



Dear parents

A very big thank you for a fantastic start to term 1. We really appreciate your support in ensuring your children are coming in to school on time, in perfect uniform and well equipped. I would like to give a particularly warm welcome to new Year 7 parents. Our Year 7 students are a bright and bubbly group of children who are learning to move around the building really positively, and have made a great start to their learning. We are already feeling proud of them.

I look forward to seeing you all at Parents Evenings over the coming months. You will receive a Newsletter by email each month during the school year, so please look out for this in your in-box.

With best wishes for a very successful year ahead,

Mrs Julia Hinchliffe
Headteacher

Email

A reminder to all parents that all letters and newsletters will be sent to your email addresses from now onwards. This decision enables us to reduce the cost of sending mail out, and direct more of our school budget on equipment and resources which directly impact on your child's education. For the majority of letters and newsletters, therefore, we will be using email.

It is therefore very important that we have your up to date email address. Please contact info@osb.school or the School Reception if you need to update any personal details on school records.

TERM DATES

Term 1 – Monday 3 September 2018
to Friday 26 October 2018

Term 2 - Monday 5 November 2018
to Friday 21 December 2018

Term 3 - Monday 7 January 2019
to Friday 15 February 2019

Term 4 - Monday 25 February 2019
to Friday 5 April 2019

Term 5 - Tuesday 23 April 2019
to Friday 24 May 2019

Term 6 - Monday 3 June 2019
to Friday 19 July 2019

Inset Days

- Monday 3 September 2018
- Tuesday 4 September 2018
- Friday 21 December 2018
- Friday 5 April 2019
- Friday 28 June 2019

PARENTS' CALENDAR

Thursday 4th October: Year 10 and 11 – Post 16 Fair

All parents of Year 10 and Year 11 students are invited to drop in any time between 3 and 6pm to our post 16 Fair, held in the assembly hall. 20 providers, from sixth forms, to colleges to apprenticeships, will have stands there, ready to answer any questions about next steps after Year 11. We recommend coming along with your child, to give you time to discuss opportunities together. School staff are also on hand to answer any questions about revision for GCSEs.

Thursday 11th October: Year 7 Settling In Evening

An opportunity for Year 7 parents to meet with their child's tutor for to answer any questions about how they're settling in. Essential for all year 7 parents to attend with their child. Further details will be sent.

Keeping in touch

If you have any questions about the school, please feel free to phone our School Reception on 0117 377 2000, or email your enquiry as follows:

info@osb.school	General enquiries
learning@osb.school	Enquiries about your child's lessons
homework@osb.school	General enquiries about homework; please note if your child is struggling with homework, then they should directly talk to their teacher, or you can write a note in your child's planner and ask your child to show the teacher
dirac@osb.school	Enquiries about your child's wellbeing or pastoral care (red tie)
dunmore@osb.school	Enquiries about your child's wellbeing or pastoral care (yellow tie)
pethick@osb.school	Enquiries about your child's wellbeing or pastoral care (green tie)
ricart@osb.school	Enquiries about your child's wellbeing or pastoral care (blue tie)

Please note that staff answer emails as quickly as possible during working hours, 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday. Any emails received outside these times are unlikely to be read until the next working day. For any urgent enquiries that cannot wait, please phone Reception on **0117 377 2000**.

Site developments

Over the summer the site team (BAM FM) have worked hard to refresh much of the building.

Our library has been redesigned, which means students have more space to sit and read, play board games, or do quiet study during breaks and lunch times.

Our new Digital Media studio enables students to develop their skills in Adobe packages. Students in years 7 and 8 learn IT through standard Microsoft Office and Google packages, so digital media is an exciting development.

School sign

We are pleased to introduce our updated school branding which will go onto signs at the front of school shortly. We feel the tree design inside the O for Orchard gives a modern and professional school image, which we will be rolling out over the next few weeks across our website, letters and the school site. All branding on school uniform will stay the same for the next two years. When your child has outgrown their current uniform, the replacement uniform will have the new branding, but in the meantime we are happy to work with both designs.

1s

Students are working hard in class to gain '1s', which demonstrate excellent attitude and effort for the full learning hour.

Students who in a fortnight obtain 6 x 1s gain a Bronze postcard home, 10 x 1s a Silver, and 12 x 1s, a Gold postcard.

Students with high numbers of 1s and great attendance receive a place on our Rewards trip in December.



HOMEWORK

We have introduced Student Planners for all students in the school, to support them with recording homework. We no longer use any electronic homework recording system (Show My Homework), as we found this wasn't used consistently or effectively.

Instead, you can track the homework your child has through their planner. We recommend you check your child's planner each evening, and help them plan when they do their homework to ensure it is handed in by the deadline. We do have some longer homework projects which might be set over 4 weeks or so. Your support is invaluable here, in helping your child plan times to do the homework, and not leave it all to the last minute.

All students are expected to bring their planners into school every day, and put them on the desks in each lesson. Lost planners need to be replaced, and cost £5 from Mr Pitt.

Google Classroom

Most homework resources are set on Google Classrooms. Students can access this from any phone or computer with internet access.

Go to [google.co.uk](https://www.google.co.uk)

Sign in (top right)

Students must use their school username and password to log in.

Click on the 9 little squares icon



Select /classroom



Classroom

All your child's courses that use Google classroom can be found here. Click on the homework to find the instructions.

If you need any help with accessing homework, please ask your child to talk to their teacher first of all, or write a note in their planner.

Smartphones/tablet users can download the app directly if you wish.

Online homework

We know there are some students who don't have regular access to computers or phones at home.

Homework Club is available during lunchtimes from 1 – 1.25pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Homework After School Club runs on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4pm.

Homework Club is an online club – where students go to the CLC IT rooms to access the internet and any Google Classroom homework.

Please encourage your child to attend homework club so they can access their homework at school, if necessary.

New Staff

We have welcomed the following new teaching staff to Orchard School this September:

Mrs Barker	Assistant Headteacher and English teacher
Mrs Bowes	Head of Art, Digital and Technology
Miss Byron	Languages teacher (French and Spanish)
Mr Daniel	Head of Dirac House and History teacher
Mrs Dorgan	PSHE teacher
Mrs Elmansuri	English as an Additional Language LSA
Mr Fisher	Sports and Health teacher
Miss Hampton	Maths teacher
Miss Hayles	Science Teacher
Dr Murray	Assistant Headteacher and Geography teacher
Mr Payne	Science teacher
Dr (Mrs) Phillips	Languages teacher (French and Spanish)
Miss Stinchcombe	Design and Technology teacher
Mr Woods	Head of Maths

Time to volunteer?

We are looking to recruit a team of Volunteer Library Assistants and Reading Buddies.

If you have an hour or two a week and would be happy to support our children, and give time to our school community, please do contact Helen Howard, our Partnerships Manager.

If you have other skills you would like to share with our students, particularly parents who are happy to talk to groups of young people about career directions, please contact Helen.

All volunteers working with children independently would need a DBS check, which we can arrange for you, at no cost.

Days and hours are flexible and can be tailored to work well for you. Helen can be contacted at: h.howard@osb.school

Student Activities

In the next issue we look forward to sharing with you more activities that our students are involved in, including the Story of Circus, Shakespeare School Festival, Buggy Malone the musical, Anti Bullying promotion, Clubs and Enrichment activities, our new Gospel Choir, Reading Buddies, Student Council, visits and sporting activities.



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