



29 April 2022

The Apple Press

School Updates and Communications

Dear Parents and Carers,

'No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it'

H.E. Luccock - a prominent American Methodist minister and professor at Yale Divinity School

I hope that you all had a pleasant Easter break. It's been a pleasure to see our children and young pupils return. I was very heartened to see the improvements in uniform so thank you for supporting us with that. Of course you have questions or we can support you with it or anything else, then please contact Tia in our Family Liaison Team - TBeddow@orchard-manor.org

Parent Questionnaire

Before Easter we sent a questionnaire regarding the school's curriculum. Thank you to those of you who kindly responded. Your answers made us aware that the biggest issues you have revolve around the communication we have with you, regarding not only your children's progress but also about how the school is progressing, our curriculum updates and the plans and visions we have in place for the future. This is our main priority now and we will be concentrating on getting this right from now on.

On an extremely positive note, we are very pleased to see that you all think that the best thing about Orchard Manor is our staff team!

continual support support from the staff fantastic staff mutual support
support and residential ability best working children and staff
Lovely staff teachers **staff** children staff in the school
amazing staff support students communication
supportive staff staff are all really friendly

Thank you again for contributing to our survey. We will continue to listen carefully as we make improvements to our school offer — including how we communicate this, and how your child is progressing. We are looking forward to launching our new School Values with you too in the very near future.

We are saying Goodbye to...

Chris Leeds and Danny Turner who have been an integral part of our students development, particularly providing engaging outdoor activities which our pupils love. Thank you both for your commitment and hard work. Good luck for your next adventures!

... and we are Welcoming:

Steven Dinnie who is joining our PE Team for the summer term and we are also delighted to add two new admin team members, Karyn Buckle-Cooper and Danielle Sherwood. We look forward to working with them in the following weeks.

Meet the Kitchen Team:



Every army runs on its stomach so they say, and our fabulous school would be lost without our amazing kitchen staff who make healthy and delicious meals for everyone in school. Penny runs the kitchens on both campuses with Liz, Anne, Vicky, Gillian and Martine working closely in her team. The legendary Chocolate Cracknell, cakes, biscuits, and various other delights both savoury and sweet make us very lucky indeed to have such creative cooks.

Pupil News

As the weather begins to get warmer and the blossom comes out, we head into our summer term with vigour. Cricket is the name of the game this term and we are delighted to have Lewis Fountain join us from the Devon Cricket Board to teach all our Year 9s and 10s the beauty of this quintessentially English game and we look forward to hearing the thwack of leather on willow on our playing fields. Paddleboarding has also proved very popular—although a little wet it seems!



Our outside areas are bursting with life thanks to our Horticultural lead Catherine and our new polytunnel, and we are looking forward to the students planting out the veg and flowers into our school borders.



Parent Drop-In with Nicola

I will be hosting another '[Parent Drop - in with Nicola](#)' on Tuesday 10th May from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. Parents can drop-in for a chat, to ask questions, etc on Teams. [Click here to join!](#)

We wish you a very relaxing Bank Holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday morning at 9:10am.

With very best wishes,

Nicola Jones, *Headteacher*

Dates for your Diary!	
6 - 8 May	Ten Tors Challenge
16 - 20 May	Jubilee Week
Friday 20 May	Jubilee Celebration Day
Thursday 23 June	Prom
Friday 24 June	Wellbeing Day and Year 11-14 Leavers Cream Tea
Tuesday 28 June	School Reports
Monday 4 July	Start of Transition Period
Friday 8 July	Summer Fete
Tuesday 12 July	Parents Evening
Tuesday 26 July	End of Term