



Orchard Academy Trust

Hildenborough Crescent, Maidstone,
Kent, ME16 0PG
Telephone: 01622 757350

Executive Head: Mrs J Young

5th April 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to formally welcome Belmont Pre-School to the Orchard Academy Trust family of Schools. The Pre-School officially transfers on 6th April; it has been a long and drawn out process, not dissimilar to that of purchasing a property, but despite all the frustrations along the way we are looking forward to working with the children, staff and families of the Pre-School.

We are also looking forward to welcoming an extra Reception class in September. The trust took this decision as there were substantially more parents this year, express Allington as a preference than we have places for. I am sure you will be pleased to learn that we will not be adding a mobile classroom to the grounds but are able to accommodate the extra class with a little reorganisation of our existing rooms.

We have continued to embed the Forest Schools teaching within the curriculum; this has had a very positive impact on the children - their confidence, self-esteem, resilience and problem solving skills are all showing significant improvement and I understand the staff enjoy getting muddy as much as the children do!

This year there has been a focus on the school's values and the children have produced some fabulous displays in the hall embracing our values of: happiness; togetherness; creativity; nurture and inspiration. Hopefully you've had an opportunity to appreciate these on your visits for assemblies or parents' evenings.

Some of you may have noticed the addition of some outdoor gym equipment on the top field. This has been funded with some of our Sports premium money. Now the better weather is returning the children are able to enjoy the benefits of using this equipment during their break and lunch times.

It has been great to see so many children enjoying the holiday club during the school breaks. The children enjoy lots of fun activities from sport and cooking to snooker and computer games. They also visit local parks, Kent Life and Adventure Kidz, Maidstone Museum and this holiday will even have some Judo lessons. We have received lots of positive feedback so don't forget to book your places in time for the Summer holiday via the school office. There are some places available in the Easter break so for last minute bookings please contact Siobhain Scanlon on 07512110964.

I wish you all a lovely Easter break!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mrs J Young', written over a horizontal line.

Mrs J Young