

# NEWSLETTER

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

ISSUE 1



# The Orchards School

A PLACE TO FLOURISH AND GROW

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

What a lovely week we have had with everyone back together at The Orchards School after the Easter break. The staff team started the week with a Training Day focused on developing our whole school culture and ethos. The session was an excellent opportunity for the staff team to work together and focus on our school motto of 'The Orchards School, a place to flourish and grow'. I am sure many of you have spotted the smart new signage around the school site. I'm positive you will agree that it really does look impressive. I know from talking to the children this week they were really impressed with signs too.

The children have settled back into school fantastically, it has been wonderful to see them all focusing on their learning, laughing and having fun. I am intrigued to see how the planting develops in Year 2. The children were really engaged in their learning this week when I visited their classrooms. I have also had the opportunity to spend time in Year 1 with 1R this week. The children were all really keen to share with me their understanding of how to maintain a healthy lifestyle and were able to communicate clearly how and why different foods were healthy choices.

I know that many of you have enquired about the plans for the new uniform. We are continuing to talk with the Black Pear Trust about the changes. Once we know a little more, we will share this with you. We are continuing to make enquiries with Nursery and Infant schools in developing countries regarding the donation of preloved Sidemoor First School Uniform. Once we have finalised the details, we will share them with you. As I am sure you will agree, it would be a wonderful legacy for Sidemoor First School to support another school community.

The sunshine this week has been a lovely addition to break times and lunchtimes, whilst the temperatures have improved somewhat, please can I remind parents or guardians to send their child into school waterproof coat every day.

Mrs E Ravenscroft

## IMPORTANT DATES



**May Day: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – school closed**

**Half Term: Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June**

**Term Begins: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

**Term Ends: Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July**



# WELCOME AND FAREWELL

This term, we welcome to The Orchards School team several new members of staff. In the office, we welcome Kate Benson. SLT members, Sarah Williams, Marina Rumney and Anna Woodward. Teaching staff, Emma Mardell and Jennie Hancox, and to our TA team, Julie Cartwright, Peter Jones, Diane Moss and Tracey Trumann. I'm sure, when you see these new faces around the school site you will give them a warm welcome.

Sadly we say goodbye this week to one of our team, Jane Shaw. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication to our school community and wish her well in her new endeavors.

# ATTENDANCE

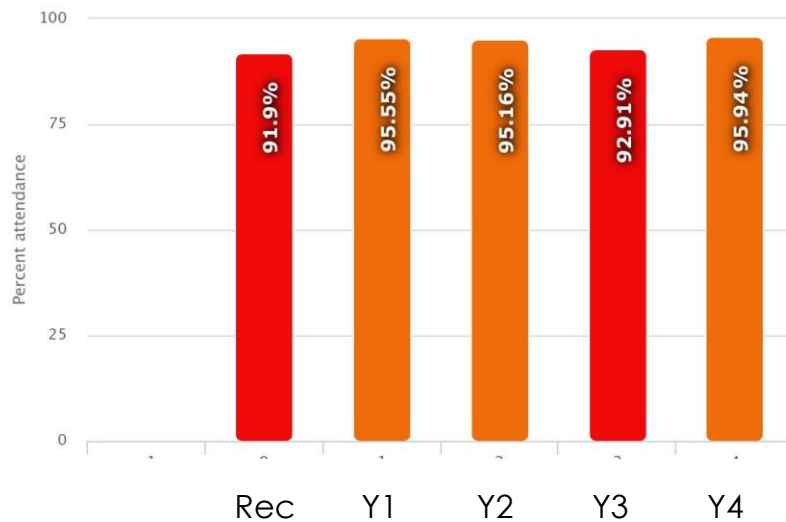
Our target is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance this academic year.

**Our current attendance is 93.53%**

Best attendance : **KS1 is Year 1** with 95.55% and **KS2 is Year 4** with 95.94%

Could you please ensure you let the school office know before 09:10 if your child is going to be absent from school with an illness or if they have a medical appointment. This can be done by phone on 01527 872271 or via email to [office@theorchardsschool.org](mailto:office@theorchardsschool.org)

## Attendance by Year Group since 01/09/2020 to 22/04/2021



# URGENTLY NEEDED PLEASE

If you have any tights, socks, pants or trousers/jogging bottoms that no longer fit your child, we are looking for spare ones for Nursery and Reception Class. Any donations would be gratefully received.  
Thank you.

## SCHOOL LUNCHES

We are making some changes to the way school lunches are ordered. This approach will streamline the system and will enable the kitchens to plan ahead for catering requirements.

By the end of today, you will have received a letter with a menu form for the lunches at school this term.

Please highlight, circle or tick the meals your child would like and send the named form back into school.

These choices will then last for the entirety of the menu, in this case, April to July 2021. You do not need to make any further choices or orders until the September menu is sent out.

If your child changes their mind about a choice, please do not hesitate to contact the school office who can change the menu choice with the kitchen.

