

Reminders ...

How you can help

- **Reading** – Reading is so important. Sadly, nationally, the number of primary aged pupils who do not complete any reading at home is increasing. At Orchard, we would like to redress the balance. We are having a massive push on reading this year to develop a love of books and 'reading for pleasure', especially in Key Stage 1. It would be great if children could be heard read at home at least 4 times a week, if not every day! Helping your child to use their phonics to decode words, to sound words out and to blend in order to build up their 'reading power' really is the most important thing you can do to help at home. We would ask that school books taken home come back each day as children will read in school too. Due to the nature of our decodable books, it may well be that the same book comes home to be read on several occasions – this is to build up fluency. However, if there are any issues with the book selected, please feel free to contact us. Please use the Reading Record to note pages read etc. Once a week the Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant will then check diaries and respond to any comments that you may have written.

- **Homework Menu** - For each Learning Adventure, children will receive a creative homework menu. They are free to choose whichever tasks they like, on the homework menu it states how many we would like them to do. We are keen to stress that homework should only take up a small proportion of the evening/weekend. Pupils are allowed the whole half-term for completion of the tasks before bringing their homework book back into school in the last week. We are happy to extend homework deadlines where appropriate. However, we would kindly request your support in ensuring that your child's homework is completed to a high standard - all homework should be written in pencil, with care being taken over presentation and handwriting.

- **PE & Forest School Lessons** - PE will take place on a Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure that children are sent into school in their PE uniform on these days. Class 1's Forest School session is every other Tuesday.

- **Labelling Property** - Please ensure that uniform, water bottles, book bags, etc. are named – a name written in marker pen is fine. Finally, should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. If your query will require more than a few moments at the start/end of school, please telephone the school office to arrange an appointment so that we can make sure we are able to have a quality discussion.

Orchard Community Primary School

Class 1 Overview



Autumn Term 2026

Classroom News ...

Welcome to Class 1. The teaching team this year is Miss Kucharska, who will be supported by Mrs Bowden. We also have Mrs Tomlinson joining us on days when Mrs Bowden is not in the class. We are all very much looking forward to working with your child.

All pupils have returned to school with an excellent attitude towards their learning and have impressed us with their enthusiasm, good manners and excitement about our first learning adventure.

Behaviour - Our school definition of respect is: 'having due regard for someone's feelings, wishes or rights'. As a class, we have reminded ourselves of the 'Respect Rule'. Respect for yourself. Respect for others. Respect for property. Respect for learning. Positive behaviour is praised and rewarded with Dojo points/House points, certificates and stickers.

Class Dojo - We will be using Class Dojo to share important school updates and post photos of classroom activities so don't forget to log in. Please remember to send any messages such as last-minute changes of picking up to the office as these messages might not be seen or responded to in time. Staff will endeavour to respond to messages within a 48-hour working day window.

Communication - School Information will normally be sent to you via e-mail; flyers or letters. Often, letters with slips to return may go home via the book bag however, so please do check bags regularly.

Class Reader – Pupils will regularly vote for their class reading book. They will choose from a selection of authors, helping them discover new stories and adventures as well as enjoy familiar favourites.

Character Values – Our new nine character values are:

- Teamwork
- Respect
- Independence
- Perseverance
- Curiosity
- Communication
- Creativity
- Confidence
- Compassion

We will be referring to them in our Friday achievement assembly, dojo posts and throughout the day with the children. You may see them gain a dojo point for one of these in particular.

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

Literacy: As part of their Seaside Learning Adventure, the children will be writing a journey tale inspired by 'Sharing A Shell'. They will then learn, innovate and retell a new version of The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch, using Talk for Writing strategies. Pupils will also learn how to write a set of instructions to make a jam sandwich. After half-term, non-fiction texts linked to castles will be explored.

Numeracy: In Year 1, we will be starting with Number and Place Value up to 10. This provides children with the basic knowledge which can then be transferred into other areas of learning. Lots of recapping will be done during this time, exploring the numbers that we use to ensure all children are confident with these numbers. We will then spend a few weeks focusing on addition and subtraction, using a range of methods to answer questions. Later in the term, Year 1 will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We will also continue to develop our problem-solving skills and how to reason.

Science: Pupils will be learning about seaside habitats and how living things found by the coast are suited to their environment. The children will have a go at creating their own rock-pool and will find out about the basic needs of different kinds of animals/plants, and how they depend on each other. Later on in the term, pupils will learn about the properties of materials. They will explore the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

Learning Adventure (History, Geography, Music, Art, DT): Our Learning Adventure this half term is 'The Seaside'. The children will learn about seaside traditions, past and present. They will locate some popular seaside locations on maps, and will create music and artwork inspired by the sea. In DT, they will be making a yukky sandwich to deter those pesky seagulls from eating Mr Grinling's lunch! After half term, the children will learn about Norman castles. They will find out about life in medieval times, and will explore castle defences through a visit to Tamworth Castle. They will create their own artwork inspired by 'Castle in the Sun' by Paul Klee and listen to, and compose, music inspired by Fairy Tales. They will make a pop-up Christmas card in DT.

Computing: Pupils will learn about how technology is used all around us. They will then explore digital photography after half-term.

PSHE: Family and Relationships & Health and Wellbeing.

RE: Autumn A - What do Christians believe God is Like? Autumn B - Who do Christians say made the world? Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

PE: Stability & Locomotor skills (walking, marching, running, jumping, crawling, hopping, climbing, galloping, sliding, skipping and leaping).