

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 on a Friday and will be tested the following Friday.
- **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 - 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 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 Lessons - PE will take place on a Thursday and Friday afternoon. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing a full kit in school on these days. Class 8's Forest School sessions take place every third Thursday.

Labelling Property - Please ensure that uniform, water bottles, book bags, etc. are named – a name written in marker pen is fine.

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 8 Overview



Autumn Term 2026

Classroom News ...

Class 8's teacher is Mrs Kirkwood and we are very fortunate to also have the support of Mrs Astle. We are all very much looking forward to working with your child!

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.

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 (History, Geography, Music, Art, DT): Our topic for the first term is ‘To Infinity and Beyond’ where we will be discovering the answer to our big question ‘What has space exploration taught us about the solar system?’. The children will be able to develop their understanding of the Science of space through a variety of different experiments on air resistance and gravity. The children will learn about famous Scientists who have changed our understanding today. In DT, we will be creating an Eggonaut to see which space shuttle can withstand the fall back to earth. Children will develop their appreciation of art through the study of the artist Peter Thorpe. In music, the children will learn about film scores and create a sequence of musical ideas to portray emotions. After half term, we will continue with our Space topic but we will be developing our Science knowledge of ‘Let there be light’.

English: This term, we will be reading ‘Phoenix’ by award winning author S.F Said and joining the characters through their adventures in space. We will be using the story to inform our writing. We will be creating our own engaging story opening that feature the idea of déjà vu. We will then get to explore the wonders of the world of Pandora to create a non-chronological report all about the magnificent planet. After, we will have the opportunity to create our own creatures and terrains. We will also look at a variety of space poetry thinking carefully about poetry devices before creating a space poem of our own, before looking at instructional writing to make brownies, which are the characters favourite food!

Maths: This half term, we will be learning about number and place value. We will learn to read and write numbers up to 10 000 000, to identify the value of digits in a number, to use the greater than and less than symbols (> and <), to round numbers to any given degree of accuracy and to work with negative numbers. We will have the opportunity to use all of our number and place value skills through problem solving. We will then move onto learning about the four operations (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing and applying these to problem solving.

Computing: The children will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices. The children will discover how information is found on the World Wide Web, through learning how search engines work.

PSHE: Family and Relationships and Health and Wellbeing

RE: Autumn A - What does it mean for Christians to believe that God is holy and loving? Autumn B - Creation and science: conflicting or complementary?

PE: The first PE unit this term will be football, followed by rugby and then basketball.

French : Autumn 1 – Transport. Autumn 2 – In my French House