The Orchard Primary School

Nurture Learn Grow

Welcome to orchard Primary School

Dear Parent / Carer

On behalf of the pupils, staff and governors of Orchard Primary School I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and thank you for taking the time to read this prospectus.

We welcome pupils from our rich and diverse local community and are committed to developing your child as an individual. We provide a rich and challenging curriculum which enables each child to develop a range of knowledge and skills and we hope to provide a happy and stimulating environment where your child can flourish and succeed. You have an important part to play in your child's learning and we are committed to working in partnership with you. We believe that children learn best when home and school work together for their benefit.

Children are expected to behave well and we pride ourselves on the strong sense of mutual respect within the school community where there is an emphasis on developing confidence, self respect and a sense of responsibility.

Above all we are proud that our school is a happy and caring place where everyone is valued.

Parents and visitors are welcome to come and look around and members of staff are happy to spend time answering any questions you may have – Please telephone to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We look forward to welcoming you into school

Mrs Lorna Bruce
Headteacher

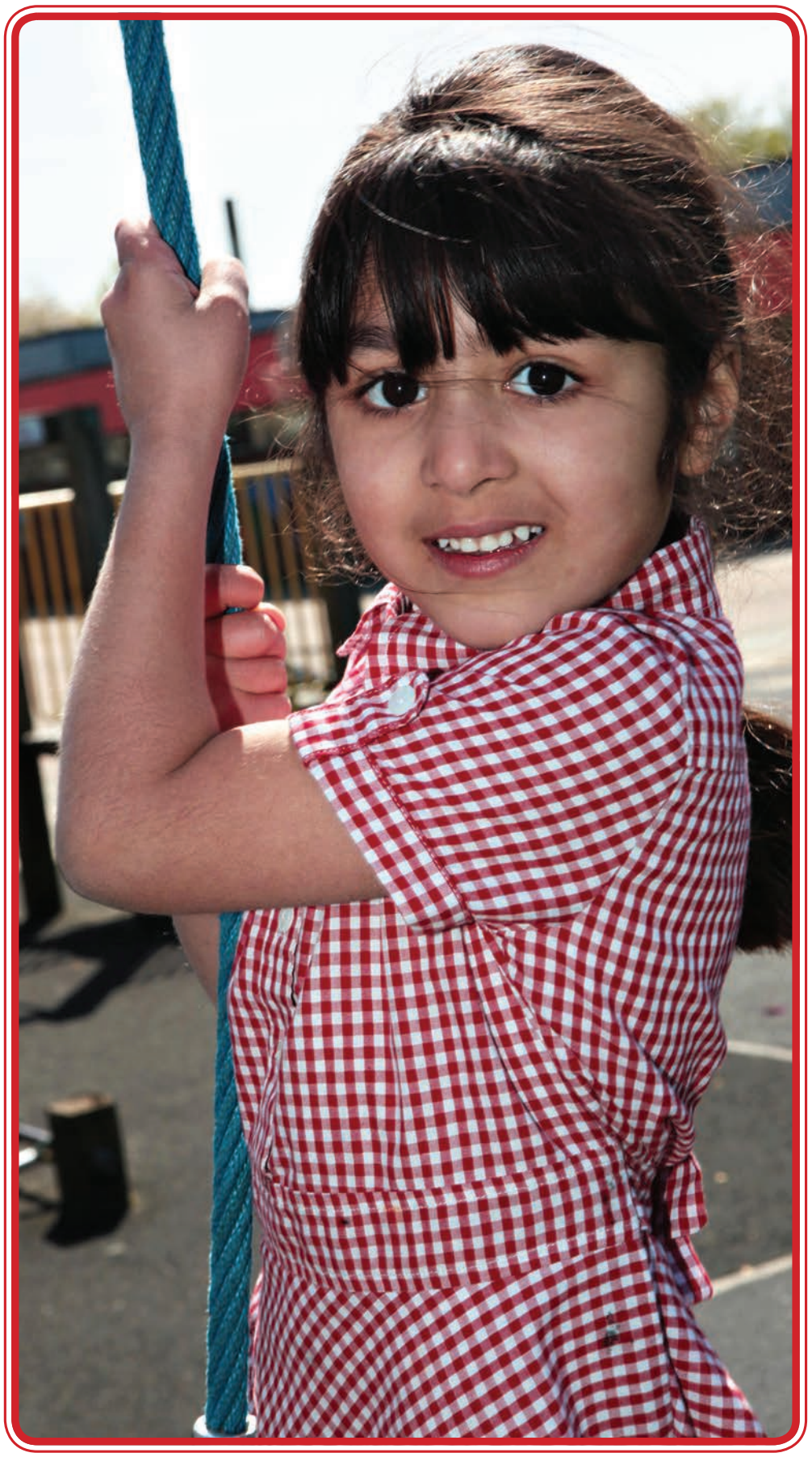
our School

Orchard is a primary school for boys and girls in the age range 3 – 11 years. The school was originally opened in 1973 and is called 'Orchard' as the site was once used for growing fruit trees. In 2008 the Orchard Infant and Nursery School was amalgamated with the Orchard Junior School to form The Orchard Primary School. We admit children in accordance with the Local authority's admission's policy and are pleased to show prospective parents and children around the school.

It is a large, welcoming school which is situated in pleasant surroundings with a variety of trees and shrubs, a large grassy field and environmental areas. The Nursery, Reception, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children all have their own play areas and share the playing field.

The School Staff and Governors

The Governors work with the Headteacher and Senior Management Team to lead and manage the school, as well as oversee its finance and curriculum policies. Governors are a group of people who have expressed an interest in taking responsibility for managing a school. Through working together they ensure that the school is run efficiently and in accordance with the stated philosophy. Our Governors represent parents, teachers and members of the local community. They monitor what is happening in school by visiting and talking to staff. They also prepare the school budget annually with the Headteacher and review school policies. The Chair of Governors may be contacted via the school.



