



# Scotch Orchard Primary School

*Caring | Believing | Achieving*

## Spring Term Newsletter - April 2021

When the children returned to school on 8th March, Scotch Orchard felt whole again. It has been so heartening to see how the children have settled back into their classes and daily routines. With spring arriving and a renewed sense of positivity is in the air, we have been making plans for enriching the experiences for our children. Letters have been sent to parents and carers for our Aberdovey and France trips for the 2021/22 academic year (subject to government guidance) and more exciting developments are in the pipeline over the coming months including the installation of a trim trail on the top playground to encourage children to be more active. Watch this space for details!

We also have said fond farewells to two members of our Scotch Orchard team who, despite only being with us for a short while, have given so much to our learning community. Academic mentor, Mr Hobbs has now begun his teaching career at a partner ATLP school, Brookvale and after spending her first two placements in Year 1 and Year 4, our SCITT student, Mrs Lawrence, is moving to William MacGregor to complete her teacher training. Thank you from all of us at Scotch Orchard and best of luck with your future careers as teachers!

*Mrs Bishop, Headteacher*



### Drop Off and Collection

Thank you for all your support with our drop off and collection procedures. As we are trying to keep the process swift, orderly and with everyone's safety in mind, we ask that you please adhere to the following guidelines:

- Only one adult to enter site at drop off and pick up
- Keep to the left along the path and driveway and keep your children with you - please do not allow them to run ahead
- Maintain social distance from others at all times
- As you exit with your child, please keep moving to maintain a free-flowing route out of school

Please note: Children will only be released once you reach the front of the line

To further reduce congestion, staff will now stagger the dismissal of any child walking home alone, releasing them as the driveway clears

### PTA Book Drive

We are thrilled to announce that the PTA have generously purchased £3,000 worth of brand new books to enrich our reading scheme for Early Years, KS1 and lower KS2.

This recent investment has added to our Autumn Term Amazon book drive initiative and will ensure that all children across the school have access to a wide range of up-to-date, diverse and engaging texts.

Our aim is for every child to be a reader by the age of 7 and to inspire our children to develop a love of reading.

**Thank you to the PTA for your continued support!**

### Booking Nursery and Breakfast Club - pre-booking now essential

From Monday 19th April, all Breakfast Club and Nursery paid afternoon sessions **must be pre-booked and paid for** in advance, via ParentPay, using a similar process to ordering school lunches. This service is now live ready for your Summer term bookings.

To make a booking, please follow the simple steps below:

- Click on 'Make or View bookings and sessions'.
- Select 'Breakfast Club' or 'Nursery' from the dropdown box
- Select 'Book a session' for the day(s) required
- Make your payment in order to secure your booking

### Confirmed Positive Cases over the Easter Holidays

Gov.uk have asked schools to continue with contact tracing over the Easter holidays. For the purpose of contact tracing, parents and carer need only inform us if a pupil **'tests positive within 2 days of the child being in their education setting'**. It is important that you use [covid19@scotchorchard.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@scotchorchard.staffs.sch.uk) and not the office email as it is not monitored during the break.

Parents are asked to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst at school. If symptoms develop after 2 days, you do not need to inform us.

Where pupils test positive for Covid-19 more than 2 days since being at school, you will only need to inform us if they will be self-isolating when we return on 19th April. Please follow the contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.



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### **Wellbeing focus**

Ensuring that all children feel safe and supported, has been a school priority after such a tumultuous year. Since returning to school, re-establishing daily routines and rebuilding relationships have both been focus areas across the whole school. Outdoor learning has been a wonderful way for the children to reconnect with their classmates. All year groups have had weekly activity afternoons with Forest School, Commando Joe, and team-building orienteering activities in PE. Highlights have included making animal shelters and hedgehog nests, nature inspired artwork, stick skeletons and even Greek ships made from twigs! As part of our RSE curriculum, we have been exploring 'caring friendships' and 'respectful relationships' through drama activities, role play and art. Year 1 and 2 have been thinking about the characteristics of a good friend, Year 3 and 4 have considered how our behaviour affects others and how we should celebrate mistakes, and Year 5 and 6 have been focusing on the characteristics of a good learner and resolving conflict in friendships.



### **Worry Boxes and Talk Tickets**

We are mindful that the past year has been full of so many changes and challenges for our children.

To support our children's mental wellbeing, new Worry Boxes have been introduced in all classrooms and key areas throughout school. Children can request to speak to a member of staff by completing a Talk Ticket and posting it into one of the boxes.

We've already had really positive feedback from the children; they have found the Worry Boxes a reassuring way to reach out to someone to share any worries or concerns.

### **Virtual Parents' Evening**

We will be hosting our Summer term virtual Parents' Evening via Teams during week beginning **10th and 17th May**.

Full details and available time slots with your child's class teacher will be confirmed after the Easter break and bookings will be made via Teachers2Parents.

### **Diary Dates**

#### **Nursery, Reception and Year 6 group photographs**

Friday 23rd April

#### **Virtual Parents' Evening**

w/c 10th May and 17th May on Teams

#### **INSET days (school closed to children):**

Friday 30th April

Monday 5th July

### **Term Dates**

#### **Spring Term Dates 2021**

**Term ends:** Thursday 1 April at our usual times

**Holiday:** Friday 2 April - Friday 16 April

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday 4 April

#### **Summer Term Dates 2021**

**Term starts:** Monday 19 April

**May Day:** Monday 3 May

**Half term:** Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June

**Term ends:** Wednesday 21 July

**Summer holiday:** Thursday 22 July - Tuesday 31 August