



Growing Together, Branching Out

What would you like outside your window?

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Year 3. We hope you all had a fantastic summer and that your children are excited about their new venture and journey at Orchard Junior. We are sure the children are going to love their first term here at Orchard. During our first topic, the children will be given lots of opportunities to explore our school and become familiar with our routines and expectations. Our topic will allow the children to explore our school using maps, taking digital photos and become familiar with our school grounds. We will be exploring our orchard key skills focussing on communication, organisation and humanity.

Dates for your diary

Parent visit: September 29th 2.45pm. This will be an opportunity for you to look in children's books and have a chat with your child's class teacher.

Forest Day: October 21st Children will need to wear clothes you don't mind getting dirty and wellies and raincoat if wet.

Extended Learning Opportunities:

The following activities are some suggestions that you might like to complete with your child. They are not homework activities that you must complete, however if you do have a go at them we would love to see the results.

- Go on a forest walk and draw your route. What did you see on your way? What did you hear?
- Create a bug house in your garden
- Sketch a picture of what's outside your window.

In Literacy: The first text we will look at is 'Into the Forest'. This picture book, with its highly detailed illustrations, provides a great starting point to explore plot, character development and emotional response to themes in fiction. The narrative and images depict a young boy's imagination as he ventures into a forest to face his fears. The gaps in the main storyline enable children to relate it to their own experiences. The second text we will look at is 'The Tin Forest'. Again this text has wonderfully detailed and emotive illustrations and will allow the children to pose thoughtful questions and viewpoints through its environmental and moral messages. The text will be used as a great stimulus for discussion focussing on our Orchard key skills of communication and humanity.

In Maths: This term we will be securing our knowledge of place value by reading, writing and recognising the value of each digit in 3 digit numbers. We will be comparing and ordering numbers and representing them in different ways. We will then be using this knowledge to solve addition and subtraction questions mentally as well as developing our written methods. The children will solve problems, including missing number problems, using number facts, place value, and more complex addition and subtraction.

In Science: This half term, in year three, we will be investigating 'Light and Shadow'.

The children will discuss and identify different light sources and discuss 'What is darkness?' The children will carry out investigations relating to shadows, including how shadows are made, how and why they change during the day and which materials make shadows. We will also discuss the importance of staying safe in the sun, and how UV rays can be harmful to our skin and eyes if not protected.

In Geography: This half term, in year three, we will be thinking about our local environment and directions. The children will learn about simple maps and plans, including using a key to identify areas. They will learn the main cardinal directions (NSEW etc.) and use these in planning directions around the school site.

The children will then consider the impact humans can have on the local environment - in both a positive and negative ways. We will use Jeannie Baker's book "Window" as the stimulus to our discussions and the children will be using digital photography to evidence what they find.

In other areas of the curriculum:

PSHE: We will be looking at our school rules and discussing why these are important to a happy and safe school. We will be writing a class charter to help us follow these rules. We will then move onto discussing emotions and developing their ability to talk about them.

Art: We will be practising different drawing skills and techniques such as using lines, hatching, smudging and use shading to create different effects. The children will then use these skills to complete some observational drawings.

P.E: We are looking at personal bests and comparing our performance to previous ones to make improvements. We will do this in gymnastics and other isolated skills.

French: We will be learning greetings, numbers 1-10 and colours.

Computing: We will be learning how to log on and off the computers. We will also learning the basic functions in Microsoft Word.

Music: This half term Year 3 will be exploring the classroom percussion instruments; what they are called and how to play them correctly. We will be learning about tempo and dynamics, based on the piece 'In the Hall of the Mountain King' by Grieg.

R.E. Our first theme will be 'Belonging'. We will identify and talk about the concept of *belonging* and recognise how Jewish people show that they belong to the Jewish faith.

Reminders:

Our PE days are **Tuesdays and Fridays**. Children will be expected to wear their PE kits to school on these days with their school jumper or cardigan.

Children must have their Orchard Reading Journal and Orchard Spelling Journal in school every day. They will have it checked weekly by their teacher who will expect to see a minimum of three reading comments and evidence that they have practised their spellings. Children will always be tested weekly on spellings on a Friday—they may forget to tell you this!

Many thanks for your support - here's to an exciting first term in Year 3!

The Year 3 Team