



14 / 11 / 2025

# The Orchard School

## HEADTEACHER UPDATE

### AT A GLANCE

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- Key dates for your diaries
- Safeguarding Update - Designated Safeguarding Leads
- Children in Need - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November
- School Photographs

## News

This week has been our memorial week where all classes and staff have spent time remembering pupils who have sadly passed away. They have had the opportunity to have some quiet reflection time, light a candle and take part in activities the pupils enjoyed. Each class also visited the memorial tree which has the names of all the pupils who have passed away written on the leaves. It has been a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community to remember our friends who are no longer with us.

## Attendance Matters

The Orchard School's attendance target is 92%

**The whole school attendance for this academic year is 89.4%**

**The whole school attendance last was 90.2%**

Thank you to everyone who supported the Autumn Fayre on Saturday. It was a wonderful morning with lots of lovely craft stalls, a tombola, raffle and candyfloss and pancakes! We made a fantastic £973 for school fund which will go towards enrichment activities for all pupils. The stall holders are keen to attend any future fayres we hold so watch this space for future dates! A massive thank you to Cathy and Tina for organising the event and all other staff who helped to set up and run the stalls.



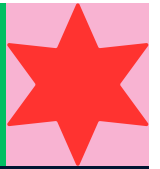
# Key Dates



Below are the key dates for this term. More information will follow.  
Please note dates are subject to change.

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	School photographs
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	School photographs
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Children in Need
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Parent Activity Morning
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Grotto (3 days)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Pupils return to school

# Safeguarding Update



Every organisation that works with children must have staff who take the lead on safeguarding and child protection. At The Orchard School, we refer to them as our **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)**. If you have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, you can report these directly to a member of our safeguarding team:

- Lauren Petrie - Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Liz Hopewell - Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Allison Shepherd - Deputy Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Laura Valentine - Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Louisa Stevens - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Lisa Ashton - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

You can contact the team by calling the school office on 0121 569 7040.

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility — thank you for helping us keep our children safe.**

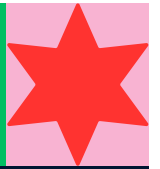
# Children in Need



Due to this week being memorial week and having odd socks for Antibullying day today we have moved Children in Need to next Friday, 21st November. Pupils are encouraged to wear something spotty or yellow. We kindly request a suggested donation of £2 to participate. You can donate via the following link: [🌐 The Orchard's fundraiser for BBC Children in Need](#)

The link can also be found on the school website.

# School Photographs



School photographs are taking place next week on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November.

# Sanwell SEND E-bulletin



## Stay Informed: Sandwell SEND E-Bulletin Sign up Now

Sandwell Council is launching a brand-new SEND e-bulletin this autumn, designed to keep everyone up to date on the borough's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transformation Programme. The first edition will be issued at the end of this month.

Whether you're a parent carer, young person, professional, or part of an education setting, the e-bulletin will deliver the latest news, events and opportunities straight to your inbox.

It's the easiest way to stay informed about important developments and SEND news in Sandwell. Don't miss out—sign up today to receive regular updates and be part of the SEND community. Visit the Sandwell Council website to subscribe to the Sandwell SEND Bulletin.

[Sandwell Council - Sign up to our Sandwell SEND Bulletin](#)

