

Orchard School Bristol

Filton Road, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0XZ

T. 0117 377 2000

E. info@orchard.fila.school

www.osb.school



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

23 October 2020

Dear parents and carers

End of Term 1 Update

I am writing to thank you for your support. It has been a fantastic term overall, especially when we consider where we were 8 weeks ago, with lots of new procedures and processes in place to help us be Covid-safe in school.

Your children are remarkable – they have shown us that they care about each other by wearing their masks in corridors and sanitising their hands carefully. The behaviour in the year group villages has been excellent and we have had very few reasons to feel concerned. Your children have settled into their learning really well, and it is always wonderful to see the quality of work being produced. We have seen improved homework habits over the term too.

To date we have not had to send home any children or staff due to 'contact' in school with a positive Covid case. This means that all children have had access to a full term of schooling. We can see they have enjoyed this, but are also tired and looking forward to the half term holiday!

Uniform

The Department for Education expect us to keep our school fully ventilated as one of the Covid-safety measures. This means the top windows remain open in classrooms, corridors and offices, even if it is cold. Please encourage your son/ daughter to wear layers of clothing. Our uniform allows:

- White or pale coloured T shirt/vest to be worn under a white school shirt
- A plain black V-neck knitted jumper
- A blazer
- A coat for outside

In the past, the V neck knitted jumper was branded with coloured stripes. We changed this last year to allow any black V neck knitted jumper, as these were a lot more affordable. They are available in many stores, and are very good value at Asda/Tesco/Sainsbury's at 2 for £6. Hoodies are not permitted. Please encourage your child to wear a coat instead.



Finally, we are working hard with students to wear cloth masks, to help our environment. Students learned that it can take up to 450 years for a disposable mask with plastic liner to decompose, so we are encouraging all the children to purchase cloth masks for school. A pack of masks can be bought in supermarkets, usually around £1 - £2 each.

Help with Uniform Costs

We are very aware that it is a financially difficult time for many of our families. If you are finding it hard to get uniform/jumpers/masks/blazer/shoes/calculator/bag/stationery for your children, please just let us know. We will try our best to help your child get the right uniform so they can stay warm at school and have the right uniform/equipment so they don't feel left out. Just email info@orchard.tila.school or phone 0117 377 2000 and ask for the Pastoral Manager for your year group. They can fill in a form for you over the phone to get help from our Hardship Fund. If we don't know, we can't help, so please just make a phone call.

If you would prefer to fill this in online yourselves, please go to our website page www.orchardschoolbristol.co.uk and click on PARENTS tab and then HARSHIP FUND APPLICATION.

IT Equipment

You may be aware that the government has asked us to provide Remote Learning for students in the case of a lockdown due to Covid. We hope this will not be needed, but we have a contingency plan in place just in case. The plan involves all children who are isolating accessing learning from 8.40am via computers. We will not be sending work home in the post. Our staff have been talking with parents and children about access to laptops in the home, and access to the internet. We know many of our students have good access to a computer at home. We also have a set of laptops we can lend out to children who don't have a laptop at home. These will be lent out if we go into a lockdown again. The Teaching and Learning team will be in touch to keep you up to date with this. Students will be able to access online lessons set by their teachers. Our teachers are working hard to make any remote lessons clear, interesting and easy to follow, and we think this will help our students keep up with the curriculum really well.

Half Term Holiday

Students have their half term holiday from the Saturday 24th October until Monday 2nd November. Monday is an INSET day – which means staff are training and there is no school. **We look forward to welcoming your children back to school on Tuesday 3rd November.**

Please remember that we have contractors in over the half term to put in security gates, to keep your children safer through the school day. This means that you will not be able to use the Staff Car Park from November onwards. I wrote to you about that last week. All letters home to parents are on our website, if you want to check details again.

Over half term the site is not open and we have some electrical work going on. This means that our phones are down for the week. If you want to contact the school, you will need to email:

- Info@orchard.tila.school
- If there are any POSITIVE COVID results for students, please email sbm@orchard.tila.school and we will get back to you over the holiday

I wish you all a good half term with your children, and a healthy, happy break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Hinchliffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher