

Orchard Junior School Newsletter

Headteacher: Mrs Carol Taylor

Deputy Headteacher: Mr Chris Parker

Email: adminoffice@orchard-jun.hants.sch.uk

Water Lane, Dibden Purlieu, SO45 4SB

Tel: (023)8084 3162



3rd September 2021

Return to School - **Key Information Newsletter**

Welcome to the New Year at Orchard Junior School and a special warm welcome to all of the new families joining the Junior School community for the first time.

We all hope that you have had a good Summer holiday and that all of the children are looking forward to seeing their friends again and getting to know their new class.

Many children will be feeling anxious at this time and this is completely normal. Please read this newsletter carefully as it contains important information about the return to school. Feel free to share it with the children so that they know what to expect too.

This term will see the school returning to “how things used to be”. Each step we take will focus on ensuring the biggest positive impact on children’s learning, with social skills being reintroduced first.

As always, the class teachers will be checking their class emails for any concerns you may have; this is the best way of communicating with the teacher during term time.

We are all looking forward to seeing all of the children back in school on Monday.

Changes in access to the school site

The school can only be accessed via the school car park on Water Lane or via the pathway (next to the horse field) from Challenger Way. The main gates on Water Lane will continue to be closed to vehicles to allow pedestrian access at peak times. 8.30 – 9.00am and 3.00 – 3.30pm each day.

The car park is for staff use only.

You will no longer be able to walk across Noadswood field onto Orchard site as a fence has been put up around the perimeter of Noadswood playing fields during the holidays. Nor will you be able to cut across the Infant playground to our school. This is due to updates to safeguarding risk assessments by all 3 schools.

Morning routine

The morning routine will see all of the children starting the day on the main playground.

For the first week back, our Year 3 children should make their way through the playground gates by the garage/minibus. The Year 3 teachers will be waiting to welcome and support the children as they arrive. Parents are asked to say goodbye at these playground gates please There will be no supervision of children before 8:35am, but the Infant School have a breakfast club if you need early morning childcare. Please contact them directly.

At 8:45am the children will go into class, with both gates being locked at 8:50am. Children arriving after 8:50am will need to come into school through Reception and will be recorded as being late to school any time after 8.50am. Please be aware that persistent lateness (which reaches the threshold of 10 lates) may also result in the issuing of Penalty Notices.

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End of the day

The school day will end for ALL children at 3:20pm

The children will come out of school via different exits.

Year 3 and 4 will come out onto the playground where teachers will be available at the end of the day if you want to catch them.

Year 5 will come out of the door to the left of the main office door. If you are waiting for your Year 5 child, please could you wait in the bike / scooter park to allow others to pass along the path.

Year 6 will come out of the gate near to the Noadswood gates (same as last year)

The playground gates will be opened at 3:15pm for parents to wait for their children on the playground. Parents with children in more than one year group are welcome to arrange to meet all of their children on the playground.

Absence Reporting

If your child is absent from school for any reason, and we have not previously been informed by a request for absence, we ask that you report any absence through the link on the website "Report Your Child's Absence" – this is a google survey which provides school with immediate information so we are able to maintain up to date safeguarding data on the reasons for children's absence from school.

Request to authorise absence from school for exceptional circumstances

Schools are now only able to authorise absence from school in exceptional circumstances. We ask that all absences are requested by completing an absence form or contacting the school office. If you take your child out of school without permission, the absence will be automatically unauthorised. Please read the attached information from Hampshire Services on Advice for Parents/Carers on non-attendance at school and penalty notices.

If you would like further information, please contact our Attendance Officer, Julie Croton.

Inside the Classrooms

The children will be sitting in groups and the teachers will not be following a weekly seating plan. The children will move between groups based on the teaching that the child needs to progress.

Playtime

All the children will have playtime at the same time. The children can bring in a snack – this can only be a piece of fresh fruit (e.g. a banana, apple, pear etc) not processed fruit.

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Assemblies

We will be slowly reintroducing assemblies. To start off this will be with 2 year groups at a time so that we can spread the children out in the hall. This will be reviewed.

We are not inviting parents into assemblies this half term.

Lunchtime

Lunchtime will revert to having groups of children sat at tables together. We will be allowing children who have packed lunch to sit with those who are having a school dinner. All children will be able to eat their lunch in the hall with the option for children with a packed lunch to eat outside if they wish.

