



Orchard Manor School News

The Apple Press Orchard Manor School Updates and Communications

23 January 2026



Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating: there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather.

John Ruskin— Victorian Writer

Hello Everyone!

As we have all been battered with just about every type of weather since the beginning of this year, its been good to be back in the orderly rhythm of school again and it has been lovely to see everyone return after the Christmas celebrations and fit right back into school life.



For the parents of our Years 8 and above, our Next Steps event will be coming up soon. We will be hosting schools and colleges who offer Post16 options for our leavers so that you can come and chat about what your Next Steps may be. We hope to offer advice not only about further study, but also give an idea of what the options are for a more hands on approach to learning i.e. Apprenticeships. We would love to see parents and students together, so if you are looking for advice or options, then please do come along. It will be a great opportunity to see what is on offer and answer any questions you may have. As soon as the date is confirmed we will let you know.

Our KS4 reading group is doing fantastically well - by using Sparx Reader which helps them enjoy reading and build literacy skills. It is a digital reading platform used in school to support students with their reading by providing personalised book choices matched to each student's reading level, which helps them feel confident and enjoy their reading more. One of the great things about this is that students complete short comprehension checks as they read, which helps build understanding and supports progress over time. Ceara, our English Lead, says "currently we are on these stats! (*see image*) We gave out certificates this morning for pupils who completed milestones in attentive reading of 5,000 points (500 minutes), 10,000 points (1000 minutes) and our very first 15,000 points (1500 minutes). We are so proud of everyone's efforts! "



If you would like to support your child's reading at home, do encourage them to read and look at books regularly. You can talk with them about what they are reading and ask simple questions. Listening to stories together, looking at the pictures, and sharing books as a family is also a fun way to encourage reading. Help them to find a quiet and comfortable place to read and praise their effort and progress, which will build confidence and motivation. Did you know that regular reading at home, even for a short time, makes a big difference? This is because it helps to practice important skills like vocabulary, comprehension, and fluency, as well as building confidence, and a love of reading and books. All of this helps to support long-term learning and academic success - useful things to have, not just in school, but in life in general!

Another group of students doing incredibly well is our TenTors 2026 Team. They have already been out on training missions and by all accounts experienced all sorts of weathers in a space of a few hours! However, they are all having a great time working together - by the time May comes around and the real thing is on, our team will be so used to navigating the moors they will positively race along!



Have a great week everyone - and stay dry! *Nicola Jones, Headteacher*