

Reminders ...

How You Can Help

- **Reading:** Reading is incredibly important, and nationally, fewer primary-aged children are reading regularly at home. At Orchard, we are committed to reversing this trend by placing a strong emphasis on developing a love of reading and encouraging *reading for pleasure*, especially in Key Stage 1.
- We kindly ask that children read at home at least four times a week—ideally every day. Regular practice not only supports phonics but also helps children build fluency, which is essential for confident, successful reading. Re-reading familiar texts is a key part of becoming fluent, so your child may bring home the same fully decodable book several times. This repetition helps them read more smoothly, accurately and with greater expression.
- Supporting your child by practising phonics, helping them decode new words, and encouraging them to sound out and blend is one of the most valuable things you can do at home.
- Please ensure school reading books are returned daily, as children also read in class. If you have any concerns about the book sent home, please let us know.
- You can record pages read and any comments in the Reading Record, which will be checked weekly by teachers or teaching assistants.
- **Homework Menu** – For each Learning Adventure, children will receive a creative homework menu and may choose whichever tasks interest them. We ask that all pupils complete at least five tasks over the half-term. Homework should take up only a small part of an evening or weekend.
- Children have the whole half-term to complete their chosen activities and should return their homework book in the final week. We are happy to offer deadline extensions when needed. We kindly ask for your support in ensuring homework is completed to a high standard—written neatly in pencil, with careful presentation and handwriting.
- **PE & Forest School Lessons** – PE takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday. On these days, please send children to school wearing their PE uniform. Class 1's Forest School sessions take place every other Friday.
- **Labelling Property** – Please ensure that all items—uniform, water bottles, book bags, and more—are clearly labelled. A name written with a marker pen is perfectly acceptable.
- Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- If your query needs more than a brief chat at drop-off or pick-up, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment so we can give the matter the time and attention it deserves.

Orchard Community Primary School

Class 1 Overview



Spring Term 2026

Classroom News ...

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break. This half term, our classroom staffing remains the same: Mrs Wintle and Mrs Bowden continue as our class teaching assistants, We have had a fantastic start to Year 1 already and are excited to see what the Spring Term brings.

Behaviour – Our school defines respect as “*having due regard for someone’s feelings, wishes or rights.*” As a class, we have revisited our ‘Respect Rule’:

- Respect for yourself
- Respect for others
- Respect for property
- Respect for learning

Positive behaviour is celebrated through Dojo points, House points, certificates and stickers.

Class Dojo and Communication – We will continue to use Class Dojo to share key updates and photos of classroom activities. Please send any messages to the school office via email/phone, and they will pass them on to us. You are also welcome to speak with us directly during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up. Most school information will be sent via email or printed flyers/letters. Some letters (especially those with reply slips) may come home in book bags, so we kindly ask that you check them 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 – This year, we are making a few adjustments to our character education programme and will be focusing on nine key values:

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

Over the next couple of months, we will be concentrating particularly on four of these:

Confidence and creativity, and respect and perseverance.

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

Literacy: In Spring 1, children will write a non-chronological report about polar bears and explore poetry by creating their own Kennings inspired by the Arctic. In Spring 2, they will write a dinosaur journey story, followed by a letter and a set of instructions. They will finish the term by creating performance poetry inspired by *Walking With My Iguana*.

In reading, we will enjoy a range of books including *Iceberg, The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish, Stone Girl Bone Girl, Dinosaurs Love Underpants, Dinosaur Drip* and *Dear Dinosaur*.

Numeracy: Year 1 will begin the term with addition and subtraction within 20. They will then move on to place value within 50. In Spring 2, children will learn about length, height, mass and volume.

Science: This half term, children will explore Arctic habitats, learning about the plants and animals that live there and how they survive in cold climates. They will study simple food chains and animal growth through the example of the polar bear. In Spring 2, children will revisit the differences between living, dead and never-lived objects and study a variety of habitats—including the rainforest, coral reef and deserts. Linked to our dinosaur topic, they will explore dinosaur habitats, diets and food chains, as well as the basic needs of animals using a baby dinosaur as a case study. During **Spring Watch**, they will carry out fieldwork to spot early signs of Spring.

Learning Adventure (History, Geography, Music, Art & DT): In Art, children will create Inukshuk-inspired rock sculptures based on the work of Ted Harrison and use mixed media to produce fossil artwork. In DT, they will design and sew an Inuit-inspired wall hanging. In History, Spring 1 focuses on the sinking of the Titanic, and Spring 2 moves on to dinosaurs. In Geography, children will locate the seven continents, five oceans and cold regions of the world, and explore how these relate to the equator.

Computing: Children will learn to program using Bee-Bots, organise data into groups and use computers for simple word processing.

PSHE

We will be learning about safety, the changing body and citizenship.

RE

Children will explore the question: *Who is Jewish and how do they live?*

PE

This term, children will develop skills in gymnastics, dance, throwing and catching.