The Orchard Newsletter

Friday 27th November 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy week at The Orchard, with lots of lovely learning taking place across the school and preparations well underway for our Christmas celebrations.

Learning across the school

Reception have been learning new digraphs, developing their colour-mixing skills, exploring the work of the artist Yayoi Kusama and enjoying some writing activities based on the story *Stick Man*.

Year 1 have been developing their digital painting skills in computing, enjoying the book *Winter Sleep* and producing some lovely writing based on its themes. They have also continued their science learning about the different seasons, with a particular focus on the clothes we wear at different times of the year.

Year 2 have been busy making pizzas in Design and Technology, learning about standing up for themselves and others in PSHE and developing their skills in adding and subtracting with two-digit numbers.

Wrapping up warm

On the subject of seasons, the weather has become decidedly nippier this week! We have had a number of children coming to school without coats. Please ensure that your child comes to school appropriately dressed for the weather, with a warm coat and, where needed, a hat and gloves. The children spend a considerable amount of time outdoors throughout the school day, and we want them to be warm and comfortable. Please also ensure that all items are clearly named.

Our wonderful school choir

Our school choir have been spreading some festive cheer this week, singing beautifully at both St Peter's Christmas Fair last Saturday and *Love Magical Molesey* yesterday evening. I am incredibly proud of them all, and we look forward to hearing them perform again at our own Christmas Fair next week.

Christmas performances

Please remember to book your tickets for our upcoming Christmas performances via the Arbor app. The children are busy rehearsing and are looking forward to sharing their performances with you very soon.

Keeping our children safe

Please can I remind parents and carers to keep their children close to them at the start and end of the school day and not allow them to run around the school grounds. During drop-off and collection, our gates are open and there are a large number of people moving around the site. It is therefore particularly important that children remain under your close supervision. Thank you for your support in helping us to keep everyone safe.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. See you on Monday!
Sally Cary
Head Teacher



Tuesday 1st December

We would love to invite parents and carers to join our Family Support Worker, **Teresa Doe**, for an informal **coffee morning** after drop off. This will be a relaxed opportunity to have a chat, share experiences and pick up some helpful tips about family routines. Whether it's the morning rush to get everyone dressed, fed and out of the door on time, or the challenges of establishing a calm bedtime routine, Teresa will be on hand to offer practical ideas and advice.

Come along for a cuppa and a friendly chat. It's always reassuring to share experiences and realise that other families face similar challenges too!

We look forward to seeing you there.

Dates for your Diary

https://orchard.surrey.sch.uk/Calendar/

Click on the *'subscribe'* button to sync your device to it.

Monday 30th November
Flu Vaccinations



Monday 30th November
Year 2 visit to St Lawrence to watch their Year 4 Christmas Show



Tuesday 1st December
Parent Coffee Morning
with Teresa Doe
our family support worker.
After drop off

Friday 4th December
Tombola Mufti Day



Friday 4th December
Christmas Tree Pick Up



Saturday 5th December
Orchard Christmas Fair
12 – 3pm



7th , 8th & 9th December
Christmas Shows
See page 5 for specific timings



Tuesday 15th December
PTA-funded Christmas Theatre Performances



Wednesday 16th December
Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch



Thursday 17th December
Special Visitor – shhhhhh!



Friday 18th December
School Finishes at 1:15pm





Monday 4th January 2027
INSET DAY



Tuesday 5th January 2027
Children return to school



Friday 15th January 2027
Reception & Year 3 admissions deadline
https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant

School Attendance

A Reminder and an Offer of Support

As a school, we recognise the importance of good attendance and the difference it makes to children's learning, friendships and sense of belonging. However, we also recognise that there may be times when, for a variety of reasons, getting your child to school can be challenging.

If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, or there are difficulties that are affecting their ability to attend school regularly, please do come and talk to us. We would much rather know about any difficulties you or your child are experiencing so that we can work together and support you in any way that we can.

We do, however, have a responsibility to remind parents and carers of the national regulations relating to unauthorised absence, including holidays taken during term time.

Where a child has 10 sessions (equivalent to five school days, which do not have to be consecutive) of unauthorised absence within a period of 10 school weeks, a Penalty Notice must be considered.

Under the regulations introduced on 19 August 2024, the following applies:

First Penalty Notice: £80 per parent/carer, per child, if paid within 21 days, increasing to £160 if paid within 28 days.

Second Penalty Notice within a rolling three-year period: £160 per parent/carer, per child, payable within 28 days, with no reduction for early payment.

Third occasion within a rolling three-year period: A third Penalty Notice will not be issued. Instead, Surrey County Council will consider prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996.

Failure to pay a Penalty Notice may also result in Surrey County Council considering legal proceedings.

Whilst it is important to share this information with you periodically, please be assured that our priority is to work in partnership with our families. If there are barriers to your child's attendance, please do reach out to us at an early stage. We want all our children to be happy, feel safe and enjoy coming to school, and we are here to help.

