

Reminders ...

Homework

Year 5 children are expected to complete activities from the creative homework choice menu.

- **Reading** – We very much believe in reading for pleasure and will always encourage our children to enjoy reading as much as possible. Children are expected to read regularly at home – this will mostly be the book that they have selected to read, but we also encourage reading child-friendly newspapers (such as First News) and articles online as well as listening to e-books. It is important that they bring their reading book to school each day.
- **Spellings** – We will have a spelling focus which will be introduced each week. Children will bring home some examples of words that use the weekly spelling pattern and will be tested at the end of the week.
- **Multiplication and Division Facts** – Multiplication facts are very important and your child will be using them continually throughout the year to support them across many different areas of maths so we really welcome any support you can give with learning these at home.

We thank you in advance for your support in ensuring that your child's homework is completed to a high standard and handed in on time so that it can be marked and feedback given. We understand that there may be times where a child may not be able to complete their homework on time due to other commitments outside of school but we do ask that we are informed so that we can give the child time to complete it.

P.E Lessons

PE will take place on a Monday and Thursday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has a full kit in school on these days. Please ensure that all P.E kit is clearly named – initials on the label in marker pen are fine.

Orchard Primary School

Class 8 Overview



Spring Term 2024

Classroom News ...

Welcome back. We hope that you have had an amazing Christmas and a fantastic New Year. The children have come back full of energy and excitement. I think the break was needed and they have had the chance to recharge their batteries.

Class Dojo – Please check this regularly. Where possible, I will be aiming to post at least twice a week. I will also be using this as a way of messaging, sending reminders for events or celebrating achievements in Class 8. Please note that I endeavour to respond to messages within 48 hours. If it is important, please come and speak to me at the end of the day or phone the office to make an appointment I am always happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Communication - School Information will normally be sent to you via e-mail, texts, dojo messages, flyers or letters with slips to return (do check your child has passed them on to you).

Rewards - We set high standards in all aspects of school life. Your child will be expected and encouraged to work to the best of their ability. All effort is praised and rewarded with house points, certificates and stickers.

Dates for your Diary

- Fri Jan 26th January - RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch
- Monday 5th Feb - PTA Movie Night
- WB. 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week with Dress to Express on Fri 10th Feb
- Parents' Evening (Mon 12th 3.30-6.30 & Thursday 15th 4.00-6.00pm)
- Tues 13th Feb – Safer Internet Day
- Friday 16th February - School closes
- Monday 26th February - School opens
- Thursday 1st March: World Book Day
- Monday 4th March - Wednesday 6th: Y5 Residential to Whitehall
- Thurs 7th March - PTA Mother's Day Tea
- Thursday 14th March: Timestableathon & TTRS Dressing Up Day (NB: World Maths Day March 23rd)
- Fri 15th March PTA Spring Disco
- Friday 15th March: Comic Relief Fundraiser
- Friday 22nd March: School closes

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and to all the exciting activities we have planned.

Creative Curriculum: Our topic for the first half term is 'Water Worlds' which has a large focus on geographical skills. Children will develop their understanding of the features of rivers. We will also spend time looking at how water is used and what we can do to ensure we are looking after the water resources we have in the UK and across the world. We will also look at the Science behind the states of matter, taking part in a variety of experiments. After half term, our topic will be 'Amazing Americas'. We kick off our topic with a geographical focus, starting with a global view before using Google Earth to focus on Mexico and the countries of Central America. The historical aspect of the curriculum will look at the ancient Maya civilisation and we will find out about their beliefs, achievements and everyday lives from artefacts and historical discoveries.

English: Our reading this term will be based on Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo, where the children will follow the story of an eleven year old boy, Michael, who gets washed up on an island on the eve of his 12th birthday and meets an old man. Throughout the term, children will be exploring a range of genres in their writing, including a narrative, newspaper reports and a persuasive text. After the February break, reading 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. It is a very enjoyable and thought-provoking story, examining issues such as friendship, crime and redemption. This will provide the context to write a journal from the point of view of one of the characters. We will also be looking at the Mayan myth of the Hero Twins and creating our own heroes and villains.

Maths: This half term, we will be building on the fraction concepts we covered before Christmas to develop our understanding of the equivalences between fractions, decimals and percentages in different contexts. We will also be solving problems by calculating percentages of different amounts. Our understanding of decimal notation will be applied to different units of measure. The children will be introduced to new arithmetic concepts such as algebra and ratio. In geometry we look at the parts of a circle before constructing and interpreting pie chart in statistics as well as calculating the mean as an average.

French: French lessons will focus on clothes and getting dressed. After half term we will learn how to describe the weather.