



The Orchard School

Weekly Bulletin

Friday 6th September 2024

Dates for your diary

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| Friday 27th September | Doodle Day – pupils only |
| Wednesday 2nd October | Year 6 Coffee Morning |
| Friday 4th October | Training Day – School closed to pupils |
| Thursday 10th October | Parent Activity Morning |
| Tuesday 15th October | Parent Support Group |
| Wednesday 23rd October | Parents Evening |
| Monday 28th October | Half Term |

Update from Liz

I hope you all had a good summer and were able to enjoy some quality time with family and friends. It has been lovely to have the pupils back in school this week and I hope they have settled back into the routine of school.

Unfortunately, I am currently not in school due to having surgery over the summer. I will hopefully be back in the next couple of weeks and look forward to being back in school and seeing everyone. As always if you do have any questions or concerns please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

We welcomed some new staff to our team this week:

- Abigail – Class 9 teacher
- Rachel – Class 13 teacher
- Sasha – Class 17 LSP
- Lillie-Mae – Class 7 LSA
- Emma – Class 12 LSA

We wish Emma Bowers all the best as she starts her maternity leave today.

Attached to this letter is the calendar of dates for this academic year. These dates are provisional and further events may be added or dates subject to change. Please look at our weekly newsletter for up to date information about events in school.

We have an exciting year ahead with plenty of opportunities for families to come into school and I look forward to working with you all again this year and watching your children progress and develop.

Thank You!

Thank you to all families who donated to the Tesco Blue Token Scheme last term. I am pleased to announce that we came second and have been awarded £1000 which will go towards the development of equipment for our physical development curriculum. Thank you to you all.

Term Dates 2024/25

Autumn Term

Term starts: Monday 2nd September

Training Days: Monday 2nd – Wednesday 4th September (school closed to pupils)

Pupils return: Thursday 5th September

Training Day: Friday 4th October (school closed to pupils)

Half term: Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November

Term ends: Friday 20th December

Christmas holiday: Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Spring Term

Term starts: Monday 6th January 2025

Half term holiday: Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February

Training Day: Monday 17th March (school closed to pupils)

Term ends Friday 11th April

Easter holiday: Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April

Summer Term

Term starts: Monday 28th April

Bank holiday: Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

Term ends: Monday 21st July

Summer holiday: Tuesday 22nd July

Term Time Leave of Absences

Important Information for Parents - Changes to the issue of Penalty Notices to address school attendance from 19th of August 2024: THE EDUCATION (PENALTY NOTICES) (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2024 No. 210.

Dear Parent,

From 19.08.24 new legislation comes into force regarding the criteria for and the issue of penalty notices to address school attendance. A national framework for parental fines is being introduced for any pupil who misses 10 or more half-days within any 10-week period. **Please note that if you have requested a Leave of Absence that commences from September 2024 onwards, any Penalty Notice/s issued will be at the new rates and trigger the start of the three-year threshold period, as specified below.**

The following changes have been made:

- the number of unauthorised absences that may trigger a potential fine: **10 unauthorised absences (5 days) in a 10 school week period.**
- the number of penalty notices that can be issued to a parent in respect of the same individual child: **a maximum of 2 penalty notices will be issued (per parent, per child) within a 3 year period.**
- for the first penalty notice issued to each parent in respect of the same individual child in a 3-year period: **the amount of the penalty notice has increased from £120 to £160 if paid within 28 days and £60 to £80 if paid within 21 days.**
- **any second penalty notice issued to the same parent in respect of the same individual child within 3 years of the date the first penalty notice issue is now set at £160 to be paid within 28 days – NB: No discount for earlier payment is offered.**
- **any further absences will proceed for prosecution in the Magistrate Court** for the same parent in respect of the same child within 3 years of the date of the first penalty was issued – The maximum fine the court can impose for a first offence is £1,000 per parent, per child. If, however, you have a history of offences of this nature you may be prosecuted under Section 444(1A) Education Act 1996 and the court can fine you up to £2,500 per child, order payment of the prosecution costs, impose a Parenting Order and/or sentence you to a period of imprisonment of up to 3 months . This reflects the seriousness of unauthorised absence from school.

Please speak to us if you have concerns about your child's attendance - we want to support you to address any barriers which prevent your child attending on time every day.

From 19th August 2024, the new National Framework for issuing penalty notices will apply.

National Threshold

There will be a single consistent national threshold for when a Penalty Notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period.

These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

Penalty Notice Fines will continue to be issued per parent per child.

For example: 2 parents with 3 children would receive a total of 6 Penalty Notices

1

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for a Term Time Holiday or Irregular School Attendance the Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2

Second Offence

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second Penalty Notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first notice, the second Penalty Notice will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Third Offence and any further Offences

(within 3 years of the First Offence)

The third time that an offence is committed for either a term time holiday and/or Irregular attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, the case may be proceeded straight to prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure.

PLEASE NOTE: If you take any Leave of Absence PRIOR to 19th August 2024 (e.g. in July 2024) then the Penalty Notice will be at the old rate of £60/£120. Any Leave of Absence taken in September 2024 will be charged at the new rates as above.