

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 book twice 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 the reading diary to let us know that you have read with your child and add comments should you wish to.

PE Lessons - PE takes place on Fridays and yoga on Tuesdays. PE kit will be sent home for a wash at the end of each half term.

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.

Finally, should you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us. Sometimes a short Dojo message can sort out a problem very quickly. If you prefer to speak to us directly, 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

Foundation Stage Overview



Spring Term 2022

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.

Class Dojo - We will continue to use Class Dojo to share important school updates, post photos of special classroom activities, and to respond to messages sent by parents, so don't forget to log in regularly.

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. All the children have at least one parent activated, but if you'd still like to get logged on (especially dads!) we'll send out a new set of activation emails to those parents next week. Please check your Junk/Spam folder as they do sometimes go there.

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

Friday awards assembly – Hopefully it won't be too long before we can return to whole school assemblies, but for now we are doing this award ceremony in the classroom. This is the time when children may receive certificates for earning the most Dojo points during the week or being 'Leaf of the Week'. The leaf of the week is awarded to someone who has shown great use of a particular character muscle such as independence, concentration, team work, creativity or curiosity. The lunch time staff also award weekly certificates to children who have been especially kind, helpful, friendly or co-operative during the lunch time play session.

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.

Phonics – Everyone was extremely impressed with the children's progress in phonics last term. This term we'll be focussing on the 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan 28th-30th - RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch/Big Schools' Birdwatch

31st January – 4th February – National Story Telling Week

Tuesday 8th February - Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 9th (3.30-6.30pm) and Thursday 10th February (5.00-7.00pm) -

Parent Consultations (TBC)

Friday 11th February - School Closes

14th - 18th February Half Term

Monday 21st February - School opens to pupils

Thursday 3rd March - World Book Day

Friday 11th March – 20th March – British Science Week

Friday 18th March - Comic Relief

Friday 8th April - School closes for Easter