

## Reminders ...

### How you can help

- **Reading** – We very much believe in reading for pleasure and will always encourage our children to enjoy reading as much as possible. Children are expected to read regularly at home – this will mostly be the book that they have selected to read, but we also encourage reading child-friendly newspapers (such as First News) and articles online as well as listening to e-books. It is important that they bring their reading book to school each day.
- **Spellings** – We will have a spelling focus which will be introduced each week. Children will bring home some examples of words that use the weekly spelling pattern and will be tested at the end of the week.
- **Multiplication and Division Facts** – Multiplication facts are very important and your child will be using them continually throughout the year to support them across many different areas of maths so we really welcome any support you can give with learning these at home.

**Homework** – Year 6 will continue with their CGP homework and will receive a maths and an English activity each week. Children in year 6 will be given a copy of the creative homework menu, the children do not need to complete this but it is given as an option for any children wishing to complete any of the activities. 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. We understand that there may be times where a child may not be able to complete their homework on time due to other commitments outside of school but we do ask that we are informed so that we can give your child time to complete it.

**P.E and Forest School lessons** - PE will take place on a Thursday and Friday. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing a full kit in school 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 me – either through emailing or by telephoning the school office to arrange a telephone appointment.

# Orchard Primary School

## Class 8 Overview



Spring Term 2026

## Classroom News ...

All children have returned to school with an excellent attitude towards their learning and have impressed us with their enthusiasm and positive learning behaviour.

**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** – Each half term, pupils will 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:

**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.**

### **Learning Adventure (Geography, Science, Design Technology, Art)**

Our topic for the first half term is ‘Water Worlds’ which has a large focus on geographical skills. Children will develop their understanding of the features of rivers. We will also spend time looking at how water is used and what we can do to ensure we are looking after the water resources we have in the UK and across the world. We will also look at the Science behind the states of matter, taking part in a variety of experiments. After half term, our topic will be ‘Amazing Americas’. We kick off our topic with a geographical focus, starting with a global view before using Google Earth to focus on Mexico and the countries of Central America. The historical aspect of the curriculum will look at the ancient Maya civilisation and we will find out about their beliefs, achievements and everyday lives from artefacts and historical discoveries.

**English:** Our reading this term will be based on Kensuke’s Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo, where the children will follow the story of an eleven year old boy, Michael, who gets washed up on an island on the eve of his 12th birthday and meets an old man. Throughout the term, children will be exploring a range of genres in their writing, including a narrative, newspaper reports and a persuasive text. After the February break, reading ‘Holes’ by Louis Sachar. It is a very enjoyable and thought-provoking story, examining issues such as friendship, crime and redemption. This will provide the context to write a journal from the point of view of one of the characters. We will also be looking at the Mayan myth of the Hero Twins and creating our own heroes and villains.

**Maths:** This half term, we will be building on the fraction concepts we covered before Christmas to develop our understanding of the equivalences between fractions, decimals and percentages in different contexts. We will also be solving problems by calculating percentages of different amounts. Our understanding of decimal notation will be applied to different units of measure. The children will be introduced to new arithmetic concepts such as algebra and ratio. In geometry we look at the parts of a circle before constructing and interpreting pie chart in statistics as well as calculating the mean as an average.

**Computing:** Data and spreadsheets and Website Creation.

**PSHE:** Safety and the Changing Body and Citizenship.

**RE:** Spring A - What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain today? Spring B - Why do some people believe in God and some people not?

**PE:** PE will include gymnastics, dance and hockey

**French:** Spring A – clothes and getting dressed. Spring B – French weather