

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*.

We kindly ask that children read at home at least four times a week, ideally every day. Regular reading is essential for developing fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. In Year 3, children are encouraged to read a range of texts and to re-read books to build confidence, accuracy and expression. We also encourage children to talk about what they have read, discussing characters, events and their own opinions, to deepen understanding and enjoyment of reading. 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.

Spellings – Pupils should practise their spellings in preparation for a weekly spelling test every Friday. The spellings will be different each week and may sometimes be challenging. If you would like any advice or spelling strategies, please speak to us.

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 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, with careful presentation and handwriting.

PE & Forest School Lessons – PE takes place on Monday and Thursday. On these days, please send children to school wearing their PE uniform. Class 4's Forest School sessions take place every 3 weeks. Please see the Forest School letter for dates.

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 Primary School

Class 4 Overview



Summer Term 2026

Classroom News ...

Welcome back!
Summer term means a final push for all our learning to the end of the year!
Where has it gone?

The children have come back to school full of enthusiasm and we are really looking forward to a great term.

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.

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: This half term we will be covering a range of genres including dairy writing and newspaper articles in the first half term and then a persuasive brochure in the second half term. Handwriting and writing stamina is a key focus this term – it would be great if children could practise their handwriting at home too!

Numeracy: 3 will be learning about money while revisiting the key concepts covered so far, like fractions. We will also focus on telling the time accurately, exploring the properties of shapes (including perimeter), gathering data and working out statistics, and developing our problem-solving and reasoning skills. This will involve lots of ‘maths talk’ to deepen understanding and explore different strategies for tackling problems.

Learning Adventure: Our Learning adventure this term is the brilliant ‘**Rampaging Romans**’ with exciting History, Geography, Science, DT, PSHE, Music and IT, as we explore some of the people who shaped our country. This will be followed by ‘Location Location’ - a geography based unit which will involve field work, mapping, exploring Castle Donington and a trip to Matlock Bath. It’s a brilliant hands-on topic; the children will love it!

Computing: During the summer term we learn programming events and outcomes including set up commands and de-bug programs.

PE: We will taking part in Athletics and Tennis.

PSHE/ RE: PSHE will be delivered through our ‘Everyone’s Welcome’ scheme of work using stories to investigate feelings, differences and relationships. As part of this we are teaching the sex and relationships unit of work which will focus on families and relationships as well as coping with change as we grow up.