khalid	Aslan/Xiyiena	Semilore	
<b>Sycamore 1</b>	Destiny	Romeo	Dorar	
<b>Oak 2</b>	Darcii-Mae	Grayson/Vann	Shalom	Rosalie
<b>Cedar 3</b>	Bonny		Maci	Brogan
<b>Willow 4</b>	Logan		Lydia	
<b>Maple 5</b>	Uthman		Faith	Atipa
<b>Evergreen 6</b>	Ta'sharn		Bethiel	Raffaelle
	<b>Headteacher's Award:</b>	Hamza		



**Mrs Walker-Gordon's Shout Outs!**



# SAFEGUARDING

## Support for Parents

### Parent Guide of the Week:

Creating a strong sense of belonging is essential for children's emotional wellbeing and academic success. This guide explores ten simple and effective strategies, such as encouraging participation, celebrating diversity, and addressing bullying, that help schools build inclusive environments where every child feels valued and connected.

We've created this guide offering parents and educators effective solutions to build inclusive, nurturing environments that help children and young people feel a strong sense of belonging



## 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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