

ORCHARD ACADEMY

AUTUMN TERM 2018 NEWSLETTER 1

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

It brings me great pleasure to welcome our children back to Orchard today. I imagine that, after a long six weeks of trying to keep them entertained, the idea of school starting again possibly brings *you* great pleasure too! Whether you are just beginning your association with Orchard, or if you have long been a part of our family, then I'd like to say a big 'hello and welcome' to you too. We always say that a child's most important teacher is their parents or carers, and so we very much look forward to working with you closely to help our children learn and grow throughout the forthcoming academic year. **There is a lot of important information in this letter**, particularly in relation to dropping off/ picking up your children and parking. Please read it carefully and ask your child's teacher if you have any questions.



**Orchard and Shepherdswell
Academy**

I should like to start by welcoming our new staff members on this, their first full day. **Miss Beverley Fletcher** joins us on a more permanent basis in Year 3, having been an absolute superstar in Year 4 last year on a temporary basis. We're also delighted to welcome **Mr. Jasbir Virdee** to our Year 4 team, and **Mr. Daniel Davis** to Year 5. **Mme. Veronique Capomaccio** joins us to teach French across the school. All four are fantastic additions to our teaching staff team and we're delighted and excited to have them 'on-board.'

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Ms. Helen Campanis will not be returning to Orchard as planned. Ms. Campanis is loved by our pupils and staff team here, but has had to move on due to an unforeseen change in personal circumstances. She will be hugely missed and we wish her all the best for the future with a great deal of thanks for all her hard work and everything she has given to Orchard and our pupils.

School Improvements

It really has been a busy summer here at school and a time of exciting change. I'm hugely grateful to the staff that have worked so hard to oversee the improvements. **Mr. Tony Nyman** and **Mr. Stanley Murray**, our site team, have worked tirelessly (in Mr. Nyman's case, sometimes very early in the morning or late into the evening) decorating and overseeing contractors carrying out their various tasks. We have now had new boilers fitted in the school, as we say farewell to the old ones which had served Orchard so well for over 40 years (but had long been starting to falter)! There has been much work to do to ensure our fantastic new building is ready for the children, with new tables, chairs, display-boards and state-of-the-art touch-screen digital whiteboards being installed in classrooms. Teachers have been busy over the summer preparing their rooms and corridors – and I should say a big thank you to **Mr. Luke Allwood** and **Miss Abigail Borg** in particular, who did far more than their fair share of putting 'backing-paper' on display boards all around the school!

We're very excited that our new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) is nearing completion, which gives us an additional fenced, hard-surface sport and play area on the field for use in P.E. lessons and at break and lunch times. This is due to be completed this Friday and will give the children a fantastic facility on which to play sports such as netball, basketball, hockey and football.

You may also have seen this morning that road markings and parking facilities around the school have been improved thanks to Milton Keynes Council. More on this below.

Parking at School

Over the summer break, Council contractors have increased the parking capacity of the spaces at the front of the school building. This coincides with the increase in parking spaces in our staff car park and the just outside the school's rear gates. At the front of school, there are now over 40 parking spaces for use by parents at drop-off / collection times.

Parking has long been an issue at Orchard, and we **please** ask for your cooperation in helping to keep our children safe as they come to/ leave school.



How you can help

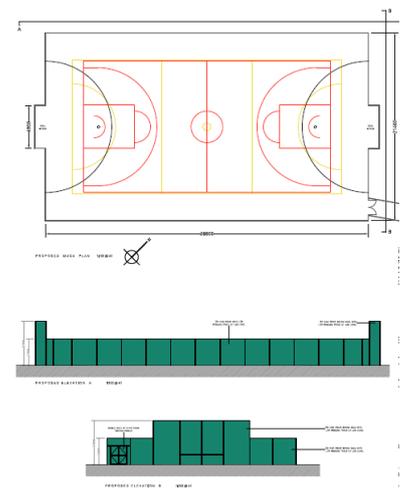
There are many ways you can help keep traffic flowing smoothly and, more importantly, keep our children safe:

- **Please do** use the parking bays at the front of the school, driving through this area slowly. Be aware of children/ families crossing the road.
- **Please do** turn around using the 'turning circle' if you need to. This is at the end of the parking area close to the new school building and the bridge to Fishermead.
- **Please do not** park on the pavement in the area in front of school, in any of the areas with the yellow painted 'zig-zags' or in the 'turning circle' at the end of the parking area (after where the white lines have stopped).
- **Please do not** park on the yellow painted 'zig-zags' on Ravensbourne Place, in the 'Ambulance Bay' outside the Residential Care Home opposite the staff car park, or outside our neighbours' properties so that you block their car from leaving their driveways.
- **Please do not** park on or near the roundabout next to the One Stop car park.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in keeping our children safe as they come to/ leave school.

