

Dear Parents and Children,

Hello and welcome back to the new school year!

I hope that you have all had a great Summer despite the restrictions which have been in place.

Last year presented many challenges for our whole school community and we are so pleased that we are now in a position to have all our children back in school. Of course, we are coming back to a “new normal” and Orchard will be the same in many ways but will also be a little different in the way teaching and learning is organised as well as the school day.

Safety remains a priority and everything we do has been built around the safety of the whole school community. The attached document was posted on Dojo and the Orchard Website in July and I am posting it again today so that you have chance to review the rules we have in place for the full return to school on Thursday 3rd September.

Please respect this, follow the new rules and help to reinforce the messages with your children.

One of the biggest changes is the introduction of staggered starts and ends to the day. For those children who were used to this before the holidays, this will come as second nature, but to some, it will take a little getting used to. Can I please ask you to refer carefully to this section of the document and share it with your children. I have no doubt that this new system will have some teething problems to start with but please bear with us as I am sure it will be efficient and slick very soon. Please let us know if it causes any problems for you and we will do our best to work with you.

Teachers in Reception and Nursery will re-post letters regarding the return to school on their class page on Dojo as they differ slightly from the rest of school.

Orchard has always operated an open-door policy and we have always welcomed parents into school. However, at present, we can only let parents and carers on site to drop off and pick up children. We are still here to help and support and answer questions, however, but I must request that you contact the office, teachers or myself via phone, email or Dojo and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

We will post extra details regarding new rules and regulations over the coming days and weeks. As you will be very much aware after the experiences of the last few months, things change very quickly and at short notice and I ask for your continued support and understanding as we move into the new school year!

Go Orchard!

Mrs Chambers