School Mission and Aims

Our school will provide a warm, welcoming environment where the value, respect and self- esteem of individuals is promoted through our commitment to equality of opportunity. The whole school community will ensure that the environment will be stimulating and conducive to learning. There will be clear expectations of behaviour and our aim is for every child to reach their full potential in learning and behaviour through quality provision and differentiated activities. To facilitate this there will be a variety of appropriate resources, teaching styles and experiences. Partnership between all members of the school community is fundamental to achieving all we believe in.

At Orchard Primary School our aims are to:

1. Ensure all our children make significant progress in knowledge, understanding and skills; in attitudes and values; as social citizens and as lifelong learners.
2. Ensure that our school is safe and welcoming.
3. Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum which enables children to fulfil their potential.
4. Demonstrate respect and understanding of people's ethnic background, linguistic differences, gender, religion, age, sexuality and ability
5. Work in partnership with all those in the community who can make our school a success.
6. Provide a supportive working environment where all staff are valued and encouraged to develop.
7. Have happy, healthy children who are clear about what is expected of them including the expectations for behaviour in school as well as how to succeed and achieve.

The curriculum

We teach the Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum offering breadth and depth of educational opportunity to all our children so that they are fully prepared for the future both academically and socially.

Teaching and learning is carefully planned to follow appropriate programmes of study for each subject outlined in the Foundation Stage and National Curriculum. We are keen to connect the children's learning and are developing cross curricular strategies which help bring learning alive for our pupils. In this way the natural links and relationships between subjects are made clear to the children so that their interest and enthusiasm for learning can be developed in a relevant context.

As well as the four core subjects - Mathematics, English, Science and Information & Communication Technology, the children are also taught Art, Design & Technology, Geography, History, Music,

Religious Education, Physical Education, Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education.

This range of subjects is vital to your child's full development and we aim in all areas to promote equality of opportunity and community cohesion where people's contributions and differences are recognised and celebrated. At Orchard Primary we are proud of our cultural diversity and we want to ensure that our school is a place where everyone feels welcome and valued.