Ordering a school dinner

Years, 4, 5 & 6 Please remember to log onto your child's SCOPAY account on SUNDAY to book meals for the week ahead, or book 24 hours prior to the day the lunch is required.

Can we please ask you all to speak to your child about their choices each day and make sure that it is correct before ordering as **we shall not be able to change their choice in school**. Often last year, the choices that parents made for their child, were not known to the children. Please make sure that the correct code is used – M = meat, V = Vegetarian, P = Street food.

If your child has no booking on Scopay or packed lunch provided, staff will be calling parents on the day to bring a packed lunch into school.

Current school dinner menus are on the school website and we start the term with **Week 2**.

Year 3 children will bring home a letter on Monday with instructions to set up an account on Scopay to order lunches. Please send your child with a packed lunch on Monday or until your account is set up.

We operate a cashless school. Your child will not be able to confirm their lunch to the teacher at morning registration unless you have booked prior to the day/week.

School uniform

Details of the school Uniform requirements can be found on this link:

<https://www.orchardjuniorschool.com/uniform>

On days when the children have PE, they can come into school in their PE kit.

Year 3 PE days = Tuesday and Friday

Year 4 PE days = All Y4 classes Wednesday plus 4JD Tuesday, 4MB Thursday and 4ZM Friday

Year 5 PE days = Wednesday and Thursday

Year 6 PE days = Monday and Thursday

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Information to follow:

Next week we will update you with:

*After school clubs and school sports team-training times.

*Dates of school trips.

*Year group newsletters

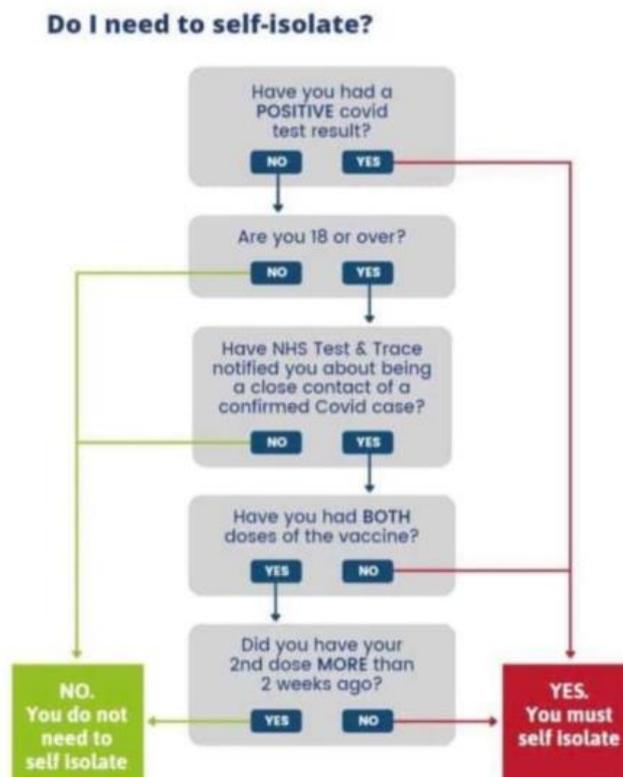
*Music Lessons

COVID measures

We will be keeping with the regular handwashing, enhanced cleaning and staff COVID testing that was in place before the holidays (for more information please see the school website where the updated risk assessment will be uploaded on Monday). We await further information on the publicised CO₂ monitors, but we have already purchased a number of mobile CO₂ monitors, which have already been in use in school last year.

What will the school do when a child in the class tests positive for COVID?

Current guidelines for isolation are:



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Current guidelines for education mean that we will not be closing classes for isolated COVID cases. We will inform parents that there has been a confirmed case in the class and ask that any child who is unwell is kept off school and seeks a PCR test before returning. This may change if we develop a cluster of cases, but we would follow public health advice on any contagious disease outbreak in school.

Contact Email Addresses

www.orchardjunior.com School Website – Report a Pupil Absence

covidresult@orchardjunior.com –to inform the school that your child has tested positive for COVID

ELSA@orchardjunior.com – if you are worried about your child's emotional wellbeing.

class@orchardjunior.com – Please put the name of the class at the start e.g. Miss Hampton's class would be 3JH@orchardjunior.com. These emails go directly to the class teacher and they can be used to arrange calls, show work and make contact.

adminoffice@orchard-jun.hants.sch.uk is still manned on a daily basis and emails will continue to be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

Once again, thank you all for doing your part to keep our community safe.