Please return all completed menus to school by **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021**.

## WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

We have a brand new website and Facebook page that will be live from Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

Our website link is [www.theorchardsschool.org](http://www.theorchardsschool.org) and the QR code below will take you

to the Facebook page.



Select Language



## ONE WAY SYSTEM

We appreciate how stressful the Covid-19 rules have been and how they have impacted on all our lives. We have listened to your comments regarding the one-way system that has been in place for the past year.

To that end, from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, the one-way system will change. **Entry and exit** will from Lynden or Grayshott entrances following the designated pathways. Please continue to observe social distance.

Now that the one-way system is changing, please can everyone now enter school through the rear entrance. Parking passes will cease at the end of next week (Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April). If you wish to continue to use these parking passes, please contact a member of SLT via the school office.

Now the summer months are approaching, we are hoping the field will remain mud free and dry!

School classroom doors will be open from **8.45-9.00am** and **3.00-3.10pm**.

# PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

We would appreciate it if you could complete a parent questionnaire using Microsoft Forms. The QR code or link for the questionnaire can be found below. If you would prefer a paper copy of this, please do contact the office.

We look forward to receiving your comments and answers. We will feedback the results to staff and respond to your comments proactively.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-3jbe5Fux0-S5Ot4ednxqSsHf-3nc4BFvuSpB\\_h2QotUQThDR01DUVBZTFU5OVpBWjgxQkxNRjdCCQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=-3jbe5Fux0-S5Ot4ednxqSsHf-3nc4BFvuSpB_h2QotUQThDR01DUVBZTFU5OVpBWjgxQkxNRjdCCQi4u)



## NURSERY

What a start to the Summer term. All the Nursery children have adapted so well after a lovely sunny Easter break. I would particularly like to praise our new starter children who have adjusted to Nursery so well, making friends and understanding the nursery routine. Well done everyone!

## RECEPTION

The children have come back to Reception class so happily and confidently this week. It has been lovely to have such a positive start to the term. This week, we started our topic on minibeasts and the children have explored the rhyming story, 'Mad About Minibeasts'. We have also had great fun in our revamped outside area. Children's learning has been focussed on three main areas; water & sand, mud kitchen and the bike area. Children have practised and learnt how to use the equipment properly and how to tidy them away correctly.

## YEAR 1

It has been lovely to be back at school with all our friends. We have really enjoyed learning to retell 'The Gingerbread Man' this week, with actions and a text map.



## YEAR 2

This week, Year 2 have been investigating what plants need to survive. We have enjoyed planting our own seeds, and are carefully observing them in different environments, to see if we can work out what factors will impact their growth. We think they will all need light, water and nutrients from soil to grow healthy. We have chosen to grow some seed in the dark, and some in the light. Some have been placed in cold places, and some in warm places. Some of our seeds we will water, and some we will not water, and some have been sown in soil, whilst others on paper, or left in water. We are also exploring whether there is any truth to the fact that speaking to plants will help them grow. We are speaking only kind words to one plant and unkind words to another plant. We are very excited to see what results we get.



## YEAR 3

In Year 3, as Historians, we have been learning about Ancient Egypt. As Mathematicians, have learnt all about Fractions. As authors, we have begun to study a book called Jack and the Baked Beanstalk and we are reading text called The Worst Child. We like being back at school and going into the hall for our dinner. It's great playing outside with our friends and developing our skills in reading, writing and maths.

## YEAR 4

This week, we have been reactivating our learning about dragons by imitating 'How to trap a dragon' by Pie Corbett. We have really enjoyed creating our own text map. We have had our first assembly in the hall in over a year!

Year 3 and Year 4 learned about developing our Growth Mindset and the Power of YET! Ask your child what they've learned so far.



# Parents with children at nurseries, schools and colleges

## A guide to regular rapid Covid-19 testing



## Regular rapid testing is now available for parents, their households and bubbles.

Regular rapid testing is a fast and easy way to find out if you have coronavirus and help protect your loved ones and community. It's free and takes around 30 minutes.

## Why introduce regular rapid testing?

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

Regular rapid testing is now available for parents of nursery, school children and college students. As well as adults in their households, childcare and support bubbles.

Regular testing for people without symptoms is already taking place across the country. Thousands of people who didn't know they had the virus have been able to take action to stop the spread of the disease.

As lockdown restrictions ease, getting into the regular habit of twice weekly testing will play an important role in getting back to normal; alongside the vaccine, following the hands, face, space guidance, and social distancing measures.

## Regular testing for school staff and students

Regular rapid testing is already available to all staff at nursery, primary and secondary schools and colleges.

Secondary school and college students aged 11 and above will continue to access regular rapid tests directly through their school or college. And we continue to encourage them to get tested.

On return they will initially be supervised while testing at school and then continue to test themselves at home with test kits they will get from school or college.

Nursery and primary school children are not being asked to be tested as evidence continues to show that children and young people are at low risk from Covid-19 and are very unlikely to get seriously ill.

