



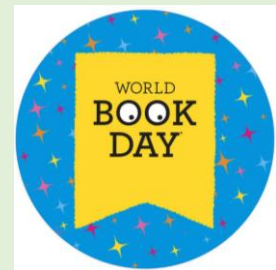
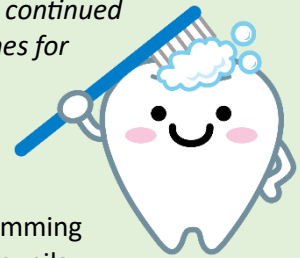
# The Orchard School Bulletin

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

### Happy Easter

I hope you have all enjoyed the first few days of the Easter Holiday and are looking forward to spending time with family over the next week. As I didn't have opportunity to write to you before the end of term I wanted to send a letter out to update you on the fun activities which have taken place over the last half term. Thank you to all the staff who have planned and organised the activities to enhance the curriculum.

- Classes have continued working with the pupils on the 'Brilliant Brushing' scheme. We had our audit in February which highlighted the fantastic work our staff do to support the pupils with teeth cleaning. The assessor shared the following comment: *'Thank you for allowing me to visit your lovely school to complete the quality assurance visit for the Brilliant Brushers programme. I am delighted to inform you that you have passed the expected standards for the safe delivery of the supervised toothbrushing programme within your school. Please pass on my congratulations to all staff and children that are participating in this valuable scheme. You are all BRILLIANT BRUSHERS!! Your continued enthusiasm and ongoing commitment will support positive oral health outcomes for the children of this school. Special mentions to classes 3, 11 & 18 for demonstrating excellence!!'*
- On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March we celebrated Holi with lots of wonderful colour activities taking place throughout the day. The highlights of the day was a drumming workshop led by one of the pupils Grandad and a Colour Run where staff and pupils were covered in powder paint as they ran around the playground!
- The following day was World Book Day, where staff and pupils came to school dressed as characters from books, or in bright colours. Pupils from class 16 shared stories with pupils from across school, it was a joy to see reading for pleasure shared across the school.
- Science week then followed where classes participated in a range of wonderful science activities lined to the themes of curiosity and space
- We also had our Mothers Day Activity Morning, Odd Socks Day for Downs Syndrome Awareness Day and wearing red for Comic Relief.
- Reverend Sarah supported the Easter Assemblies again this year where she shared the Easter Story through a range of sensory activities with all pupils from across school. Our thanks go to Reverend Sarah and to Class 16 pupils who supported the story telling so well.
- Last week we had pupils from our neighbouring school, Al-Khair share a presentation with some pupils about Ramadan and Eid. We are hoping this is the first of many opportunities where the two schools can collaborate together.



- Our term ended with an Easter celebration with a visit from the Easter Bunny and an Easter Bonnet parade. It was a wonderful day of excitement, colour and some fantastic creations to end a busy term.

As always our thanks goes to our families who support all of our events so well. I wish you all a very Happy Easter and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back into school on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**.



## Attendance Matters

**The whole school attendance so far for this academic year is 89.1%**

**The whole school attendance for last week was 87.6%.**



**The Orchard School's attendance target is 92%.**

## Staffing Update

We sadly said goodbye to **Tanya** the teacher from class 6 at the end of term. Although she has only been with us a short time, she has made a fantastic contribution to the school both the work with her class and also the development of the PSHE curriculum. Although we are sad to see her go we wish her well in her new role as Assistant Headteacher at a school in Walsall.

**Debbie** will be joining us as the teacher in class 6 for the summer term and I am pleased to say that **Emily** has successfully become the new Leader of Learning for PSHE alongside her role as class teacher in class 14.

We also welcome some new staff who will be joining us from 13<sup>th</sup> April:

- **Emily J** who has been working in class 13, though as supply will be taking up a permanent role. Emily knows the school well as she has previously worked at The Orchard School.
- **Samina** who has been working in class 19 as supply has also successfully obtained a permanent post at the school.
- **Kainaat** will also be joining us as an LSP and will be working in class 14.

As I said in my previous letter, we held a successful round of interviews for Learning Support Assistant and Practitioner roles. We are waiting for their pre-employment checks to be completed and once I have start dates, I will update you on who will be joining the team and when.

Whilst we await the start dates, we continue to use qualified supply staff from agencies to maintain consistency and support learning during periods of staff absence or vacancies. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me through the school office.

## Child Vaccination Catch Up Clinics

With Easter Holidays in full swing, parents and carers across the Black Country are being encouraged to check their child's vaccination record and book any missed appointments.

Local catch-up clinics are available, making it easy to get children protected without missing school time.

Vaccinations offered at these clinics include:

- MMR (measles, mumps and rubella)
- MenACWY (meningitis A, C, W and Y)
- DTaP/IPV (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough and polio)
- HPV (human papillomavirus, where age-appropriate)

If you're not sure whether your child is up to date, don't worry – the team will check and advise you when you book.

Vaccinations help protect your child from serious illnesses and reduce the spread of infection in schools and the wider community.

Appointments are required, so please contact your local clinic to book.

Find out more about childhood vaccinations here: <https://blackcountry.icb.nhs.uk/your-health/health-advice/vaccinations/child-vaccine-catch-clinics>

## Easter Safety

It's that time of year again when mini eggs are lining the supermarket shelves. But, did you know that, just like grapes, they are the perfect size to block a small child's airway and choke them and, their hard shell can make it difficult to dislodge with standard first aid techniques?

With whole grapes we advise cutting them in half lengthways and ideally into quarters to create thin strips. But chopping up mini eggs isn't as easy. So, what can you do?

1. Hide them from the children and eat them yourself – good luck with that!
2. Break them into small pieces with a rolling pin. Or crush them in a pestle and mortar. Or melt them a little first.
3. Opt for a different treat. Larger, hollow eggs are much safer for little ones.

**What do grapes and mini eggs have in common?**

