

# Welcome to Orchard Class!



Welcome to Orchard class! I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. I am really looking forward to getting to know you all during this new school year. I hope you are all looking forward to the return to school for your children and that they are looking forward to it, too. Our main focus at the start of this term will be to support the children with their wellbeing and settling into the class, getting back into routine and back into their learning. As it is a new school year and we are meeting for the first time, I of course hoped that I would be able to invite all parents into the class to take the time to meet properly and get to know one another. Unfortunately, as we are unable to do that at this time, I will be on the playground regularly to say hello, meet you all in person and answer any questions you may have.

The class will be taught by myself, Mrs Emily Merry. This is with the exception of Tuesday afternoons, when the children will have Music with Mrs Crowley, PE with Mr Nash and Computing with Mrs Dean. We will be supported by Mrs Davies in the mornings and also our student teacher, Miss Branagan on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

## Reading

Please ensure your child is reading at home as often as possible, this is so important in supporting their reading development. Even if they are able to read independently, your child should still be reading to an adult regularly so that you can engage in discussion together and ask and relevant questions. Please sign and date their reading diary so we know they have read. It will be the children's responsibility to change their book when required and they will have the chance to do this daily.

## Spelling

Spelling journals will be continuing for Year 3. These should go home daily and come back to school each day. A little and often approach is proven to work best with children practising 4 times a week for about 5/10 minutes at a time. House points will be up for grabs for those who are practising well at home. Year 2 children will be given spelling journals later in the term, as we will be focussing on Phonics for the first half term to begin with. When Year 2 begin their spelling journals, more information will be provided to parents about how to use them.

## Maths

We will be using "Times Table Rock Stars" to help the children learn rapid recall and understanding of multiplication facts! Year 3 have their log-ins attached to this letter, and Year 2 will have their log-ins sent home once this has been introduced to them in school. More information about how to use this at home will follow.

## Topic and Science home learning

A science and topic grid will be sent home at the start of each half term.

The ones for this half term are attached to this letter. Children are to complete one activity from each grid. If they would like to adapt the ideas or think of their own then please feel free to do so. To receive a sticker and merit stamp, children must show their home learning to me and they may share it with the rest of the class if they wish. Science is taught on Wednesday afternoons. I teach Year 2 and Mrs Evans teaches Year 3.

## Music

Mrs Crowley will be teaching music on a Tuesday afternoon. Children should make sure their recorders are kept in school, these can be kept in their drawers in the classroom.

## Seesaw

I have attached your child's Seesaw log-in to this letter. Please keep this safe as we may need to use Seesaw in the event of a local lockdown or if your family needs to self-isolate.

## PE and the golden mile

The golden mile will take place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and so children will need suitable trainers in school at all times. Our PE days this term are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Tuesday PE will be with Mr Nash. Please ensure all kit is labelled and in school at all times. If children are not dressed appropriately for PE then they will not be able to take part for health and safety reasons.

Our history topic for this half term is 'Joseph Lancaster' and our Science topic is 'Animals including humans'. To see the Orchard class long term planning, please refer to the school website 😊

## Equipment

All writing equipment will be provided by the school so your child does not need to bring a pencil case in. Each child will be provided with their own pencil and other writing equipment on their table for their own use, to limit sharing of resources. Please ensure your child is using a school book bag which fits in their drawer as there is not enough space in the class cloakroom area for rucksacks or other large bags.

## Snack and water bottles

In Key Stage 2, the government no longer provides healthy morning snacks for children. Therefore if you would like your Year 3 child to have a snack at morning play then please send them with a piece of fruit or vegetable which they can keep in their lunchboxes or book bag. All children will also need to have their named water bottle in school every day. It will be their own responsibility to fill this up and take it home to be washed every night.

Thank you for your support. If you ever have any questions or are unsure of anything at all, please do not hesitate to ask me. I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all this year 😊

Mrs Merry

