

The Orchard *Committee Newsletter*

Autumn 2020

Welcome to everyone – our staff, returning families and new families, after the summer break. We are all still adjusting to the new ‘normal’ and well done to everyone for coping so well with the challenges of the last few months! It is wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled already into their new routines and are enjoying being at pre-school again.



The staff and the management committee work together to ensure a high quality, professional level of care is given to the children. The welcoming facilities and supportive, nurturing care that is always given enables our children to thrive and feel happy in a place that is ‘home from home’.

We also rely greatly on the support from parents to help The Orchard to function effectively and continue to improve. There are a number of ways that you can help, by supporting fundraising events and signing up for a ‘stay and play’ session. We would also greatly appreciate more members on the committee, so please consider if you could give up a bit of time to help support The Orchard further.

What does the committee do?



The Orchard is a charity run by an elected committee of volunteer mums, dads, carers and supporters, and as such, the committee is responsible for ensuring the preschool runs successfully and achieves its aim of providing high quality preschool education. This means that the committee is involved in all aspects of running the preschool, from accounts and administration, to fundraising for new equipment etc. This may seem like quite a lot of responsibility, and of course this is true to an extent, but it’s also very rewarding, fun and a great way to make a difference!

If you would like to be involved, as much or as little as you can, please let the staff know or email: chair@theorchardps.org.uk





THE ORCHARD

Annual General Meeting

The AGM is taking place at the same time as the first committee meeting this year. We will be holding the meeting via Zoom, so if you would like to find out more, then please join the meeting. It will take place from 8pm on Tuesday 13th October; these are the Zoom details:

Topic: The Orchard AGM and committee meeting

Time: Oct 13, 2020 08:00 PM

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76004872469?pwd=RHJaT1Q1bHZiTIJNNk92Ykd0eEZGdz09>

Meeting ID: 760 0487 2469

Passcode: 7RpgZ7

Staff news

We are pleased to welcome back Jess, the Deputy Supervisor, from her maternity leave. She will be joining Monika, Clair and Chloe this year as part of our amazing, dedicated team. We are also very excited to be supporting Chloe and Clair as they undertake their Level 3 childcare qualifications this year – the qualifications involve a lot of hard work and commitment and we are really proud of how well they are doing already.

Thank you, as always, to all the staff who work so hard to make The Orchard such a welcoming, positive environment for our children.

Fundraising

Sadly our normal fundraising events, such as the Harvest Coffee morning and numerous Christmas events, will not be able to take place this year due to the Covid restrictions. Therefore we will be missing a large amount of funds on which the Orchard relies so heavily. The committee will be looking for different, less 'social' ways to help raise money for equipment, toys and resources for the pre-school. Please do help out and support in any way you can! If you have any ideas, feel free to email: chair@theorchardps.org.uk

Tapestry

Following the success of Tapestry as a form of communication throughout lockdown, we will be continuing to use this to let you know about the progress your children are making. The staff are busy recording observations regularly and these will all be made live at the same time, once per half term. Remember to log on regularly to see what they have been doing at The Orchard and the progress they are making. You can also still keep uploading your own observations and photos of their activities at home, so these can be shared easily with their key worker.





THE ORCHARD

Change of sessions

The Orchard currently has availability in a number of sessions throughout the week. If you want to change or increase your sessions, there is now a quick and easy way of doing this on the homepage of the website.

Change Sessions

If you would like to request a change in sessions, please [Click Here](#)

Just click on the link and you can fill in the form online. Monika will then be in touch to confirm the change.

With Christmas drawing nearer, you may also want to book in a few 'one off' extra sessions so you can get started on your shopping! Please send Monika an email, giving 24 hours' notice if possible, and she will be able to book you in. Email: supervisor@theorchardps.org.uk

Uniform

The Orchard has red sweatshirts, polo shirts and sun hats available to buy if you would like uniform for your child. The uniform is not compulsory but you may find it useful to have dedicated clothes for school. Please ask the staff for an order form. The Orchard also benefits financially from each item that is bought.

Big Club

Big Club is a session on a Tuesday afternoon that is aimed specifically at children in the year before they start primary school, and is an excellent way to help them prepare for the transition. The staff plan a variety of activities that enable the children to develop their number and letter skills, as well as their independence, such as putting on shoes and coats by themselves. They are also encouraged to practise some of the less obvious skills required at primary school, such as working together in a cooperative manner. The children who have been to Big Club have experienced very positive transitions to primary school and we are very grateful to Monika and the team for making such a successful programme.

Thank you once more for all of your support for The Orchard.

The Orchard Committee

