

Head Teacher: Elizabeth Hopewell

Causeway Green Road, Oldbury,
West Midlands B68 8LD

Telephone: 0121 569 7040
Medical Office: 0121 552 6185
Multi Agency: 0121 569 7055

E-mail: info@orchard.sandwell.sch.uk
Web: www.orchard.sandwell.sch.uk



4th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had a good holiday and have been able to enjoy time together as a family and the wonderful weather we have had. It has been lovely to welcome the pupils back to school today and we look forward to welcoming the new pupils over the next week.

It is with great pleasure that following our Ofsted inspection on 15th and 16th July I can inform you that we have been judged as good in all five areas, the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, leadership and management and early years provision. The outcome is testament to the hard work and dedication all staff have shown since the last inspection. Attached to this letter is the final report for you to read.

It has been a busy summer in school. The development work has been completed with the new classroom ready for the return of pupils today. We have two new therapy rooms to support small group work, and several offices have been renovated. We have also enhanced the security of the site by installing an entry buzzer to the reception area. If you need to come into school, please press the buzzer on the left-hand side of the door and the office staff will let you in. The final element of the work is the development of the new soft playroom. The final plan has been submitted and we are hoping this will be fitted during October half term.

If your child does not travel on Local Authority transport, when dropping off and collecting your child please wait outside the front of school and a member of staff will come to you. If you do need to speak to the staff in the office, please do this after your child has gone into school or before they come out. The start and end of day is very busy, and the class staff have a number of pupils to collect or take to transport can I ask that you keep your conversations with staff to a minimum so we can ensure the ratios in class are correct. If there is anything specific you need to speak to the class team about, please write in the communication diary or send an email, a time can then be arranged for a member of staff to contact you.

The term dates for this academic year are below. Further key dates of activities will be shared in the coming weeks.

Autumn term: Monday 1st September 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025
Half term – Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st August 2025

Spring term: Monday 5th January 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026
Half term – Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026

Summer term: Monday 13th April 2026 – Monday 20th July 2026
Half term – Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026



Training Days - pupils not in school on these days:

- Monday 1st September
- Tuesday 2nd September
- Wednesday 3rd September
- Friday 2nd October
- Monday 20th July

A reminder that if your child is going to be absent from school due to sickness, can you ensure you contact the school office before 8am and leave a voicemail message informing us of your child's absence this supports the smooth running of the school and allows us to ensure staff are appropriately placed. If your child has a known absence, such as a medical appointment, please contact school prior to the appointment and provide the appointment card or letter. If you do not inform us of your child's absence we will follow our attendance procedures and contact you, if no contact is made the Pastoral Team will carry out a home visit.

This year we are setting up a parent council. The parent council will be made up of a group of parents from across the school. It has a consultative and advisory role and will meet regularly with me or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. It will discuss general issues that affect the welfare and safety of all children and provide a forum for discussion to help influence decisions made about the school, and in doing so make a real contribution to school improvement. If this is something you are interested in, the first meeting is on Tuesday 7th October at 9:30am where we will be looking at communication between home and school, see attached flyer.

I look forward to working with you all again and having another fantastic year.

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Hopewell
Headteacher