Drop-off/ Collection from School

This morning, most parents, carers and pupils were asked to go to the playground before school started, where the pupils lined-up and were led to their classroom by their teacher. This was just for today, and was because we anticipated (correctly) that some pupils may have forgotten where their new classroom is following the summer break!



Architect's drawing of the new MUGA built on the field at the far end of the playground.

From tomorrow onwards, **all** parents/ carers should please escort their children to the area **outside their classroom**, where the class teacher will meet and greet you. **We ask please that parents do not enter the school building.** Pupils have been told clearly today where they should arrive. This gives you a good opportunity for a quick chat with your child's teacher should you feel there is something important that they should know before the day starts. Please note that the school gates will open at 08:20. Any pupils needing to arrive before this must arrange to attend breakfast club, which starts at 07:30 and is priced at £2.20.

Please note that for parents in Years 4, 5 and 6, a letter is attached to this one requesting information about who is picking your child up from school. Please read this carefully, fill it in and return to school as soon as possible in the interest of your child's safety. Thank you.

Flu Vaccines – Years 3, 4 and 5

On 16th November, the school nurse will be visiting Orchard to administer the flu vaccine for pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5. This is done through a nasal spray. You can watch a short video about the vaccine by clicking the link on the home page of our school website (under 'Latest News').

School Visits, Visitors and Residential Trips

Year 6 will be the first group to go out on a visit this term. On Monday 10th September, they will be visiting the Caldecotte Xperience which is always a fantastic day.

On Thursday 13th September, we will be welcoming author Lawrence Prestidge, who will be sharing his first four children's books with our children. He will be hosting sessions in the hall throughout the day for all classes. More details will follow in a separate letter. This half term, we will

be holding parents meetings to launch each year group's 2019 residential visit: Year 3 Whitemoor Lakes, Staffordshire (Monday 29th April to Wednesday 1st May); Year 4 Edgmond Hall, Shropshire (Monday 1st to Thursday 4th April); Year 5 Ghyll Head, Windermere, Cumbria (Monday 18th to Friday 22nd March) and Year 6 'The Isle of Wight Experience' (Monday 9th to Friday 13th July). Please look out for the launch letters that we will send home with the pupils in due course.



Term Dates – 2018/2019

Autumn Term 2018	Spring Term 2019	Summer Term 2019
<p>Tuesday 4 September to Friday 21 December <i>Half term: 29 October to 2 November</i></p> <p>—————</p> <p>CPD Days (closed to pupils): Monday 3 September & Friday 26 October</p>	<p>Monday 7 January to Friday 5 April <i>Half term: 18 - 22 February</i></p> <p>—————</p> <p>CPD Days (closed to pupils): Friday 4 January, Monday 8th April and Tuesday 23rd April</p>	<p>Wednesday 24 April to Friday 19 April <i>Half term: 27 – 31 May</i></p> <p>—————</p> <p>CPD Day (closed to pupils): Monday 8 April Bank Holiday: Monday 6 May (closed to pupils)</p>

Above is a reminder of this year's term dates. Please be reminded that on **Friday 26th October** we are **closed to pupils** for staff training.

Dates for your Diary

Wk. 4th September	Tuesday 4 th September – Pupils back to school Thursday 6 th September – Year 3 Excavation Day Friday 7 th September – Celebration Assembly
Wk. 10th September	Monday 10 th September – Year 6 Caldecotte Trip Monday 10 th September – Year 4 Swimming Lessons Start Tuesday 11 th September – Year 5 ‘Viking Day’ Thursday 13 th September – Roald Dahl Day – Author Visit (Lawrence Prestidge) Friday 14 th September – Celebration Assembly
Wk. 17th September After-School Clubs Start	Thursday 20 th September – Individual Pupil Photos Friday 21 st September – Celebration Assembly
Wk. 24th September	Wednesday 26 th September – ‘Day of Languages’ Wednesday 26 th September – First School Council Meeting Friday 28 th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning (No Celebration Assembly)
Wk. 1st October Y6 Practice SATs	Thursday 4 th October – Poetry Day Friday 5 th October – Celebration Assembly
Wk. 8th October	Friday 12 th October – Celebration Assembly
Wk. 15th October Arts Week Family Consultation Evenings – No clubs this week.	Wednesday 17 th October – Family Consultation Evening Thursday 18 th October – Family Consultation Evening Friday 19 th October – Celebration Assembly
Wk. 22nd October	Thursday 25 th October – Head Teacher’s Awards Celebration Assembly Thursday 25 th October – School finishes for Half Term Friday 26 th October – Staff Training Day (School Closed to Pupils)

My best wishes go to the children for a lovely start to the term.

Together we will achieve ...



Mr. C. Brown

Principal

Principal: Mr C. Brown. Assistant Vice-Principals: Mr L. Bartishel and Mr J. Wilson.
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EMLC Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales, registered number 08149829. The registered office is Bridge House, Bridge Street, Olney, MK46 4AB.
Orchard Academy is a business name of EMLC Academy Trust.

