

## Reminders ...

### Homework

- Reading - Pupils are expected to read regularly at home. It is important that school books taken home come back each day; if there are any issues with the book selected, please feel free to contact me. Please indicate how many times your child is reading at home by simply signing the reading record and saying how many pages they have read. Just 10 minutes a day can have a huge impact on your child's reading. Please aim for at least 5 times per week.
- Spellings – Pupils are expected to practise their spellings in preparation for a weekly spelling test, which takes place on a Friday. The spelling words will be a mixture of words linked to the focus spelling rule and common exception words and will definitely challenge your child at times. Please speak to us if you require advice on spelling tips and activities.

### Homework Menu

For each topic this term, children will receive a creative homework menu related to their topic. We are keen to stress that homework should only take up a small proportion of the evening/weekend. We will always allow plenty of time for completion of the task and 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 and handed in on time. All tasks should be written in pencil, with care being taken over presentation and handwriting.

**PE Lessons** - PE will take place on a Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child is wearing the complete kit; long hair needs to be tied back and earrings covered or removed. Any problems, please get in touch.

**Labelling Property** - Please ensure that PE kit, uniform, water bottles, book bags, etc. are named – initials on the label in marker pen are 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. Thank you, Mrs Sheldon and Miss K.**

# Orchard Primary School

## Class 4 Overview



## Spring Term 2024

## Classroom News ...

Welcome back. We hope that you have had an amazing Christmas and a fantastic New Year. The children have come back full of energy and excitement and we can't wait to get to know them throughout the coming term. We look forward to meeting you too!

**Class Dojo** – Please check this regularly. Where possible, we will be aiming to post at least twice a week. We will also use this as a way of messaging, sending reminders for events or celebrating achievements in Class 4. Please note that we endeavour to respond to messages within 48 hours. If it is important, please pass a message on to Mrs Shields or Mrs Daft at drop off; one of us at collection times or contact the office so that we can give you a phone call. We are always happy to answer any questions that you may have.

**Communication** - School Information will normally be sent to you via e-mail; please get in touch if there are any issues. However, flyers or letters with slips to return may go home via the book bag, so please do check bags regularly.

**Rewards** - We set high standards in all aspects of school life. Your child will be expected and encouraged to work to the best of their ability. All effort is praised and rewarded with Dojo points, certificates and stickers.

## Special Events ...

### DIARY DATES FOR THE NEW YEAR

Monday 8th January – School opens & clubs start

Friday Jan 26th January - RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Monday 5th Feb - PTA Movie Night

WB. 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week with Dress to Express on

Friday 10th February

Mon 12th 3.30-6.30pm & Thursday 15th 4.00 -6.00pm - Parents' Evening

Tuesday 13th Feb – Safer Internet Day

Friday 16th February - School closes for half term break

Monday 26th February - School opens

Thursday 1st March - World Book Day

Thursday 7th March - PTA Mother's Day Tea

Thursday 14th March - International Day of Maths: Timestableathon & TTRS

Dressing Up Day (NB: World Maths Day March 23rd)

Friday 15th March - PTA Spring Disco

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief Fundraiser

Friday 22nd March - School closes

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

**Literacy:** In English lessons, we will start the term by using a range of ice/water poetry. We will be writing Kennings and then explore rhyming poetry – to compose and perform. After that, we will move onto non-fiction writing to create a report about the Titanic, thinking about how we can present the key facts in an informative way.

**Numeracy:** In mathematics we will be focusing on key areas of learning, starting with multiplication and division and strategies that we can use to solve a range of different problem-solving questions. We will end the half term by looking at fractions. After half term, we will be looking at recognising 2D and 3D shapes and learning about the properties of these shapes. We will continue to develop our problem-solving skills through focusing on talking about the different approaches we can use to solve problems.

**Science:** Pupils will be researching Arctic animals and their habitats with a specific focus on polar bears. In addition, they will gain an understanding of why these animals are suited to these environments and how they depend on each other. We also develop an understanding of their life cycle and look at how they obtain or catch food using a food chain model.

**Topics (History, Geography, Music, PSHE, RE, Art, DT):** Our topic this half term is 'Ice, Ice Baby!'. This is a history led topic, but with strong cross curricular links to other subjects. In science, we will be focusing on life cycles, food chains and how polar bears survive in the Arctic. In art, we will be creating Inukshuk sculptures. In our music sessions, we shall be learning all about rhythm and pulse. For geography, we will be exploring the route that the Titanic took and the location of cold areas on a globe in relation to the equator. Finally, for our Design and Technology project, we will design and make a class Inuit wall hanging, where we all make individual fish using a variety of stitches and transfer to the final class hanging. Wow!

After half term, we will begin our Jurassic Park topic, learning all about the different dinosaurs and where these creatures once roamed on this planet. In science, there will be opportunities to look at fossils and observe characteristics. It's a brilliant topic!

**Computing:** the children will be learning all about 'moving a robot' and robot algorithms. Using the bee-bots, the children will learn how to program them using buttons/instructions. They will also explore setting routes and how to debug a program if something goes wrong.