



Orchard Primary and Pre-School

6 January 2026

Newsletter from Orchard Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to a busy and exciting term at Orchard Primary! We hope you had a lovely Christmas filled with joy and warmth. A heartfelt thank you for all the lovely cards, gifts, and kind wishes we received from our wonderful community. As we embrace the new year, we want to remind everyone to ensure that children are dressed warmly during this chilly weather. Please make sure they have hats, gloves, and scarves to keep cosy.

Reflecting on our festive celebrations, we hope you and the children enjoyed the Christmas fayre, fun day, delicious lunch, Abbey service, and Santa's Sleigh. These events not only brought joy but also fostered a sense of community and togetherness among families and staff.

Arbor Portal

We are now using the Arbor parent app to communicate with you. Please ensure you have downloaded the app and created your login. As always, if you need help, please come and ask.

Reading Adventures

We hope your family has been enjoying lots of reading over the holidays! This term, we are excited to set up our online reading portal, alongside sending home new books for our students. For parents of children in Year 2 and above, please log on to the Accelerated Reading Portal to support your child's reading journey. If your little ones are in Reception or Year 1, we encourage you to watch the RWI videos together, as they are a fantastic resource for developing early literacy skills.

Reading is a vital foundation for academic success, and your involvement can make a significant difference. By engaging with your child's reading at home, you are helping to cultivate a love for literature and enhancing their vocabulary and comprehension skills. We would love to hear about your child's reading achievements, so please share their progress with us!

Spring Term Clubs

Exciting news! Mrs Boulton will be sending out the club lists via Arbor later this week. We encourage you to log on and book your child's spot as soon as possible. Our clubs, run by Mr Ferman, will have a small charge of £2 per session to help cover costs. Swimming will also be starting next week, adding to the fun of our extra-curricular offerings.

Extra-curricular activities play a crucial role in enhancing students' social skills and personal interests.



Avonreach

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They provide opportunities for teamwork, creativity, and personal growth. We look forward to seeing our students engage in these enriching experiences, and we encourage parents to consider how these clubs can complement their child's learning journey.

Safeguarding Matters

Thank you for remaining vigilant in safeguarding our school community. If you have any concerns about a child or adult, please reach out via email at safeguarding@orchardprimary.org.uk, and one of our safeguarding team members will respond as soon as possible. In urgent situations, remember to call 111 or 999 for immediate assistance.

Your child's safety and wellbeing are our top priorities, and we appreciate your partnership in this important aspect of school life. By working together, we can create a secure environment for all our students. If you have any questions about our safeguarding policies, please do not hesitate to ask.

Attendance

Please can we remind you to email attendance@orchardprimary.org.uk by 8.40am if your child is going to be absent from school. Alternatively, you can leave a message on the 24-hour answerphone (01386 552515).

Aspirations for the Future

At Orchard Primary, we believe it's essential for our pupils to explore the world beyond school and understand the diverse job opportunities available to them in the future. We want to make this exploration practical and exciting! If you or a family member would like to share your profession with our students—be it plumbing, hairdressing, baking, or any other career—we would love to hear from you.

This initiative aligns with our commitment to preparing students for life beyond education. By connecting classroom learning with real-world experiences, we can inspire our children and help them develop aspirations for their futures. We are also excited to embark on a project with Voice 21, which will support our students in gaining essential communication skills for their future careers.

Voice 21 Project

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the Voice 21 project, an oracy initiative designed to enhance our children's communication skills and confidence. Strong communication abilities are crucial for both academic success and personal development, and we are committed to providing our students with the tools they need to thrive.

Throughout this project, students will engage in various activities aimed at developing their oracy skills. We encourage parents to support this initiative by engaging in meaningful conversations at home. Together, we can help our children become confident communicators, ready to face the challenges of the future. We look forward to sharing updates on the project's progress and its positive impact on our students.

Best wishes

Sarah Bitcon

Head Teacher