

## 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. This year, all children in KS2 will have reading record. It would be great if children could be heard read at home at least 4 times a week, if not every day! Regular reading can help them with spelling, vocabulary-building, proof-reading, imagination and creativity, understanding dialogue, and their understanding of different styles of writing. We would ask that school books taken home come back each day as children will read in school too. 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.
- **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 and division 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 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 or blue pen, with care being taken over presentation and handwriting.

**PE Lessons** - PE will take place on a Thursday and Friday. Please ensure that children are sent into school in their PE uniform 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 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 Primary School

## Class 8 Overview



Autumn Term 2025

## Classroom News

Welcome to Class 8. The teaching team this year is Mrs Sheldon and Miss Hudspith, who will be supported by Mrs Brain. Miss Smith will cover PPA every Thursday afternoon alongside Mr Morant, who will be teaching PE. 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.

**Character Muscles** - We always pump up our Character Muscles 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:** We have started reading 'Pig Heart Boy' by award winning author Malorie Blackman. We will be using the issues dealt with in the story to plan and hold a debate before using our research to write a balanced argument. We will also become journalists in order to write a newspaper report before exploring the feelings and emotions of the different characters through diary entries. Our non-fiction writing will include instructions and non-chronological reports, linking to science lessons. After half term our shared reading will be based on the book 'Goodnight Mr Tom' - an adventure book set in World War Two about an evacuee.

**Numeracy:** 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.

**Science:** Pupils will be learning about the circulatory system and the function of the heart, blood vessel and blood. The children will have a go at creating a representation of the blood. The children will also look at the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the body and will take part in some scientific inquiries.

**Learning Adventure (History, Geography, Music, Art, DT):** Our Learning Adventure this half term is 'Keeping Healthy'. The children will learn about significant figures who have shaped medicine today. In DT, they will be researching current cereal bars on the market and adapt a recipe to make it a healthy cereal bar. After half term, the children will learn about WW2. They will find out about the life of children during this time, and will explore the changes that occurred to Great Britain. They will create their own artwork inspired by the Blitz and listen to and learn how to play music by Vera Lynn.

**Computing:** Pupils will learn about internet communication and how data is transferred over the internet. Later in the term, children will learn about video editing and the process of creating a video.

**PSHE:** Family and Relationships & Health and Wellbeing.

**RE:** Autumn A - For Christians, what kind of king was Jesus? Autumn B - Why is the Torah so important to Jewish people?

**PE:** Football, Rugby and Netball/Basketball