



Welcome to Orchard Class! My name is Miss Lucy Keen and I will be your child's teacher this year. We are very lucky to have the wonderful Miss Houlding helping us each morning and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons too. I hope you find the following information useful. Please also find attached our long-term plan for the year so that you can see what topics we have coming up.

Recorders

From Year 2 upwards, every child learns to play the recorder and to read music. This will be taught by Mrs Crowley every Tuesday morning. Please ensure your child has their named recorder in school each Tuesday. These can be purchased from the school office. Children can keep these in their drawers or take them home to practice if they wish as long as they remember to bring them back to school!



Water bottles

Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school each day. They must take this home daily to be washed. Cups will be available for children if they forget but it really is easier if they bring a bottle.



PE

Our PE will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child has their kit on these days and that it is named. Jumpers and jogging bottoms will be needed as the weather gets colder.



Trainers

At Aston, we aim to complete the daily mile each day so please ensure your child always keeps a pair of named trainers in school.

Snack & milk

All Year Two children will be offered a free fruit or vegetable snack each day as part of the Department of Health's scheme. You can of course send your child in with their own snack for break times but please ensure this is only fruit or vegetables. If you wish to order milk for your child, please contact the office.



Reading

Daily reading is the most important learning your can do with your child. Please aim to listen to them read daily and sign their reading diaries. It is children's responsibility to change their reading book whenever they need to although I will give reminders. Children will also bring home a library book which they can change weekly. This will often be a harder text which they will need support with or will need reading to them as a shared read.



Pocket toys

As in previous years, children are welcome to bring a small pocket toy with them to school to play with at breaktimes and lunchtimes if they wish to. Please ensure this is a small pocket-sized toy. During learning time, these toys must be kept in their drawers. We encourage children not to bring any precious or expensive items to school to avoid disappointment in the unfortunate event if they were to get lost or damaged.



As well as daily reading, all children in Year Two are expected to complete the following homework as part of our homework policy.

Times Table Rock Stars

In the next couple of weeks, children will be introduced to Times Table Rock Stars at school and provided with their password logins. This is a fun game which can be played via the app or website to help children with learning their multiplication facts. As part of our homework policy, children are expected to play on Rock Stars for 10/15 minutes about four times a week. A little and often approach works best. To find out more about how Rock Stars works, please watch my video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdvH0EU6uUA>



Spellings

From Year Two upwards, children learn spellings using “No Nonsense Spelling” scheme. Over the next few weeks, children will be introduced to their spelling journals. These are to be taken home each day and returned to school the following day. It is expected that children should spend 10/15 minutes about four times a week practising their spellings in their journals. To find out more information about the spelling journals, please watch Mrs Branagan’s video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OSS56E5nF94>

Topic homework grids

Each half term, we will have a new science topic and a new history or geography topic. Children will be given a homework grid with suggested activities for that topic. The activities lend themselves to a range of different learning styles which incorporate a variety of skills such as cooking, art, creative writing, research etc. Children are expected to complete ONE science and ONE history or geography activity each half term. If they choose to, children can show their learning to the class and receive merit awards for their hard work.

I am looking forward to working alongside you this year in supporting your child in the next steps of their education. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to me. 😊

