



Together we will achieve.



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear parents, Carers of children on Year 3,

Welcome back to the new academic year. I hope you managed to enjoy the summer holidays, despite the variable British summer weather! Hopefully children are feeling refreshed and ready to begin the next stage of their learning journey at Orchard Academy. Outlined in this letter is some important and useful information about the year ahead.

### The Year 3 Team

We have three classes in Year 3; Maple (taught by Mrs Hathalia), Elm (taught by Mrs Osei) and Yew (taught by Mr Mangalan). We are supported by the following Teaching Assistants; Mrs Roberts and Mrs Martin who will be working across all three classes throughout the week.

### PE Lessons

PE will take place on the following days for each class:

- Yew will have PE on Thursday and Friday
- Elm and Maple and will have PE on Wednesday and Friday

Children should be appropriately dressed in their PE kit on these days. A reminder that **all** items of jewellery must be removed for PE lessons, including studded earrings and watches. PE lessons often taken place outdoors throughout the year and so children should be dressed appropriately for the weather. The approved PE Kit is as follows:

- Orchard Red PE T-shirt
- Navy shorts
- Navy jumper / Tracksuit bottoms for colder weather
- Trainers (not plimsols)
- Waterproof jacket (weather dependent)

All lessons will delivered by Miss Shaw or our Sports Coaches from Premier Sports.

### Homework

Year 3 Homework will be sent home on a Friday and should be returned by the following Wednesday. It will consist of a Maths Key Skills sheet, which is designed to help build fluency with core maths skills. We will send home some spelling and grammar tasks to complete and encourage children to spend time everyday reading. If children need help with their homework, then we offer support on a Tuesday lunchtime which is open to anyone who wants to attend. It is the expectation that all children will complete the homework tasks each week. There will also be a selection of challenges and learning opportunities that are linked to our topic learning. There is no expectation for these to be completed, however the children will receive merits for this additional learning.

**Executive Headteacher: Mrs R Ryan Deputy Headteacher: Ms H Auger**  
**Springfield Boulevard, Springfield, Milton Keynes, MK6 3HW**  
**Telephone: 01908 670681**



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## Reading

In Year 3 we have a big focus on reading. All children will be issued with a school reading book which teachers will have matched to their reading ability. They will need this in school every day and it can be taken home to read too.

We will have a 'Reading for Pleasure' session every day. During this time, staff will hear children read and talk to them about the book. Children should be reading at home every day too either on their own or with an adult. As children become more fluent readers, they might choose to spend more time reading independently, but we encourage them still read with an adult some of the time too. All children should also have a school library book too. They will visit the library at least once a week.

## Curriculum Overview

Full details about the Year 3 curriculum can be found on the overview sent in this welcome letter and on our school website under the Curriculum tab.

## General Housekeeping

In order to maximise space in cloakrooms, please consider the items that really need to come into school. Children do not need large heavy bags. They should have an Orchard Book Bag, or a small backpack to carry their reading book and homework book, which should be in school every day. They will also need a named water bottle which should only have water in for drinking in lessons. There is a communal water fountain in the Year 3 shared area so water bottles can be re-filled when required.

All whole school communications will be sent to your Arbor account, so please check this regularly. There may be some individualised notes or messages sent to your child, so please check bags/book bags each day for messages that might have been sent home also.

If you have any questions, please talk to either your child's class teacher, the school office or myself who will be happy to assist.

I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the year.

Yours Sincerely,  
Mrs Kerry Hathalia  
Year 3 Lead

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