



Newsletter



February 2017

HAPPY CHILDREN LEARN BEST

Nursery Places for September 2017

The application for nursery places for September 2017 is now open. Orchard Primary School is offering the 30 free hours, so we are hoping to have enough interest to have a full time Nursery class next year. If you know the parents of any potential nursery children, please let them know.

Scooters

We are very pleased to see so many of our young people coming to school on scooters. It is important, however, that they push their scooters when on the school site. It is very busy in the morning and afternoon, and accidents can easily happen.



Ball Games

A reminder that ball games are not permitted on the grounds before school. Again, this is to ensure that all members of our school community are safe. We have had a number of complaints about both parents and young children being hit by balls.

Absence Reporting

If you need to report the absence of your child, please do so before 9:30am. You can do this by telephone (via our switchboard) or by email: absence@orchard.bexley.sch.uk If you need to take your child out of school for an appointment, please bring proof of appointment to the office, so that Mrs Rowntree can authorise the appointment. The school is not permitted to authorise **any holiday** during the school term.

Parent Evenings and Reports

Reports with next step targets will be sent out (24 February) and these will help to inform discussions with teachers at Parent evenings. (27th Feb and 1st March)

Safer Internet Day – 7th February

The school will be taking part in Safer Internet day, and all classes will be looking at an aspect of on-line safety. Parents are encouraged to attend a workshop at 9.10am on Tuesday 7th February. Our aim is to support you in understanding how to keep your children safe on line.

Social Media

The school now has a Facebook and a Twitter account. These will be used to remind parents about things that are happening in school, as well as to encourage you to look at our fantastic website. Mr Cowley will be discussing the use of Social Media on the Safer Internet day.

www.orchardprimary.co.uk

Fire Drill

The school carried out one of its regular Fire Drills last week. On this occasion the drill took place during Gold Book assembly, with many parents present. It is important that we carry out drills at different times during the school day. The children were extremely well behaved and sensible. The parents present also need to be commended for their calm and measured response. Thank you to all the staff for ensuring the safety of everyone present.

Mobile Phones

For the safety of all our pupils, can parents please remember that mobile phones should not be used within the school buildings. At events we regularly remind parents not to video or take photographs of the children. This is very important, as we have a number of children who are not allowed to be photographed, for safeguarding reasons. Putting photographs or video on social media could endanger these pupils.



Year 6 pupils only may bring a mobile phone to school. This is for pupils who may walk home on their own. These mobile phones must be switched off and put in the phone box, which is kept in the office. Any other mobile phones will be confiscated, and returned to a parent or carer.

