



The Orchard School

Weekly Bulletin

Friday 17th January 2024

Dates for your diary

Friday 31 st January	Parent group – Mood Masters
Friday 7 th February	Number Day
Friday 7 th February	Parent group – Mood Masters
Friday 14 th February	Parent group – Mood Masters
Friday 14 th February	Break up for Half Term
Monday 24 th February	Pupils return to school

School News

SWIMMING

Unfortunately, due to staff absence, swimming sessions for the children are currently on hold at the moment. We will notify you as soon as they are back up and running.

STAFF NEWS

Tas, class teacher Class 4, has started her maternity leave and Jemma will be filling in for her. Donna and Millie have both moved to Class 11.

We would also like to welcome two new staff members - Amy who has joined Class 1 today and Shona who will be starting with us next week and joining Class 14.

Starting Friday, 31st January for three weeks we are holding a parent workshop entitled '**Mood Masters**'. This will be run by Debi from Barnardo's and will cover topics on:

- Understanding our emotions
- Dealing with situations that stress you out
- Anxiety
- Breathing and relaxation

If you are planning on coming to the sessions but haven't informed school yet, please email info@orchard.sandwell.sch.uk or ring the office on 0121 569 7040 so we know how many parents will be attending and ensure it is a viable course to run.

Reminder – Monday 17th March is an INSET Day. School is closed to pupils on this day.

Attendance Matters

The whole school attendance so far for this academic year is 84.6%.

Last week's whole school attendance was 88.3%.



Regular attendance is crucial for pupils' success, as it ensures they stay engaged with learning and build consistent routines.

Did you Know – A two-week holiday in term time means that the highest attendance they can possibly achieve is 94.7%.

Safeguarding: NSPCC Listen Up, Speak Up

It takes a village to raise a child. And it takes a community to keep children safe.

That's why the NSPCC is encouraging every adult in the UK to take their 10-minute digital training and learn how to listen up and speak up for children.



Listen Up, Speak Up will show you:

- some signs a child might be at risk, and steps you can take to help
- how to approach difficult conversations to help keep children safe
- who you can contact if you are ever concerned about a child or their family.

To sign up – follow the link <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/support-us/listen-up-speak-up/sign-up/>

Code of Conduct

The Orchard school believes that it is important to work in partnership with parents/carers, families and other groups that support children's learning. In doing so we have created a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for pupils, staff, and parents.

To help us do this we set clear expectations and guidance on behaviour for all members of our community. This includes the staff, children and parents/carers and visitors. The Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers and Visitors has been updated and attached for your information.

It is also important that everyone's use of social media is appropriate, otherwise this could negatively affect the school and its community. Attached is the Social Media Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers Policy which I ask you all to read.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Programmes for Parents/Carers in Sandwell

Inourplace is an online learning environment that has been developed by psychologists and health practitioners providing accessible learning about emotional health and wellbeing, proven to positively impact mental health, behaviour and relationships. The materials can be accessed here:

<https://inourplace.co.uk/sandwell>

As well as this digital offer there are a range of face-to-face programmes and taster sessions that parent/carers can access and the details of how to book onto these programmes can be found on the Family Hubs website: <https://www.sandwellfamilyhubs.com/journey/parent-support/parenting-courses>

Online Survey for Parents whose children have SEND needs

Sandwell Parents Voices United (SPVU) are working in partnership with Sandwell Council's child voice initiative, The SHAPE Programme, to develop a SEND Co-Production charter as part of the SEND Local Area Partnership Plan. Both SPVU and SHAPE would like to hear your voices regarding the SEND process. Please see attached letters for information to share your views.