

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.
- Spellings – Year 2 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 tricky and high frequency 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 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 Lessons - PE will take place on a Wednesday and Thursday. 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 3 Overview



Autumn Term 2024

Classroom News ...

Welcome to Class 3. The teaching team this year is Mrs Wood, who will be supported by Mrs Valentine and Mrs Marcer. Mrs Valentine will cover PPA every Wednesday afternoon. 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 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: As part of their Seaside Learning Adventure, the children will be writing a journey tale inspired by 'Sharing A Shell'. They will then learn, innovate and retell a new version of The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch, using Talk for Writing strategies. Pupils will also learn how to write a set of instructions to make a jam sandwich. After half-term, non-fiction texts linked to castles will be explored.

Numeracy: In Year 2, we will be starting with Number and Place Value up to 100. This provides the children with a basic knowledge which can be then transferred into other areas of learning and ensure that all Year 2 children are confident and familiar with numbers up to 100. 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, will be looking at money. We will also continue to develop our problem-solving skills.

Science: Pupils will be learning about seaside habitats and how living things found by the coast are suited to their environment. The children will have a go at creating their own rock-pool and will find out about the basic needs of different kinds of animals/plants, and how they depend on each other. Later on in the term, pupils will learn about the properties of materials. They will explore the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses.

Learning Adventure (History, Geography, Music, Art, DT): Our Learning Adventure this half term is 'The Seaside'. The children will learn about seaside traditions, past and present. They will locate some popular seaside locations on maps, and will create music and artwork inspired by the sea. In DT, they will be making a yukky sandwich to deter those pesky seagulls from eating Mr Grinling's lunch! After half term, the children will learn about Norman castles. They will find out about life in medieval times, and will explore castle defences through a visit to Tamworth Castle. They will create their own artwork inspired by 'Castle in the Sun' by Paul Klee and listen to, and compose, music inspired by Fairy Tales. They will make a pop-up Christmas card in DT.

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

PSHE: Family and Relationships & Health and Wellbeing.

RE: Autumn A - What do Christians believe God is Like? Autumn B - Who do Christians say made the world? Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

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