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Tuesday 23rd January 2024

Dear parents/ carers,

With us closing in on February, well done to those of you keeping up any new year's resolutions. Equally, well done to those of you who failed miserably (like myself) or refused to engage at all! January has been such a positive one at both IKB and Orchard Grove, so please read on to see what we have been up to and for more information of the opportunities to come for our children between now and half term.

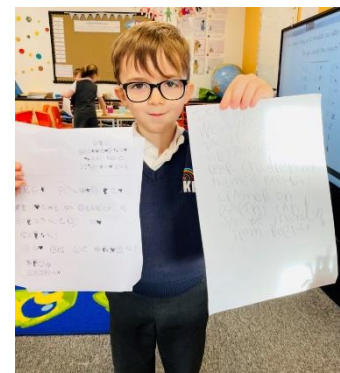
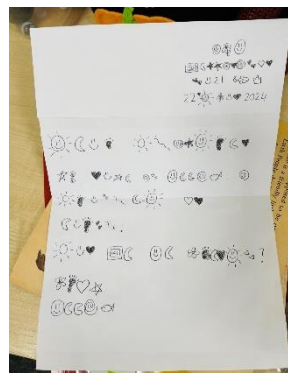
New Year, New School

Orchard Grove children have begun the calendar year with a site visit to Orchard Grove School. It was a landmark day in the history of the Blackdown Education Partnerships (BEP) newest primary school. The children, who are in Reception class at their temporary home at IKB, were taken by minibus to visit their new school. The site manager talked them through health and safety procedures before they were able to go and see where their new enormous playground and field are situated. They were then led into what will be their Year 1 classroom next year. The children completed some building of their own with site-made Jenga blocks and signed plaster boards which will be on display for all children who follow them in future to see. For the children to see where they will hang their coats, have their lunch and assemblies made it all so real for them and their delight and excitement throughout the visit was clear.



Aliens Have Landed

Year 1 have been looking at their new class story 'Beegu'. She is a little space alien who has landed on Earth and lost her family. She wrote to the class in her alien code language, and it was up to the children to decode the message using a key. Year 1 are looking forward to more learning opportunities involving Beegu in the coming weeks and are keen to locate her and reunite her with her parents. Watch this space!



Fundraising and Fitness in January

Across the BEP schools we have had a focus on fitness throughout January and combining this with fundraising to enhance our PE curriculum through new equipment and resources. So far the children have engaged in a whole school aerobics session, have ran a lunch time mile and today we are welcoming Paralympic footballer Jack Rutter for a circuit training session and whole school assembly. We are finishing off our efforts with a Wake N' Shake on the morning of Monday 29th January at 8:30 on the playground (in the hall if it is raining) and we would love all children and parents/ carers to join in too. Thank you all so much for your dedication to raising money for PE at both schools and for your generosity in giving. Every penny will be put back into furthering the education and sporting participation of every one of our children.

National Storytelling Week

As part of National Storytelling week we are thrilled to announce an author visit on Thursday 1st February. Emma Bettridge is a local author, theatre producer and festival curator. She's done all sorts of amazing things in her career but will be visiting us with her children's author hat on. Each class will be visited by Emma and her labrador dog 'Nell'. She will read one of her stories with the children and then have some time to discuss and answer questions about the process of being an author. She is massively influenced by the outdoors so will talk about nature as being her inspiration:

9:05 – 9:30 – IKB Reception

9:30 – 9:55 – Orchard Grove Reception

9:55 – 10:20 – Year 1

10:20 – 10:40 – IKB Bright Sparks

10:50 – 11:20 – Year 2

11:20 – 11:50 – Year 3



'Time to Talk'

Thursday 1st February is 'Time to Talk' day. It's the chance for us all to be more open about our mental health and talk about how we really feel. For more information, please visit:

https://timetotalkday.co.uk/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIqobChMissL6wavzgwMVFI2DBx0SfgdhEAAyASAAEgLXtfd_BwE

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 3 2023-24	
27 th and 28 th January	The Big Garden Bird Watch weekend.
Week of 29 th January	National Storytelling week.
Friday 2 nd February	Fabulous Friday for all year groups from 8:45 – 9:10. Parents/ carers to join if they wish.
Week of 5 th February	Safer Internet week and Children's Mental Health week.
Wednesday 7 th February	Year 1 multi-skills sports visit to Court Fields school. All children to be at school for 8:30.
Wednesday 7 th February	Internet Safety workshops for parents/ carers with Mr Healey at 8:50, 14:45 and 17:30.
Wednesday 7 th February	Class newsletters and knowledge organisers for Term 4 going home.
Friday 9 th February	Last day of Term 3.
Week of 12 th February	IKB Bright Sparks open as normal.
Term 4 2023-24	
Monday 19 th February	Term 4 begins for all children.

At brilliant term to date and with plenty more to come in 2024. Thank you, as always, for your continued trust and support.
Mr Healey, IKB and Orchard Grove Headteacher