



Newsletter



March 2018

YOU CAN'T BLEND IN WHEN YOU WERE BORN TO STAND OUT - WONDER BY RJ PALCIO

www.orchardprimary.co.uk

Ofsted

I would like to let you know that the Ofsted report will be available on the Orchard School website after 6 pm Tuesday 27th March. As a school we are disappointed with the report. However we are committed to addressing any areas identified. The staff and Governors have already begun working to ensure that we are offering the pupils a challenging, rounded and nurturing experience at school. We would like to thank parents and carers who continue to support and encourage all at Orchard.

Social Media

The staff in our school work tremendously hard to provide the very best education for our pupils and always want to work in partnership with parents and the wider community. However, we recognise that there will be occasions when, for whatever reason, parents may not agree with a particular course of action or may have specific concerns. It is entirely natural to discuss school life and express our thoughts and opinions with others face-to-face or on the phone. Some of these conversations, however, are now also being aired on social media and the person posting has little control over who might ultimately see it. Sadly, some of these comments and observations could cause offence if aired in the public domain, and may in some cases be intimidating or even slanderous.

This is not to suggest that teachers and Headteachers are above criticism or do not welcome feedback. However, it is always

best when this is constructive and reasonable and is focused on finding an acceptable solution. When difficult things need to be said, it is usually best to do so face-to-face, or at least in some form of private communication, such as an e-mail or letter.

How can parents help?

- If you are posting on social media and it relates to the school, students or other parents, please check your facts, be considerate in the way in which you express yourself and avoid language that others might consider to be abusive, aggressive or threatening.
- Please do not refer to individual students or staff on social media.
- If you have a significant concern about an aspect of school life, please talk to a staff member at the school before posting on social media.
- If you have a specific complaint, please follow the school's Complaints Policy which is available on our school website.

We live in a society where we are proud of our right to freedom of speech and would not wish to suggest that this should be curtailed in any way. There are occasions however, when things said in the virtual world are at best unhelpful and at worst, may constitute harassment, bullying or intimidation which could ultimately lead to Police involvement.

Common questions

If the site I post comments on is 'private' then why should I worry what I say, as only my 'friends' can read it?

Once a comment has been posted there is nothing to stop other users forwarding or sharing it. What starts as an initial 'sounding off' can quickly spread much more widely and cause a lot of unintended hurt.

How could the Police get involved?

If postings are considered to be threatening or discriminatory then the Police may become involved and have the authority to seize mobile devices and contact service providers.

How can the school help?

We will be holding a regular Parent Partnership Forum. The first one will be on Wednesday 18th April at 9.15am. and the topic will be Behavior and Bullying. We encourage all parents/carers of children at Orchard Primary to attend. Our aim is to ensure that together we can support our young people.

ParentPay

A big thank you to all the parents who have registered with ParentPay. After Easter we will no longer be accepting cash in the office. Please make sure that if you have not already registered that you do so now. If you have lost your activation letter, please see the office to get a replacement.

