

Orchard Way Primary School

www.orchardway.croydon.sch.uk

27th November 2020



Headteachers Message

It seems that the school term is flying by; it only feels like weeks have passed since we welcomed the children back to school in the sunshine. The children have adapted very well to the changes and we all hope that there will be further progress in returning to “normal” in the coming months.

Learning time has been squeezed due to handwashing throughout the day but the children have been working very hard and it has been great to see the progress they are making. The transition units have been successful and the children are now working on the program of study for their year group. Children who still need additional support will work in intervention groups to address their gaps.

Christmas is nearly upon us and the children were very excited by the PTA advent raffle. They have started preparations for the replacement to our usual Christmas performances and the 12 Days of Christmas event starts on Wednesday. Booking to take part in all the activities will be open until next weekend, parents can book here: www.pta-events.co.uk/orchardway. Some individual activities will remain open for booking after that date.

The Director of Public Health Croydon has shared a checklist with schools and I'm pleased to report our Covid-secure systems are robust. One area we could improve further is avoiding congregating in groups. So far, we have been very fortunate to have had every class at school since September and we would like to keep going as long as possible. It is important to remember that if you have a face-to-face conversation with someone less than a metre away for any amount of time you would be considered a “contact” for Track and Trace – this would mean self-isolating for two weeks. Mr Pourou can confirm it isn't much fun!

We all know children love YouTube and it can certainly keep them entertained. Sadly, there is content that is not appropriate for them and this can be found by searching or by clicking on content that is presented by the website based on the viewer's preferences.

This could result in your child finding content that is frightening or age inappropriate. It is becoming increasingly common that young people are being exposed to far-right content that can be harmful.

Keep a watch on your children's activity and set the privacy controls and parental settings. Click the link below for a guide from Internet Matters.

[Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides - Internet Matters](#)



Parking

It is essential that parents and carers park carefully at the beginning and end of the day. This week, cars parked on the tactile paving which is designed to assist visually impaired people while crossing the road. It is also dangerous for everyone using the crossing.

School finishes at 1.30pm on the last day of term (Friday 18th December). There will be no after-school care or session with Coach Gill.

We are a nut-free school; in order to protect our children with serious allergies please do not send any foods in that contain nuts.

12 Days of Christmas - Day One

The Twelve Days of Christmas event all starts next week, with our first day on Wednesday 2nd. With the difficult year we have all had, we wanted to start off the celebrations by taking some time to think of others who may have struggled more than many of us could understand. So for our **Kindness Day**, we are running a collection for the local food bank; The Shrublands Trust. You may remember that we usually run a harvest collection for them which wasn't possible this year, and we're hoping that any support we can offer this Christmas will go some way to alleviate the difficulties local families may be having. As we cannot have parents entering the school, and need to ensure our children remain within their class bubbles, we will run the collection a little differently. We have three parent volunteers who will be parked outside school on the morning of the 2nd. Their car boots will be open, and we ask that you put any donations directly into one of the cars. Please be mindful of traffic around the school and of social distancing guidelines while you are dropping items off.

A list of items suitable for donating to Shrublands Trust is attached; at this time of year they are looking for items related to Christmas as well as everyday items.

Christmas bake off - Day Three

The PTA have received some questions about the bake off that will run over the weekend of the 4th December, so wanted to send a little information in advance. The bake off is a chance to have some fun in the kitchen with the children, creating something [hopefully] delicious, and very Christmassy looking! It is a free to enter competition for everyone, and we will have a prize on offer for the best bake in each class, as well as an overall star baker prize that also includes a hamper kindly donated by Proctors for the parents. Your bake can be as big or small as you like; our judges will be looking for inventive ideas. You'll have until midnight on Monday 7th to email your entry to info@orchardwaypta.org, and the winners will be announced by Mrs Taylor during the end of term assembly. We'll send a couple of ideas home with the children on the 7th, but feel free to start planning now!