

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 continuing to have a massive push on reading this year to develop a love of books and 'reading for pleasure'. This year, all children in KS2 will have reading record. It would be great if children could be heard read at home at least 4 times a week, if not every day! Listening to your child reading or reading along with them increases their fluency and speed. We would ask that school books taken home come back each day as children will read in school too. 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.

Spellings – Pupils are expected to practise their spellings in preparation for a weekly spelling test which takes place on a Friday. Children will be given their spelling on a Friday and will be tested the following Friday. The spelling words will be a mixture of LKS2 challenge words, wording following the same spelling patterns and homophones. Please speak to us if you require advice on spelling tips and activities.

Homework Menu - For each Learning Adventure, children will receive a creative homework menu. They are free to choose whichever tasks they like. We ask that all pupils attempt at least 5 tasks. 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 Lessons - PE will take place on a Monday and Thursday. Please ensure that children are sent into school in their PE uniform on these days.

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 Primary School

Class 4 Overview



Autumn Term 2025

Classroom News ...

Welcome to Class 4. The teaching team this year is Miss Brown who will be supported by Mrs Valentine. Mrs Valentine will cover PPA every Monday afternoon. 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 topic.

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, post photos of classroom activities, and to respond to messages sent by parents, so don't forget to log in. Please remember to send any urgent 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 - Each half term, the class will have a class reading book. They will be choosing from a range of authors, with the aim being to introduce pupils to new stories and adventures, as well as sharing well known texts.

Character Muscles - We always pump up our Character Muscles big time in the Autumn Term, especially in relation to the following:

Enthusiasm: Ready and keen to learn, and to contribute and enjoy.

Concentration: The act of focusing your attention. The art of not being distracted.

Curiosity: A strong desire to know something. Asking questions to learn more.

Self-Control: Restraining yourself from doing something that may not be appropriate at the time. Involves self-control.

Co-operation & Teamwork: The ability to work together.

Kindness: Being generous, thoughtful, and friendly.

Resilience: The ability to recover from difficulties.

Listening: Listening politely and respecting other people's ideas.

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

English: As part of their Marvellous Me Learning Adventure, the children will be writing a finding tale inspired by 'A Dangerous Game' – our whole class reading book for his half term, which is written by Malorie Blackman. They will then learn how to imitate, innovate and retell a new version of a finding tale, using Talk for Writing strategies. Pupils will also learn how to write a set of instructions to make healthy pizzas and create a explanation text linked to the digestive system. After half term, the children will be creating a narrative based on entering a portal to Egypt, as well as creating a non-chronological report on Egypt.

Maths: In Maths, the children will be focusing on the key concepts of place value as well as written and mental methods of addition and subtraction. Alongside this, we will continue to develop our problem solving and mathematical reasoning skills, involving plenty of 'maths talk' and exploration of the different approaches we can use to solve problems. Year 3 children will need to learn the following times tables: 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 8s and 10s.

Learning Adventure (History, Geography, Music, Art, DT): Our Learning Adventure this half term is 'Marvellous Me'. This learning adventure has a science focus, where the children will learn about the human body. In DT, they will be making healthy pizzas to ensure they are getting the right nutrition! They will create their own portrait artwork inspired by a range of artists including Frida Kahlo. After half term, the children will learn about the Egyptians in the Learning Adventure 'The Fabulous Pharaohs'. They will find out about early civilisations and life during the Ancient Egyptian era. In geography, they will explore Africa, focusing on the human and physical geography of Egypt. Time will be spent exploring the River Nile to develop their geographical and fieldwork skills. In Music, the pupils will complete an instrumental unit based on South African music, before exploring Haiku, Music and Performance.

Science: During the health and movement unit, pupils will learn how animals, including humans, need specific nutrition to help them move and grow, and how humans and some other animals have skeletons and muscles to help their bodies move. They will then move onto the Digestive System, where they will learn about eating, digestion and teeth in animals, including humans. After half term the children will be introduced to microorganisms with the opportunity to mummify tomatoes!

Computing: The children will learn about how technology is used for editing photos. Then after half-term they will move onto desktop publishing.

PSHE: Health and Wellbeing and how to look after yourself.

RE: How and why do people mark the significant events of life? After half-term, What is it like for somebody to follow God?

PE: This term, the pupils in LKS2 will develop skills in the ball games football,