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Headteacher: Mr Richard Healey



Friday 29th September 2023

Dear parents/ carers,

I am writing to you with the academic year now in full swing and I am buoyed by the positive atmosphere running throughout our setting currently. This academic year was always going to have an interesting beginning as we combine the learning communities of both IKB and Orchard Grove, however I am struggling to find the superlatives to describe the relationships being built and the collaboration being witnessed to ensure that both schools are thriving. Huge credit must go to both sets of staff teams who are supporting one another, our wonderful children who are integrating brilliantly and all our families who have approached the situation with such encouragement and optimism. It really feels like 'Team OG' have been with us a lot longer than one month and we are excited for this partnership to continue for the rest of the academic year!

Settling In September

September is such an important month for our reception children in terms of harnessing their sense of belonging, forming relationships with other children, familiarising themselves with our environment and having plenty of opportunities to access learning across the curriculum. Both sets of Reception children have been very busy this month. They are now all in school full time and it is wonderful to see them all achieving.



Awesome Attendance

The academic year has started well in terms of attendance with so many children having been in all or most of the time. Positive attendance directly correlates with high outcomes and achievements for children as well as better mental health through being around their friends each day. Year 3 have even had a week where every child was in school every single day, which is a fantastic effort. Let's keep this high attendance going. Thank you all for your support with this.



Clubs From Our Community

It has been inspiring to see so many children participating in the variety of clubs that we have on offer already this academic year. From choir and netball to football and fencing, we have everything covered. This year we have been driven to put on extra-curricular activities that are led by people within our community so I would personally like to thank Jane from Wellington Swords (fencing), Steve from Wellington Football Club and Jo from Wellington Netball Club. This continues to add another dimension to our curriculum and helps to embed our schools even more within the community. We are very excited to begin offering club participation opportunities to both IKB and Orchard Grove Reception children after Xmas!



BEP

As you are all aware, since September our schools have been part of The Blackdown Education Partnership (BEP), merging together what were formerly The Castle Partnership Trust and Uffculme Academy Trust. I wanted to share with you how strong an experience this has been to date with all schools already working together to enhance provision for our children as well as all children across the Trust. We have been very excited by the collaboration so far, providing the opportunity to enhance our educational provision as well as positively influence the provision of other schools. Our commitment within the BEP is a 'Belief in every child' and I hope that you will see this being strongly recognised within your own children at both IKB and Orchard Grove.



Our IKB and Orchard Grove Attributes:

- We are POSITIVE**
- We are ENGAGED**
- We are RESPONSIBLE**
- We are RESPECTFUL**
- We are RESILIENT**
- We RISE TO CHALLENGES**

**'Every Child Belongs'
'Every Child Participates'
'Every Child Achieves'
At IKB and Orchard Grove**

Reading At Home:
Reading with your child or listening to them read for 5-10 minutes per day can drastically improve their educational achievements, their creativity and their life chances.

Please talk to your children about the books they enjoy: the titles, the authors and what it is about those texts they enjoy the most e.g. description, rhyming, etc.

**** DATES FOR THE DIARY****

Term 1 2023-24	
Monday 2 nd October	IKB Friends and Community (IKBFC) group meeting at 18:00 – new members welcome!
Week of 9 th October	IKB Bright Sparks 'Wonderful Week' – please ask the nursery staff team for more details.
Monday 9 th October	Year 2 trip to Hooke Court.
Tuesday 10 th October	World Mental Health day and IKBFC 'Coffee and Conversation' morning from 8:50 – 10:00.
Wednesday 11 th October	Year 3 indoor athletics festival at Court Fields school during the morning.
Friday 13 th October	'Fabulous Friday' for all IKB and Orchard Grove year groups from 14:40 – 15:10. The opportunity for parents/ carers to learn alongside their children in the classroom. If you have children in more than one year group there will be opportunities to move between classes.
Wednesday 18 th October	Term 2 knowledge organisers and class newsletters going home to parents/ carers.
Thursday 19 th October	Halloween dress up day for children who wish to be involved. This will be followed by the IKBFC Halloween disco after school.
Friday 20 th October	INSET Day – IKB school, Orchard Grove school and IKB Bright Sparks closed.
Week of 23 rd October	IKB Bright Sparks open.
Term 2 2023-24	
Monday 30 th October	INSET Day – IKB school, Orchard Grove school and IKB Bright Sparks closed.
Wednesday 1 st November	NSPCC PANTS assembly for all school children – https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/pants-underwear-rule/
Tuesday 7 th November	Parent/ Carer Evening session #1 from 15:30 – 18:00.
Wednesday 8 th November	Parent/ Carer Evening session #2 from 15:30 – 18:00.
Friday 10 th November	IKB and Orchard Grove individual pupil photos day.
Week of 13 th November	National Road Safety week and National Anti-Bullying week.
Thursday 16 th November	Parent/ Carer Phonics workshop with Miss Fahy at 8:50 and 14:45.

Thank you, as always, for your continued trust and support. Mr Healey, IKB and Orchard Grove Headteacher