DATES FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2027-2028

I am sure that some of you are already making holiday plans for next year. To help you with this, please find below our term dates, half-term holidays and planned INSET days for the 2027–2028 academic year. These can also be found at the Surrey weblink here:
https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/term-dates

Autumn Term 2027		
Start of Term	**Half Term**	**End of Term**
Wednesday 1st September 2027 (Children start on **Thursday 2nd September 2027**)	25th October to 29th October 2027 (Children back on **Monday 1st November 2027**)	**Tuesday 21st December 2027**
Spring Term 2028		
Start of Term	**Half Term**	**End of Term**
Tuesday 4th January 2028 (Children start on **Wednesday 5th January 2028**)	14th February to 18th February 2028 (Children back on **Monday 21st February 2028**)	**Friday 31st March 2028**
Summer Term 2028		
Start of Term	**Half Term**	**End of Term**
Tuesday 18th April 2028 (Children start on **Tuesday 18th April 2028**)	29th May to 2nd June 2028 (Children back on **Monday 5th June 2028**)	Wednesday 19th July 2028 (Children finish on **Friday 14th July 2028**)

INSET DAYS:

Wednesday 1st September 2027
Tuesday 4th January 2028
Monday 17th July 2028
Tuesday 18th July 2028
Wednesday 19th July 2028

Outside *Stick Man* learning in Reception









Book to attend via Arbor

To ensure every family has the opportunity to enjoy the Christmas performances, we are able to allocate two tickets per child.

Musical Artist of the Week



Dolly Parton

Have a listen to some of Dolly's wonderful songs and see if you can discover what made her music so special!

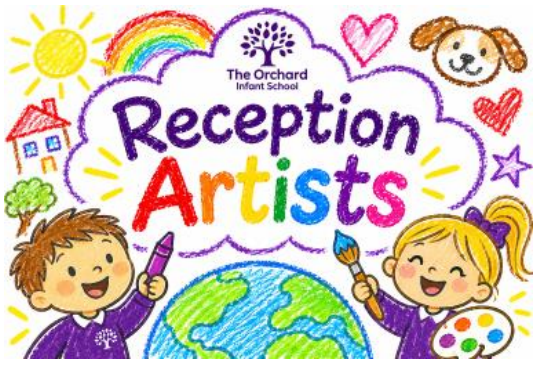
https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6xIuJUkjzm0Ia3qmTYvqV1

Dear Reception Families,

We have an exciting opportunity for all our Reception children to take part in a drawing competition called ***My Wonderful World***, organised by *Young Artists*. Children are asked to draw anything that makes their world wonderful! It could be their favourite person, place or animal to a hobby or food, there is so much they can choose from. To enter, please use the entry form that I sent to all Reception parents via Teams last week or the one with that has been sent out with this newsletter. All entries must be handed in to myself or given to the class teacher no later than **Friday 4th December** so that I can submit their work to *Young Artists*.

We have a chance of winning art supplies for the school, for your child's work to be featured in a My Wonderful World book and it is a great way to engage in discussions about what makes your child's world wonderful.

Many thanks,
Mrs Thornton



Our Value Award Winners are…

Ash **Ruby**	Elm **Ettie**	Holly **Clara**
Willow **Sami**	Maple **Zachary**	Rowan **Stevie**
Beech **Jack**	Oak **Georgia**	Sycamore **Connor**

Courage **Determination** **Respect** **Kindness**






"Nothing that's worth anything is easy." — Barack Obama

Celebrating and Inspiring Children Who Do It Differently



BARNARDO'S
Changing childhoods.
Changing lives.

NHS
Surrey and Borders Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

An Opportunity for Your Child

We are pleased to share that our school has been offered a **free 5-week small group programme** delivered by

Barnardo's Children's Charity

for children aged 6 years and over (at the start of the first session).
If your child has already done the programme, they can do it again.

The programme is designed to gently support children's self-esteem, confidence, emotional wellbeing, and sense of belonging. Through creative activities, discussion, and reflection, children are encouraged to recognise their strengths, celebrate what makes them unique, and develop a personalised "toolbox" of strategies that can support them both in school and at home.

Sessions take place during the school day and are delivered by two trained Barnardo's practitioners in a warm, nurturing, and supportive group environment, for around 30 minutes. At the end of the programme, children take home their personal toolbox and key learning is shared with school staff to help continue supporting their progress.

We are currently planning the programme to run in either the Spring Term or Summer Term; dates have not yet been finalised. There are 18 places available.

If you feel that your child may benefit from this opportunity, please **email senco@orchard.surrey.sch.uk** to express your interest, **with your child's full name, class and NHS number**.
Please note that expressing an interest does not guarantee a place, but it will enable us to consider your child's participation, should spaces be available.

Providing your child's NHS number acts as consent for your child to attend this opportunity and confirms you understand your data might get shared/stored on NHS platforms for the benefit of the care you are given through the NHS, Mindworks or 3rd sector organisations, working on behalf of Mindworks.

If you need any further information, please get in touch.



Tea towels **Trees** **Wreaths**

Click on the name of the product that you would like to order



Click on the picture above to take you to our website.

St Lawrence Parent Tours

St Lawrence C of E (A) Junior School

Closing date for applications is 15th January 2027

Did you know that children that attend The Orchard Infant School have preference over other children in the area?

Tour Dates

Tuesday 8th December 2026
Thursday 7th January 2027

BOOK YOUR TOUR HERE



We are aligned with The Orchard Infant school and hold multiple transition events including watching performances, attending a mini Sports Day and taking part in a Science Day.