

# ORCHARD ACADEMY

## SUMMER TERM 2017 NEWSLETTER: ISSUE 5

Dear Parents & Carers, Boys & Girls,



Orchard and Shepherdswell  
Academy

We were thrilled to learn that the Milton Keynes planning authority has given its consent to the new classrooms at Orchard. The new accommodation will also be a great opportunity for the academy to design the new teaching spaces around the curriculum.

Construction will begin in the autumn and over the summer holidays we are expecting the site and safety fencing to be erected.

This will mean that there will be some changes of routine for the pupils as we may have less playground space for a short while. To compensate for this, we also have advanced plans for a multi-use games area (MUGA) to be built on part of the playing field. This will also be a super addition to the sports facilities at the academy. Special thanks must go to Keith Marshall, chair of our local governing body, for all his hard work in seeing the project through to construction.

There are approximately 300 pupils on roll at Orchard with well-developed plans to expand to 480. We expect the building to be ready for occupation in September 2018. During the period of construction, the play space at Orchard will be restricted so we will ensure that full use is made of the playing field in PE and recreation.

### STAFFING

We have a number of staff at very different stages in their careers leaving Orchard at the end of term. I would like to wish them all the very best for the future and to thank them all for their unique contributions to the pupils' education and experiences and to the growing reputation of the academy.

At the end of term **Mrs Castle**, **Miss Murray**, **Miss Billingham** and **Mrs Shipp** will be joining their new schools. We wish them every future success and thank them for all their hard work.

**Mrs Smith** has decided to take a career break from full time teaching and we hope that she can remain involved with Orchard and continue to provide expert support for us in English and Literacy.

Congratulations to both **Mrs Campanis** and **Miss Shaw**, who became proud mothers this term and with healthy babies. Both are currently on maternity leave and will be returning to Orchard in the new academic year.

We have also appointed **Mrs Rolph** as a class teacher in Year 5 and she will also be taking responsibility for Art, Design and Technology across the school. **Miss Carter** will be remaining with us to continue to support PE and games and will be assisted by Miss Shaw, who returns to her Play Leader role following her maternity leave. We have welcomed two new administrators to the academy. **Mrs Woodward** and **Mrs Lowe** have joined our excellent admin team.

I would like to wish all staff, old and new, all the very best for the summer holiday.

## **YEAR 6**

At the end of the summer term, it's always sad to say farewell to the boys and girls in Year 6. However, they are now more than ready for the fresh challenges that lie ahead at the secondary school (although many have admitted that they wished that they could stay at Orchard just a bit longer!). Thank you to everyone involved with the preparations for the Year 6 Leavers' celebrations, particularly Mrs Castle, Mrs Smith, Mrs Shipp, Mrs Coleman and Mr Wilson.

The Year 6 pupils also enjoyed a fantastic visit to The Isle of Wight, led by Mr Wilson, Mrs Taylor, Mr Cursley, Mrs Castle and Mrs Coleman. The pupils received very many compliments about their effort and behaviour in all areas, including the journey there and back. Thank you to Mrs Smith and Mrs Shipp for organising a fun 'staycation' for the remainder of the year group.

I hope that the pupils, staff, parents, governors and guests enjoyed the celebration assembly and the Year 6 production. The performances of 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies' were fantastic - well done to everyone involved.

Throughout the school year, our Year 6 pupils have been a great source of pride to the school - they are a Year group full of promise for the future and we all wish them every success. I hope that pupils enjoy their new school and that they will continue to be a credit to themselves and their families. All pupils were presented with a certificate and a small gift from the academy.

In particular, I would like to congratulate the following individual pupils for the contribution they have made to Orchard:

<b>Headteacher Award:</b>	Keira Murphy, Thashmy Shanmugam
<b>Effort in Sport:</b>	Paola Ankrah, Bruce Ovbiye-Nsang, Abisola Oyedele, Nadia Al-Said
<b>Achievement in Performing Arts:</b>	Starlah Aplin, Daphne Safo-Buaben, Arazim Kenku
<b>Jordan Leon Young Award:</b>	Max Carvey, Marcus Hows

**Academic Achievement:** Dinesh Nirmalan, Nibha Tamrakar, James Ward, Katie-Louise Wilkinson

**Attitude Achievement:** Hanan Mohamed, Moazzima Mehndi, Amandeep Banga, Kanuya Ketheeswaran

### **SPORTS DAY 2017**

Thank you to Mr Williamson and Miss Carter for co-ordinating our **Sports Day** so expertly on Friday 14 July. The children enjoyed a rotation around a circuit of different fun sporting activities. The day concluded with some exciting and contested traditional running races and the awarding of the House Cup to the winners Orion, who were run very close by the runners-up Pegasus.

It was also really good to welcome so many parents, carers and friends who were able to join the children for a picnic lunch on the school field. Thank you for your support.

### **SPORT AT ORCHARD**

Thank you to Miss Carter for providing the following report:

Sport at Orchard Academy has continued to excel this term, with the boys and girls exceeding expectations and representing themselves as individuals and as a school with pride. At the start of the term the **Girl's Football Team** competed in fixtures every Wednesday as part of a league. The girls performed brilliantly and produced some pleasing results whilst displaying fantastic team - work and resilience when against strong opposition.

In May the **Cedar Class** attended a fun filled day of ability games. This gave them the opportunity to try sports such as wheelchair basketball, football and problem solving games. The boys thoroughly enjoyed their day!

Mrs Creaser took a **Gymnastics** team off to the Kingston Gym for a competition just before half term. The children had many training sessions ahead of the competition and showed great dedication to the event. The boys and girls did particularly well in the vault and floor events. Year 6 students, Paola and Charlie really stood out at the competition and displayed fantastic routines.

