

## Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a good summer break and are ready for this new academic year at Orchard. The building work continued throughout the summer and is still on schedule to be completed by January 2015. The school now has a new KS2 playground, the new field is seeded and the Early Years outdoor area should be completed in the next couple of weeks. We have a new alternative entrance into school from the side walkway - this will be open for the start of the day and then at the end of day, to aid the children's arrival and departure to and from the school site. We hope to have another alternative entrance open soon from Comyne Road - we will let you know when this will be available. We have also changed the way children can come into their classroom, see below for more details. I would like to invite you all to an **Information Evening on Monday 15th September at 7pm**, where you will hear about the school's priorities for this year and have an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher for an introductory talk about the procedures, practicalities and curriculum - I do hope to see you all there.

*Paul Sutton*

## Changes to coming into school

When children arrive in the morning they can wait on the new KS2 playground or outside of the Year 1/2 classroom areas. When the door to their classroom is opened and a member of staff present they may go in (this may be slightly earlier than 8.50). Year 3 & 4 will use the hall door to enter and leave the building. At 8.50 the bell will be rung to let everyone know that the children may now go into class (if they have not already done so). The only year group to line up will be Reception who will use the number and alphabet lines.

## School Meals Catering

We continue to use Caterlink as Orchard's catering contractor. We are also embracing new changes with the introduction of the government's new policy of Universal Free School Meals. This means all children in Reception and KS1 will have a school meal. KS2 payments for meals need to be made in advance direct to Caterlink. They use their own online payment system.

Year 3 upwards - your child may qualify for a free meal and additional funding for the school if you receive any of the following, Year R - Y2 the school may get additional funding if:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit, (providing you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Pension Credit (Guarantee Credit)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

**If you do qualify for these benefits please complete the form available from the school office.**



## Events Happening at Orchard

<b>Mon 15 Sept</b>	Information Evening - 19.00
<b>Sat 13 Sept</b>	South West Hertfordshire Consortium Secondary Transfer Academic Test
<b>Fri 26 Sept</b>	European Day of Languages
<b>Tue 7 Oct</b>	Jeans for Genes Day
<b>Thur 16 Oct</b>	Year 5 Tri Golf @ Francis Combe
<b>Mon 20 - Fri 24 Oct</b>	Parents Week
<b>Tue 21 Oct</b>	Parent Consultations: 17.30 - 20.00
<b>Thur 23 Oct</b>	Parent Consultations: 15.40 - 18.10

## Moving On 2015 (or 2016)

The school sent home at the end of the last term a Moving On 2015 leaflet which detailed all the details for the local secondary schools open evenings. These give a fantastic opportunity for children and parents to look around the schools and often hear from the Head teachers and other members of staff. I recommend that if your child is in Year 5 or 6 you consider looking around all the secondary schools in the area. A copy of the leaflet and other information about secondary transfer can be found at

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/admissions/links/infobooks/>

The first open evening in our area is on September 11th!



## MSAs - Urgently needed!

If you are interested in supervising the children at lunchtime please let the school office know ASAP.