

Reminders ...

Reading

Children are expected to read regularly at home; preferably every day but at least three times a week. We will always try to change their library book and their reading book once a week. PLEASE make sure they bring their book and diary every day. Almost all the children now have books that they should be mostly reading to you, practising the skills that they have been taught in our phonic sessions to decode words and beginning to read some words by sight. Please sign and date the reading diary every time to let us know that you have read with your child and add comments.

PE Lessons/Forest School

For the Spring term, both Red and Green Apples will continue to have PE on Thursday. If your child has pierced ears, please remove their earrings or provide a roll of micropore tape so their earrings can be covered. Kits will be sent home for a wash at the end of each half term. Forest Schools will continue to be a Wednesday morning.

Labelling Property

Despite frequent reminders, we still have children coming to school with unnamed possessions. Please ensure that coats, gloves, scarves, hats, PE kit, uniform, water bottles, book bags, etc. are clearly named. If we can read the name there is a very good chance that lost items will find their way back to you.

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. Please don't put water bottles in book bags as they do sometimes leak and ruin the children's books.

Thank you for your continued support!

Orchard Primary School

Foundation Stage Overview



Spring Term 2026

Classroom News ...

The children are now fully aware of the expectations in the classroom and are working extremely well during adult led and child initiated activities.

The children are using the classroom (inside and out) to its full advantage and we're sure you can see the progress they have made in their personal and social skills, their communication and language skills and also in their independence.

Tapestry

We are absolutely delighted to see such a lot of parental contributions on Tapestry this year so far. It's so helpful to us to be able to get a fully rounded picture of your children and they love it when we know about things they've done at home or out and about. We hope you find it just as useful to know what your children are doing at school and see the progress they are making. Please continue to check for updates and follow your child's learning journey, as we post frequently.

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 positive praise, Dojo points, certificates and stickers.

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.

This half term's learning adventure will be '999 Emergency!'

We are planning to have visits from real police officers, fire fighters and paramedics to talk with the children about their jobs and give the children a chance to learn more about the role of the emergency services in the community, ask questions and find out about keeping themselves safe and healthy.

During the second half term, we'll be learning all about bears (real and the teddy version) in our learning adventure - 'If you go Down in the Woods Today'.

Please refer to the school website to see our topic mind maps, which outline the main areas we'll be covering each half term, though we sometimes do go off on a tangent to follow the children's interests.

Literacy

Our focus stories for writing this term will be 'The Billy Goats Gruff' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We'll also be doing some information writing about looking after our teeth and Chinese New Year and making a non-fiction book about bears.

Phonics

Everyone was extremely impressed with the children's progress in phonics last term. This term we'll be focussing on learning the remaining vowel digraphs (where two letters make one sound e.g. ee, ai, ou, oo, ir, ar) and continuing to gain confidence in blending (for reading) and segmenting (for spelling).

Please continue to help your child by practising the words on the blending strips stuck in their reading diaries.

Maths

We'll be working on counting and comparing numbers up to 10, learning about how numbers are made up of smaller numbers, combining two groups of objects and measuring weight, height, length, capacity and time.