Children are given the opportunity to experience a variety of trips, visits and additional activities, such as performances by theatre groups, as part of the school curriculum. These opportunities broaden the scope of work undertaken and give the children relevant experience of the wider world.

Collective Worship

The school has a daily act of collective worship, which takes place either in the classroom or within an assembly. The school applied for and was granted a 'determination'. This means that our collective worship can reflect the multi-faith community that the school serves. If you have any concerns about your child taking part in collective worship, please come and speak with the Headteacher. Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from the daily act of collective worship. Parents who wish to do so must speak with the Headteacher.

Special Educational Needs

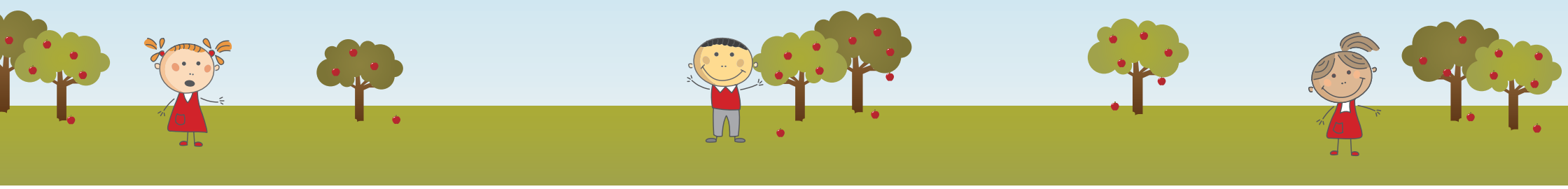
All children are different and some may have occasional difficulties with learning or other aspects of school life. We have a policy for special needs which includes how we identify those who need help and how we provide support for them and monitor their progress. Pupils are assessed by class teachers and Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are prepared for those pupils who experience difficulties. These provide targets for the pupil and are shared with parents during parent consultation meetings. Parents can discuss any worries with their child's class teacher. The school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator advises teachers about appropriate work. There are also other professionals that the school can call upon for support and advice when necessary.

Pastoral Care and Discipline

Good discipline in school is essential. Children need to feel safe and secure and to know what is expected of them.

While the children are in school we act in 'loco parentis', in place of the parents, and we are aware of the responsibility this places upon us. We encourage high standards of behaviour and respect for others. We are proud of the high standards of behaviour achieved by our children in school. We have a PSHE&C policy which aims to develop children's self esteem, confidence and self-discipline. We have a few simple rules to guide the children and we use praise and reward to promote good social behaviour. Our rules generally relate to safety and the care and consideration of others in and around the school. The children discuss behaviour issues in class and during assemblies. They are helped to understand how their behaviour affects themselves and others. We expect children to be considerate and polite at all times and we will not tolerate bullying, however it manifests itself.

We encourage independence and the taking of responsibility for your own actions. Most children respond well to our expectations.



School Uniform

We sell jumpers/fleeces, book-bags and water-bottles with our school logo. Please see the office for more information.

We actively encourage children to wear their school uniform which is as follows:

- Shirt /Polo T Shirt / Blouse - White
- School sweatshirt /Jumper / Cardigan / Fleece - Red
- Summer Dress - Red & White gingham
- Trousers / skirt / Pinafore - Grey
- Shoes (No trainers or heels) - Black

The children also require a PE kit which is as follows:

- White T shirt
- black or blue Shorts/Leggings/Tracksuit
- Plimsolls/Trainers

When it is your child's turn for swimming, they will require a one piece swimsuit or trunks for boys, a towel and a swimming cap.

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery except for small studs in pierced ears.

Health, Medical and Welfare

It is school policy not to administer prescribed medication unless a child has an on-going medical condition and permission is given at the discretion of the Headteacher. If your child has a medical need it is important that you contact our Welfare staff who will meet with you and arrange a care plan.