## What is the benefit to you?

By taking part in regular rapid testing, you'll be protecting yourself and your loved ones. And helping us all get back to a more normal way of life.



## How does it work?

It's a simple swab test you can do at home, school, work or test site, using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD). It takes around 30 minutes to find out if you have the virus.

The test detects viral proteins that are present when someone has Covid-19. Research from Public Health England and Oxford University shows that they pick up the vast majority of people in the most infectious stage of the disease. With up to 1 in 3 people who have the virus showing no symptoms – they could be spreading it without knowing.

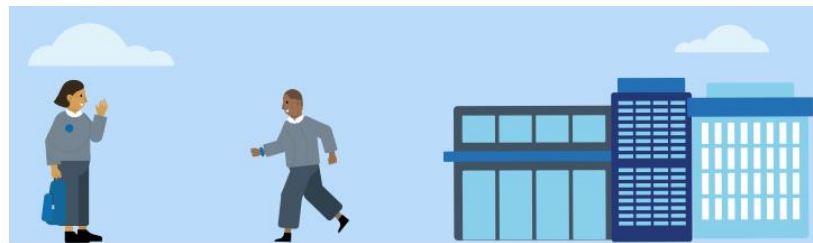
Testing should take place twice a week, every three – five days, ideally in the morning. Why not add this to your morning routine?

If you test negative, you can continue to go to work. You should still strictly follow all other government guidelines and avoid all unnecessary contact. If you, your household or bubble test positive, you should all self-isolate immediately. And then the person who has tested positive should also take a confirmatory PCR test and follow latest government guidance.

For more information visit [gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/understanding-lateral-flow-antigen-testing-for-people-without-symptoms)



YouTube Introduction to Rapid Lateral Flow testing

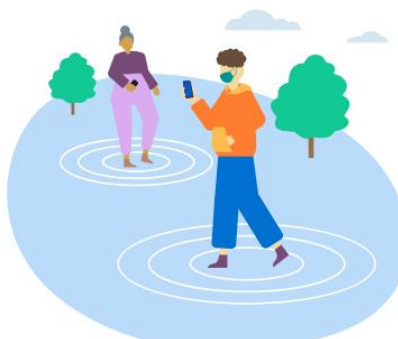


## Reporting your test

You should report your results online straight away, even if your result is negative or void. It's easy to do at: [gov.uk/report-covid19-result](https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm.

If you have tested positive, you can also check to see if you are eligible for the £500 Test and Trace Support Payment.



## Where can I get tested?

If you are a parent or adult of a household, childcare or support bubble you can either:

1. Get an assisted test at work if it is available.
2. Attend a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.
3. Order a test online to do at home.

To find out how to get a free rapid Covid-19 test visit [gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-school-household-testing)

Regular rapid testing is for those without symptoms of Coronavirus. If you have symptoms, you should continue to book through [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

# COVID-19 VACCINATION: YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

All GP practices across Worcestershire are now offering the COVID-19 vaccine to their patients in priority order and we also have three vaccination centres in the county offering the vaccine to the most vulnerable. When it is your turn to be vaccinated you will be contacted by your GP or the national booking system. You may be nervous about the vaccine or unsure whether you should accept it, these common questions answered by Dr Ian Tait, Chair of Herefordshire & Worcestershire NHS, may help.

## Which vaccine is better/more effective and are they both safe?

Both Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca are very effective vaccines. It's not as simple as saying one vaccine is better than the other. An effective vaccine will save lives and reduce hospitalisations. Both vaccines have been approved because they pass the MHRA's tests on safety and efficacy, so people should be assured that whatever vaccine they get will be highly effective and protect them from Coronavirus.

## Are there any side effects?

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term, lasting no longer than a week, and not everyone gets them.

## Are there animal components in the vaccine?

The MHRA has confirmed that the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine do not contain any components of animal origin.

## Can pregnant women have the Pfizer / BioNTech or Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines?

Women should discuss the benefits and risks of having the vaccine with their healthcare professional and reach a joint decision based on individual circumstances.

The latest advice, from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is that the vaccine should be considered for pregnant women when their risk of exposure to the virus infection is high and cannot be avoided, or if the woman has underlying conditions that place her at a very high risk of complications of Covid-19.

Women who are breastfeeding can also be given the vaccine.

## Does the Covid-19 vaccine affect fertility?

There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility.

## Are new strains resistant to the vaccine?

There is currently no evidence to suggest that the Pfizer/BioNTech or Astra/Oxford vaccine would not protect people against the new strain.

## Can people do what they want after they have been vaccinated?

It is essential that everyone continues to stay at home if possible whether they have had the vaccine or not.

This means it is important to continue to follow social distancing guidance social distancing guidance, wear a face mask and remember hands, face, space.

**WHEN IT'S YOUR  
TURN SAY YES  
TO THE VACCINE**

Protect yourself, your family and your community.