



What will we be learning in Orchard Class during Term 1?

This term's focus topic is: "Once Upon A Time"

Literacy

Phonics is our main aim this term - the children will begin learning four new sounds per week - we will hear the sounds that each letter makes, listen out for these sounds in words, and learn the correct way of forming each of these letters in our writing. We are also going to be looking closely at specific Traditional Tales during the term. The children will be acting out these stories using masks and puppets as well as discussing the language used within them, and the roles of the characters within the books.

Mathematics

Rhymes and songs will be helping us this term to count reliably up to and beyond 20 as well as recognising the numbers and patterns of numbers to 10. Along with numbers we will also use our Traditional Tales creatively this term to help us learn about size, length, capacity and 2D shapes.

Understanding the World

This term's topic lends itself brilliantly to this area of learning. Each week's tale will help us to learn about aspects of the natural world, such as, naming plants and finding out how they grow (Jack and the Beanstalk), materials and their properties (The Three Little Pigs) and the cycle of making bread/Harvest (The Little Red Hen). The stories we read will also provide us with various fun Science based experiments which we are sure the children will love whilst challenging their thinking skills. We are also going to be using various different forms of ICT in order to enhance our learning of these fantastic tales.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

Settling in is a key element to our PSED work this term, especially with the focus of "wellbeing." We will be talking about how to look after one another, how different people show different feelings and how to play fairly whilst looking after our toys. These types of discussions will happen through circle-time games, social stories, scenario discussions and general day to day routines and "get busy" times.

Expressive Arts & Design

Music and Art are going to be a real focus for this term in Orchard class - we are going to be learning lots of new songs which relate to our stories and really trying hard to focus our listening skills into different sounds and scenarios—something which will be really important going forward in school.

Watch our "Story Land" display develop throughout the term too, where the children will be trying out different materials and techniques to create characters and objects from our Traditional Tales.

Along with our Music and Art activities we hope to squeeze in some cooking activities during the term also.

Physical Development

Our physical Development scheme called "Beyond the Physical" helps us with our PE lessons in school. Each term the children will have three words which their PE lessons will focus on for that term. We start the year with: "Play, Move, Explore." This will help the children develop their control and co-ordination of gross motor skills whilst taking part in lots of fun games based activities.



Dates for your Diary



Term Dates for 2025/2026

Term 1 Starts: Thursday 4th September
Term 2 Starts: Monday 3rd November
Term 3 Starts: Tuesday 6th January
Term 4 Starts: Monday 23rd February
Term 5 Starts: Tuesday 21st April
Term 6 Starts: Monday 1st June

Term 1 Finishes: Thursday 23rd October
Term 2 Finishes: Friday 19th December
Term 3 Finishes: Friday 13th February
Term 4 Finishes: Thursday 2nd April
Term 5 Finishes: Friday 22nd May
Term 6 Finishes: Wednesday 22nd July

Class Notes

Home/School Diary

Your child will be bringing a "Home/School diary" home with them this week, which will contain a little key information in the front of it, such as your child's House colour team which will be useful for you to know for future events and a class list which you may like for invitations and Christmas cards.

This book will be checked regularly so please feel free to use this book to record anything you feel is important for us to know - upcoming appointments, any changes in information, any specific news you would like us to know and also to ask any questions you may have.

If you have any questions, concerns or need to know anything please also get in touch via the phone or email. Our dedicated email address for myself and Orchard Class is: Orchard@quadringscowleybrowns.lincs.sch.uk

Uniform & belongings

Please could all children be provided with a waterproof coat and wellies for outdoor play which is kept in our class cloakroom. Thank you to everyone who has brought these in already.

In Orchard class we have P.E. lessons on a Thursday this term, however it would be helpful if children could have their kit in school every day throughout the week as we do like to fit extra sessions in at times if we can. Please ensure your child has kit for indoor and outdoor activities that are clearly named.

Please could you also ensure that all your child's belongings and items of clothing are clearly named (in particular fleeces, jumpers and cardigans) to prevent them getting mixed up and lost easily.

Tapestry & School Website

Many thanks to everyone who has returned their child's Tapestry account and personal information sheets already. By the end of this first week, all children and family members will hopefully have been added to our school Tapestry account and you should have all received an activation email in order to start seeing your child's observations.

If you have not returned the form yet, or you have not received an activation email by the end of the first full week (Sunday 14th September), please do let me know and I will try and resolve this as soon as possible.

Please do keep checking our school website as it is regularly updated with information and details of what is happening within school. In particular, click on the "apple" icon in the tree on the Home page - and you will be able to find lots of information and photographs to show you what the children have been busy at during their time with us. There will already be lots of information on there by the end of the first week.

Reading/Homework

In Orchard class the children are given homework which we believe will enhance the learning that has taken place in the classroom. Sometimes this takes the form of phonics work, letter formation, number work and also research.

This work is not compulsory but we would recommend completing it with your child as we know that the children like to keep their school life secret, so this is just a nice way to encourage them to share their learning with you.

All children will bring a reading book home with them shortly, along with a "Guided Reading Book." More information on how home reading will work will also be sent out with your child's first reading book. Individual Reading books will be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and a Friday if they have been read but Guided Reading Books will only be changed each Wednesday as these will be focused on in class and re-reading the same book will help with fluency.

In addition to their reading book, your child will bring home a "Phonics Sounds Booklet" which will contain the sounds they have learnt that week in them, along with an explanation of the action we have learnt the sound with. They will also receive a "Key Words Tin" which will contain a few word cards for them to try and learn from sight. Practising these sounds and words daily with your child will really help their reading skills develop at a much brisker pace.

We will be organising a "Phonics and Reading parents workshop" in the coming weeks for any parents who would like to see how this is taught in school, to help lead it in the same way when reading at home - please keep an eye out for a letter regarding this. Thank you!

Class Notes

Family photograph

In our Orchard Classroom we have a home corner—a role-play area based on a kitchen from a house. We have a display board in this area and have decided to use this as a family portrait wall to coincide with the home corner.

Please could you send a family photograph into school, in your child's book bag or electronically using the Orchard email address, that we can print or colour photocopy and give back to you so that we can put these on display. We also feel that this will be nice for the children to have and refer back to whilst they are settling in.

We understand that not all families are the same so if your child has two families then we can display both photographs on our wall. Immediate family is absolutely fine.

Many thanks.