

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 3/4, 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 Wednesday. On these days, please send children to school wearing their PE uniform. Class 5'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 Community Primary School

Class 5 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: Miss Smith and Mrs Marcer continue as our class teaching assistants. We have had a fantastic start to the year 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.

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 explore poetry by creating their own Sound Collector Poem and the children will write a finding tale narrative with dialogue focus. In Spring 2, they will write a character description, followed by a suspense narrative where they have to escape a monster! In reading, we will enjoy a range of books including *Song for a Whale* – Lynne Kelly and *The Iron Man* – Ted Hughes.

Numeracy:

Year 3 children will be moving onto the second stage of multiplication and division and will then be moving onto length, perimeter, mass and capacity. Year 4 will be moving onto explore the area of a shape and continuing onto fractions and length and perimeter. Alongside this, we will continue to develop our problem solving and mathematical reasoning skills, involving plenty of ‘maths talk’ to develop our learning and the different approaches we can use to solve problems.

Science:

Our Learning Adventures this term are: ‘Lights, Camera, Action’ and after half term, ‘May the Force be With You’. These incorporate some exciting activities as we explore the science of light, sound, forces around us and electricity.

Learning Adventure (Music, Art & DT):

In Music, the children will learn about traditional instruments from India and in Spring 2, they will look at Ballads and the Significant Figure: David Bowie. In Art, children will create paintings inspired by music looking at the work of Wassily Kandinsky. In DT, they will design and make a pinhole camera in Spring 1 and an operation game in Spring 2.

Computing:

Children will learn sequences in Music and also have an Internet Safety Day.

PSHE:

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

RE:

Children will explore the questions: *What do Hindus believe God is like? What does it mean to be Hindu in Britain today?* And in Spring 2 *For Christians, when Jesus left, what was the impact of Pentecost? (Easter)*

French:

Children will be looking at numbers, calendars and birthday celebrations.

PE:

This term, children will develop skills in gymnastics, dance, hockey and outdoor adventure activities.