

Reminders ...

How you can help

Reading – Reading is so important. Sadly, nationally, the number of primary aged pupils who do not complete any reading at home is increasing. At Orchard, we would like to redress the balance. We are having a massive push on reading this year to develop a love of books and 'reading for pleasure', especially in Key Stage 1. It would be great if children could be heard read at home at least 4 times a week, if not every day! Helping your child to use their phonics to decode words, to sound words out and to blend in order to build up their 'reading power' really is the most important thing you can do to help at home. We would ask that school books taken home come back each day as children will read in school too. Due to the nature of our decodable books, it may well be that the same book comes home to be read on several occasions – this is to build up fluency. However, if there are any issues with the book selected, please feel free to contact us. Please use the Reading Record to note pages read etc. Once a week the Class Teacher or Teaching Assistant will then check diaries and respond to any comments that you may have written.

Homework Menu - 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.

PE & Forest School Lessons - PE will take place on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Please ensure that children are sent into school in their PE uniform on these days. Class 1's Forest School session is on Friday.

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 us. If your query will require more than a few moments at the start/end of school, please telephone the school office to arrange an appointment so that we can make sure we are able to have a quality discussion.

Orchard Community Primary School

Class 1 Overview



Autumn Term 2025

Classroom News ...

Welcome to Class 1. The teaching team this year is Miss Kucharska (Miss K), who will be supported by Mrs Wintle and Mrs Bowden. 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 definition of respect is: 'having due regard for someone's feelings, wishes or rights'. As a class, we have reminded ourselves of the 'Respect Rule'. Respect for yourself. Respect for others. Respect for property. Respect for learning. Positive behaviour is praised and rewarded with Dojo points/House points, certificates and stickers.

Class Dojo - We will be using Class Dojo to share important school updates, post photos of classroom activities, and to respond to messages sent by parents, so don't forget to log in. Please remember to send any urgent messages such as last-minute changes of picking up to the office as these messages might not be seen or responded to in time. Staff will endeavour to respond to messages within a 48-hour working day window.

Communication - School Information will normally be sent to you via e-mail; flyers or letters. Often, letters with slips to return may go home via the book bag however, so please do check bags regularly.

Class Reader - Each half term, the class will be voting for their class reading book. They will be choosing from a range of authors, with the aim being to introduce pupils to new stories and adventures, as well as sharing well known texts.

Character Values - We always pump up our Character values big time in the Autumn Term, especially in relation to the following:

- Enthusiasm: Ready and keen to learn, and to contribute and enjoy.
- Concentration: The act of focusing your attention. The art of not being distracted.
- Curiosity: A strong desire to know something. Asking questions to learn more.
- Self-Control: Restraining yourself from doing something that may not be appropriate at the time. Involves self-control.
- Co-operation & Teamwork: The ability to work together.
- Kindness: Being generous, thoughtful, and friendly.
- Resilience: The ability to recover from difficulties.
- Listening: Listening politely and respecting other people's ideas.

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

Literacy: As part of their Green Fingers Learning Adventure, pupils will firstly be writing their own instructions to make a fruit salad. We will then be writing our own stories using the papaya that spoke as our model text. After half term we will be writing a character and setting description using the story 'Traction Man' as a model text.

Numeracy: In Year 1, we will be starting with Number and Place Value up to 10. This provides the children with a basic knowledge which can be then transferred into other areas of learning. Lots of recapping will be done during this time extending the numbers that we use to ensure that all children are confident and familiar with numbers. We will then spend a few weeks focussing on addition and subtraction, using a range of methods to answer each question. Later in the term, Year 1 will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We will also continue to develop our problem-solving skills and how to reason.

Science: Pupils will be learning about plants: how they grow, what plants we have in school and we will be looking at the structure of plants and trees. We will look at how we get food and the food chain of some animals. We will then explore seasonal change and how that affects the food we get. After half term, we will begin to look at the basic human body parts and what humans need to survive.

Learning Adventure (History, Geography, Music, Art, DT): Our Learning Adventure this half term is 'Green Fingers.' We will be looking at where in the world is hot and comparing that to the UK. We will also think about how this can affect food produce. In DT we will be making our own fruit salad focusing on cutting and chopping skills. In Art, we will be looking at Arcimboldo and making our very own fruit and veg faces. After half term, we will be focusing on History in our Super Hero Me unit, where we will be exploring real life heroes like Florence Nightingale, Mary Seacole, Emily Davison and Rosa Parks. In DT, we will be making flying superhero scenes using sliders and in Art we will be looking at Pop art using Roy Lichtenstein. Over the Autumn term in Music, we are looking at orchestral instruments and introducing the children to pitch and tempo.

Computing: Pupils will learn about how technology is used all around us. They will then explore digital painting after half term.

PSHE: Family and Relationships & Health and Wellbeing.

RE: Autumn A - What does it mean to belong to a faith community?
Autumn B – What makes some places sacred to believers?

PE: Stability & Locomotor skills (walking, marching, running, jumping, crawling, hopping, climbing, galloping, sliding, skipping and leaping).