We have a number of staff trained in first aid on the premises and children are under constant supervision during playtimes. If children become ill or are seriously injured, parents will be contacted immediately. For this reason it is important to keep the school notified of any changes to your contact details. Please come and talk to the staff if you have any concerns about your child's health or general well being.

We encourage pupils to bring a refillable water bottle to school on a daily basis.

The School and the Community

You are your child's first and most important teacher. We value and appreciate the important role you play in supporting your child and developing a positive attitude to school and learning. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the school in lots of different ways and new skills and enthusiasms are always very welcome.

- Parent/teacher consultation evenings – a chance to find out how your child is doing in school. Parents evenings are held each term
- Open afternoons in Foundation Stage and Key Stage1 – once each week in Key Stage 1 and at the end of each day in the Foundation Stage, parents are invited to come into school a little earlier at the end of the day so that they can see what their children have been doing in class.
- School newsletter – a newsletter with all the latest news and information is produced and distributed each Friday.
- Curriculum evenings and workshops – opportunities to come into school and find out more about a specific area of the curriculum and take part in hands-on activities with your child

Attendance and Absence

We carefully monitor the attendance of all pupils in conjunction with the Education Welfare Officer. We will write to parents to notify them if their child's attendance deteriorates or invite them in to speak with us. It is important that your child is in school every day – missing even a day of school can have a negative impact on your child's learning.

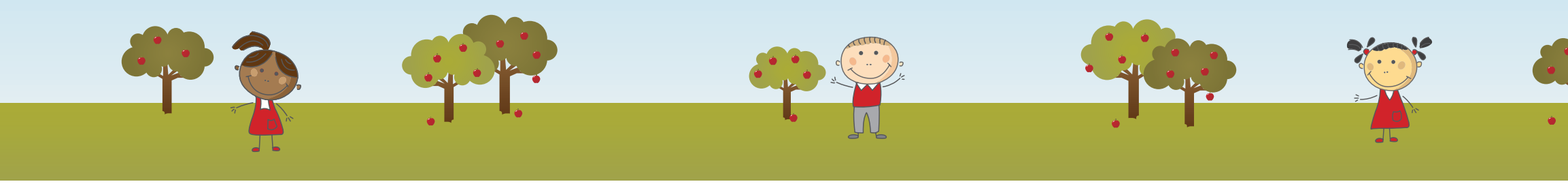
The school has a dedicated voicemail service so that parents may record their child's absence. Please call the school on 0208 570 6247 and press option 1. We ask parents to leave the child's full name, class and reason for the absence on the message service.

The school does not authorise any term time leave. If you remove your child from school there is a risk that you may loose your child's place. In some cases parents may be issued with a fixed penalty and in serious cases prosecuted by the Local Authority.

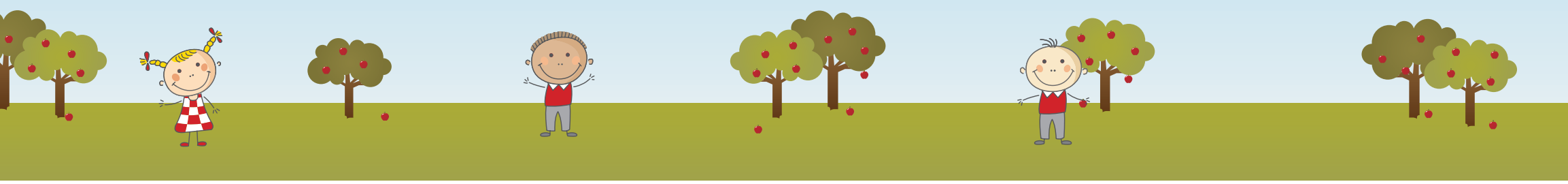
Extra-curricular Activities

The school offers an extensive programme of clubs for children in Key Stage 1 and 2. These run throughout the week before school, at lunchtime or after school.

These clubs are often run in collaboration with external companies and as such there may be a small fee.



Pocket



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