



The Orchard School

Weekly Bulletin

Week commencing: Monday 9th October 2023

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 25th October

Parent's Evening 3:30 – 5:30 – Letters with more information will be sent home next week

Moonbeam Theatre

Some of the classes this week had the opportunity to participate in a multi-sensory theatre production entitled Dive! The pupils were immersed into the sights, sounds and smells which a diver explores as they swim into the depths of the ocean. The performance was enjoyed by all, as I'm sure you will agree the photographs show!



Thank you to Charlotte for organising the event. We are starting to put together a programme of activities both in and out of school, to give all pupils the opportunity to experience extra-curricular activities.

World Mental Health Day



Tuesday 10th October is World Mental Health Day.

To mark this day, we are asking staff and pupils to wear yellow to school to show that we all matter and together we can create a brighter future for everyone's mental health.

School Attendance

As we move towards the winter months and the season of coughs and colds, I just wanted to mention about school attendance. Below is a clinical and public health perspective on mild illnesses and school attendance.

The Department of Education are aware that the COVID-19 pandemic may have caused some parents to feel less confident with assessing whether their child is well enough to attend school, so they have laid out some information which they hope will be helpful.

It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent into school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. Additional information can be found in the NHS [‘Is my child too ill for school?’](#)

As you will be aware absences from school disrupt and impact on a child's education. Although there are a number of children at the Orchard School who have complex medical needs and at times will be absent from school due to these and medical appointments, I ask that you consider the impact your child's absence will have on their education. This is particularly with Leave of Absence Requests during term time – the majority of which will not be authorised. Below shows the link between the number of days of missed education alongside the % attendance:

Number of days absent from school	Child's attendance at the end of the year
If your child has 1 day off during the year...	...their attendance will be 99.5%
If your child has 2 days off during the year...	...their attendance will be 99%
If your child has 5 days off during the year...	...their attendance will be 97.4%
If your child has 10 days off during the year...	...their attendance will be 95%
If your child has 15 days off during the year...	...their attendance will be 92.4%
If your child has 20 days off during the year...	...their attendance will be 90%
If your child has more than 20 days off during the year...	...their attendance will be below 90%

There are 175 non-school days a year – please consider this before requesting a leave of absence during term time.