

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, please check the weekly Dojo message in case of any changes.

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



Summer Term 2026

Classroom News ...

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a wonderful Easter break! We can't believe it is now the final term in Year 1. The class room staff in Class 1 for the summer will continue to be Miss K, Mrs Wintle and Mrs Bowden. We have such an exciting term coming up and cannot wait to get stuck in.

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:

Respect, perseverance, teamwork and independence

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

Literacy: In Summer 1, we will be learning what a letter is, exploring its features, and writing a letter to a dinosaur, where we will ask him lots of questions. We will also be writing a set of instructions about how to care for a baby dinosaur. In Summer 2, we will be writing our final story of the year using the book *The Tear Thief* as inspiration. We will also use the book to help us write a setting description. During our whole-class reading sessions, we will be reading: *Dinosaurs Love Underpants*, *Tyrannosaurus Drip*, *The Tear Thief*, and *Red Fox*.

Numeracy: In Summer 1, we will be starting with Fractions where we will learn about halves and quarters of shapes and amounts. Next, we will learn about place value within a 100. We will then explore position and direction before learning about money and how to tell the time.

Science: In Summer 1, we will be finishing our dinosaurs learning adventure by identifying herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. We will also explore what living things need to survive. During Summer 2, we will be learning about everyday materials and naming their properties. We will also complete our final seasonal changes topic, including a summer walk to observe changes from spring to summer.

Learning Adventure (History, Geography, Music, Art & DT): In Art, we will explore Castle Donington and focus on our drawing skills by sketching local houses and buildings. In History, we will study significant events in Castle Donington, such as the opening of the airport and its impact. Geography is a major focus in Summer 2. We will learn about the UK, its four countries, and capital cities. We will also carry out fieldwork in Castle Donington, using compass directions and following routes. In Music, we will begin to explore music notation and how we can use this when playing instruments.

Computing: In Summer 1, we will focus on digital writing and explore the tools that help us write on computers. In Summer 2, we will have a go at programming animations, linking this to our geography maps unit.

PSHE: During Summer 1, we will learn about economic wellbeing, focusing on the difference between needs and wants. In Summer 2, we will begin our RSE unit, where we will explore the concept of privacy and understand what safe contact is.

RE: In RE, we will explore the big question: “*How should we care for others and the world, and why does it matter?*”

PE: During Summer 1, we will focus on object manipulation, practising football skills such as dribbling and striking, with footwork as a key focus. In Summer 2, we will consolidate and practise skills in preparation for Sports Day.