

## Orchard School Bristol

Filton Road, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0XZ

T. 0117 377 2000

E. [info@orchard.fila.school](mailto:info@orchard.fila.school)

[www.osb.school](http://www.osb.school)



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**Headteacher:** Mrs Julia Hinchliffe **MA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

12 February 2021

Dear parents and carers

We have made it to the end of the term! Thank you for all your superb efforts helping your magnificent children manage their learning through difficult circumstances. Our school staff are so grateful for your support as well. It goes to show the power of working together that at the end of the term, we can feel very proud of our young people's hard work, resilience and determination.

### Half Term

There are some very tired faces around school (and online), and I'm sure that a half term break is exactly what is needed. I hope your children will find some time away from screens during this week, although I recognise that for many students their down-time is online. At our Friday afternoon whole school assembly, Mr Coxon and I will be encouraging your children to engage in enrichment activities wherever possible over half term. We know that many of the usual activities they might enjoy aren't available during lockdown, but getting outside or trying creative, performance, artistic, musical and sporting activities are so good for their mental health.

### Plans for returning to school

We still have no further plans on returning to school. I very much hope that we will be given the 2 weeks' notice promised so we can put all the right actions into place in good time. We may be asked to stagger entry back into school with some year groups prioritised, and we are likely to need to organise lateral flow testing too. 8<sup>th</sup> March is still a date which we have as the earliest possible point of return, but there are no firm decisions just yet.

After the half term then, we are continuing with remote learning for the vast majority of our students, and continuing with some in-school places for children of Critical Keyworkers or vulnerable children.

### Booking into school for children of Critical workers and vulnerable children

It is essential that you book in advance if you need your child to have a place in school, so we can ensure we have sufficient staff on site in the right places, and that we can risk assess safely. Please check the definition of Critical Worker or Vulnerable Child carefully – it is detailed on the booking form on the link below. Bookings for week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> February have closed. For the second week back, please book here: [Booking Form for week beginning March 1st](#) The deadline for completion of this form is Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon.



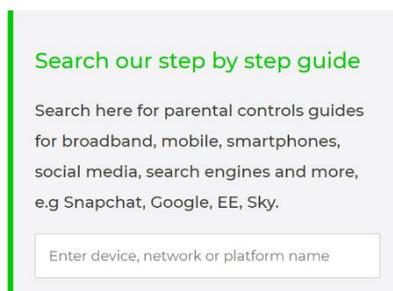
## Safeguarding Team Message

We want to pass on three messages to support the safety of your children over half term:

1. Please check the privacy settings on your child's phone/tablet. They should be set so that only friends and family are included. A variety of safeguarding concerns have come to our notice and in looking into the situation it often goes back to the student's settings being too public. This is essential to keep our children safe. If you need help with checking settings, click on:

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

and put the name of the device, app or network into search box which looks like this:



The image shows a search interface with a green header that reads "Search our step by step guide". Below the header, there is a text prompt: "Search here for parental controls guides for broadband, mobile, smartphones, social media, search engines and more, e.g Snapchat, Google, EE, Sky." At the bottom of the interface is a search input field with the placeholder text "Enter device, network or platform name".

2. Secondly, the police have made us aware of some worrying behaviours located at Fairfield School's astro turf where several of our students go during out of school hours to play football. However, this area is being targeted by groups of young men with criminal behaviours, and there have been a number of incidents involving knives, so we urge you that this is not a safe space for any child right now.
3. This is such a difficult time and a lot of us are frustrated with the current restrictions. If you have any concerns or are worried about how your child is coping with the lockdown either academically or emotionally, please get in contact with your Head of Year or Pastoral Manager.

Have a safe break and we look forward to being in contact again after the break!  
Orchard School Safeguarding Team

## Website

I want to give you early warning that our website is being updated during term 4. It will have all the same content, but should be much easier to navigate and much easier for the school staff to keep up to date, especially the calendar. We have talked to the Parents Forum and Governors about this, but if there are any particular new features that you feel should be included in the new website, please email [info@orchard.tila.school](mailto:info@orchard.tila.school) for the attention of Emma Snell in the next few days.

In the meantime, I hope you and your family have a healthy and safe half term.  
With my very best wishes,



Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher