

Thomas Place

Wellington

Somerset

TA21 8FP

Tel: 01823 795900 – IKB

Tel: 01823 711014 – Orchard Grove

office@ikb.bep.ac – IKB

office@orchardgrove.bep.ac – Orchard Grove

Headteacher: Mr Richard Healey



Monday 4th September 2023

Dear parents/ carers,

I hope I find you all having enjoyed a Summer with a healthy balance of rest and adventure and ready to begin the new academic year. To those of you who are existing IKB families, welcome back to another academic year! To those who are joining us at IKB or Orchard Grove this September for the first time, welcome to our school community! It is with great excitement that I write to you today because it feels like the beginning of a new chapter for both schools. For Orchard Grove, this September marks the existence of our school and the first ever cohort of children and families attending as well as the opportunity to lay strong foundations for all families who follow. For IKB we are entering our fourth year since opening and no longer can we call ourselves the 'new' school. We feel firmly established within the Wellington community now and have an ever growing positive reputation for every child belonging, participating and achieving. Our challenge is to continue and ensure that we transfer this into Key Stage 2 as our children move into Year 3 and beyond over the coming years.

As you are all aware, from September our schools are now part of The Blackdown Education Partnership (BEP), merging together what were formerly The Castle Partnership Trust and Uffculme Academy Trust. This is an exciting time for all our schools, providing the opportunity to enhance our educational provision, especially for our most vulnerable pupils and families. It also allows us to invest in wider opportunities for staff development and wellbeing, and to bolster our organisational resilience at a time when education is facing significant challenge. Our commitment within the BEP will be '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.



Returning to School

Please note that school and nursery will be closed on Monday 4th September and Tuesday 5th September for staff training days to allow us to have everything prepared for your children upon their return. Nursery, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 children will all return on Wednesday 6th September. For IKB and Orchard Grove Reception children, home visits will take place this week with the respective Reception teams visiting their families (information of times and dates for these home visits have already been sent out, but if you do not know when your visit is, please contact the school via the office emails above).

School Timings

The IKB school day is 8:45 – 15:15

The Orchard Grove school day is 8:50 – 15:20



Knowledge Organisers and Class Newsletters

At the end of the last academic year all families were sent knowledge organisers and class newsletters during the same week as school reports went home. Please look at these before your child starts/ starts back with us. Knowledge organisers contain knowledge and key vocabulary that your child will be learning throughout their topics during Term 1 and the knowledge organisers provide an excellent source of support for parents/ carers to discuss with their child at home about the things they are learning in school. Class newsletters contain lots of important information about the year group of your child e.g. important calendar dates, classroom expectations, etc.

Summer Reading Challenge – 'Every Child a Reader'

Can all children who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge please bring in their evidence of completion on Friday 8th September as we would like to celebrate their achievements during our first celebration assembly of the year. 'Every Child a Reader' is a commitment we have to all our children, both inside and outside of school.



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 4 th September	INSET Day – IKB school, Orchard Grove school and IKB Bright Sparks closed.
Tuesday 5 th September	INSET Day – IKB school, Orchard Grove school and IKB Bright Sparks closed.
Wednesday 6 th September	First day of school for Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 and IKB Bright Sparks
Wednesday 6 th September – Friday 8 th September	Home visits for Reception children. Reception children to attend a 'Stay and Play' on the Friday. Timings for both IKB an Orchard Grove have been sent out to parents/ carers.
Week of 11 th September	Part-time week for Reception children from 8:45 – 12:00 (IKB) and 8:50 – 12:05 (Orchard Grove) on Monday – Thursday; 8:45 – 13:00 (IKB) and 8:50 – 13:05 (Orchard Grove) on Friday, inclusive of lunch.
Thursday 14 th September	Behaviour and restorative justice workshop for parents/ carers with Mr Healey at either 8:50, 14:45 or 17:30.
Friday 15 th September	International Dot day celebrating creativity, courage and collaboration – all children can wear dotty/ spotty clothing to school if they wish to.
Week of 18 th September	Reception children begin full-time, 8:45 – 15:15 (IKB) and 8:50 – 15:20 (Orchard Grove).
Tuesday 19 th September	Phonics Screening Check meeting for Year 1 parents with Miss Aldridge at 8:50 and 14:45.
Monday 25 th September	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.
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/

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