

Reminders ...

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 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.

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.

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.

PE & Forest School Lessons – PE takes place on Monday and Thursday. On these days, please send children to school wearing their PE uniform. Class 6'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.

Thank you – Mrs Wood-Brown

Orchard Primary School

Class 6 Overview



Autumn Term 2026

Classroom News ...

Welcome to Class 6. The teaching team this year is Mrs Wood-Brown and Mrs Rees. 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 learning adventure.

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

We will be referring to them in our Friday achievement assembly, dojo posts and throughout the day with the children. You may see them gain a dojo point for one of these in particular.

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

English: Our phase book this term is 'King of the Cloud Forests' by Michael Morpurgo. In 'Talk For Writing' sessions, we will be studying journey tales with a focus on settings. Pupils will develop their vocabulary using adventurous words for effect and write in clear, accurate sentences to create a short story.

Maths: In Maths we will be focusing on the key concepts of place value and 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.

Learning Adventure: Our Learning Adventure this term is 'Earth Rocks'. This incorporates exciting activities in Art, Geography, PSHE and Computing, as we explore what the Earth is made of and develop the children's knowledge of the world around them. We will be visiting the Stone Centre at Wirksworth and creating a 'Rock Museum' to teach other children across the school! After half term, we'll be heading to the USA on a Road Trip for a fantastic Geographical learning adventure.

Science: As part of our Learning Adventure, the children will be comparing and grouping materials together, according to whether they are solids, liquids or gases and observe that some materials change state when they are heated or cooled.

Computing: We will be studying how computers are connected both locally and globally. We will also study programming using repeated shapes.

PE: In the first term we will be learning fundamental movements to help support the sports of football and basketball. We will also consider healthy lifestyles and how we can keep fit.

RE/PSHE: We will be looking at our relationships with family and friends, and how we can maintain these in a healthy way. This will include some work on anti-bullying, respect and stereotyping. We'll also be developing our self-esteem and integrity, and learning about democracy through voting for our school council. We will also learn about how festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish people.

French: This term, children will recap and/or learn French greetings, adjectives, colours and shapes. Sessions will be taught through blocked French activity days.