In June we set off to Stantonbury Campus to attend the **Area Athletics** heats. Forty of our children competed in different events. The sun was shining and so were our athletes, with 13 children qualifying for the athletic finals! On the 1st July the finalists arrived at school on Saturday morning, after a team breakfast and a final practice we headed back to Stantonbury. The children all represented themselves and the school with pride. It was an awesome day and a great experience. A special mention to Bruce who competed in the 200m senior boy race and to the senior girls

relay team (Abisola, Paola, Jemimah and Nadia) for medalling second place in their events (in all the primary schools in Milton Keynes). This is a huge achievement!

In 2016, the boys and girls qualified for the **County Games!** This unfortunately fell on the same week as Isle of Wight. Fortunately we have great talent in year 5 which stepped up to the challenge, along with a few year 6 who made up a gifted squad of eight girls and eight boys! This was a fantastic experience, with the opportunity to hear from Olympian medallists with a spectacular opening ceremony. Each competitor had to compete in five events (two track and three field events). We finished 4th overall, which was a place to be proud of with a younger team! Conrad had an excellent overall performance, and won both his races!

Thank - you for all your continued support and well done to all the children for their successes within the term! Also thank you to both Miss Carter and Mr Williamson who have worked hard to ensure the continuing success of the academy in sport and to ensure the PE lessons are great too!

### **SEPTEMBER CLASSES**

In shaping staff teams, we have struck a good blend of both new and experienced staff at the academy. The academy will be organised into lower and upper key stage 2 with the traditional Orchard class names. We will have an additional class in Year 5 so the school is growing from about 300 to 330 and new class in Year 5 is Rowan Class.

In September 2017, there will be 11 pupils based in the Cedar Class that will join the children for some of their lessons. Cedar will be led by **Mrs Stockton** supported by a strong TA team.

The class names and organisation are confirmed as follows:

<b>Years 3 &amp; 4 Leader - Mr. Allwood</b>	<b>Years 5 &amp; 6 Leader - Mr. Bartishel</b>
Mr Allwood (Elm)	Mrs Mundy (Oak)
Miss Borg (Yew)	Mr Williamson (Rowan)
Miss Brearley (Beech)	Mr Thomas (Ash)
Miss Draddy (Hazel)	Mrs Rolph (Willow)
Mrs Campanis (Poplar)	Mrs Butlin (Willow)
Mrs Montford (Maple)	Mrs Nicholson (Sycamore)
Mrs Creaser (TA)	Mrs Taylor (TA)
Mrs Roberts (TA)	Miss Coleman (TA)

## **SCHOOL MEALS**

From September, our new catering provider is **Caterlink** and we have advanced plans with them to have fresh meals cooked on site with daily deliveries. The cost will remain at £2.30 per day until further notice. Once the new service is established we will be moving to an on-line system to order meals and for payment with the option for parents to call or visit so this is completed on their behalf. Until we have more certainty about the arrangements for September, please continue to order and pay for your meals in the usual way.

## **ORCHARD BREAKFAST CLUB**

The aim of the club is to encourage the children to begin the day with a Healthy Breakfast, and so give themselves the best possible start to the day. It is recognised that breakfast is the most important meal of the day and helps the children work and learn well. Most days we provide a choice of cereals, (we avoid sugar coated), fruit juice or water and wholemeal toast. On a Wednesday the children have an added choice of crumpet or muffin, and each Friday we offer a "special" such as scrambled eggs, beans on toast, bacon rolls.

The Breakfast Club costs £2.00 per day and opens its doors at 7.30am and closes at 8.30am for the start of school. If you require your child to eat breakfast, children need to arrive by 8.15am to enable them time to eat before they go to class. After children have eaten their breakfast, and before school starts for the day, there will be supervised activities for them to choose. To assist us with catering and staffing ratios for the correct number of children we require all places to be pre-booked. Please contact Mrs Harrison at the academy if you require additional information or would like to book a place for your child.

## **SUMMER SAFETY**

Children have been urged to stay well away from the road works, construction sites, waterways and railway lines over the summer holiday. Boredom sometimes sets in and children could stray into danger. Historically, during the long school holidays, local communities sometimes experience a considerable rise in reported anti-social and nuisance behaviour, in the main by young people of school age. This type of behaviour is extremely upsetting for local communities.

## **TERM DATES 2017/2018**

Orchard will be **closed** to pupils on **Friday 21 July**, with Thursday 20 July being the last day of the summer term. The autumn term commences on **Tuesday 5 September** with staff attending the training day on Monday 4 September.

Please note the dates published below have now been confirmed by the Local Governing Body and are shared with Shepherds Well.

Autumn Term 2017	Spring Term 2018	Summer Term 2018
<p>Tuesday 5 September to Tuesday 19 December</p> <p>Half term: 23-27 October</p> <hr/> <p><b>CPD Days (closed to pupils):</b> Monday 4 September &amp; Monday 30 October</p>	<p>Thursday 4 January to Friday 23 March</p> <p>Half term: 12-16 February</p> <hr/> <p><b>CPD Days (closed to pupils):</b> Wednesday 3 January</p>	<p>Tuesday 10 April to Friday 20 July</p> <p>Half term: 28 May-1 June</p> <hr/> <p><b>CPD Days (closed to pupils):</b> Monday 9 April &amp; Monday 23 July Bank Holiday: Monday 7 May</p>

I would ask parents and friends of the Academy to visit our website and view or download the Orchard **Welcome Pack** that details all the arrangements, expectations and full staffing details for the new academic year.

On behalf of staff and governors, I wish you all families and friends of Orchard a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes

Mr M P Lavelle  
**Associate Principal**

If you require the newsletter in another language, please contact the school and we will ensure you receive all school information in the correct format.

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