



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday and all are ready to embrace the new term.

Our Class

Oak class will be taught by Mrs. Campbell every Monday and Tuesday, as well as every other Wednesday. Mrs Rothwell will now be teaching every Thursday and Friday, as well as the alternate Wednesdays. Mrs. Jenkins supports our class in the mornings. So far, it has been a smooth transition to having a new teacher and we will do our best to help this as much as possible.

The Curriculum

Our new topic this term is UK cities and Europe; focusing mainly on the geographical aspect. We will concentrate on the UK up until the half term and Europe from half term up to Easter. This will link with ICT which we will be using as a tool to aid our research and learning, for example using Google Earth. Please see the topic web for more details.

As part of our Art and Geography work we will be going on a class visit to Harlow Carr on Wednesday 28th February. You will receive more details on this later this half term.

PE this term will be taught by Mrs Rothwell on a Thursday and we will be learning netball skills; please ensure your child has suitable footwear (ie. trainers) as well as black or navy tracksuit bottoms, as we will be outside when possible. Friday's PE is taught by Kanga Sports and is gymnastics; for this indoor PE kit is needed (black or navy shorts, a plain white t-shirt and pumps.) If children have to borrow school kit, this must be taken home, washed and returned to school as soon as possible.

Homework

Homework forms an important part of the curriculum. The homework set is linked to classroom learning and individual targets. If your child has any worries or concerns about the homework or needs support to complete it; please encourage them to come and see a teacher before the homework is due so we can go through it together. A variety of homework tasks will be sent home including written tasks, games and practical activities.

Projects - Every half term children will also be given a research project to do, linked to the topic we are studying. They will be given a number of weeks to complete the project and an outline of what is expected.

Spellings - Children will be tested on their list of spellings every Friday morning. Children will be taught effective ways of learning their spellings in school, which they can then use at home. The 'look, cover, write and check' strategy is an effective method for a lot of children to use.

Times tables - Children will be tested weekly on their times tables. Regular practise of all times tables at home is essential and quick recall of multiplication/division facts is extremely important as a support to the maths we do in class. There are many online games which are fun and very helpful in learning quick recall, such as Top Marks Hit the Button, amongst others.

Year 6 - Year 6 children will receive additional homework throughout the year, this will focus on preparation for the SATs and Secondary School. Further information will be sent later.

Reading

Try to aim for at least 10 mins every night. It is important that children read as often as possible at home. Your child must bring their reading book to school everyday even if they are on free reading. Children who are free readers may choose a book from the school library or bring one from home. Your child must record what they are reading in their planner. If you hear your child read at home, please record this with a comment in their planner as it is helpful to hear how they are getting on at home and how often and how much they are reading. Your child will read their reading book at school during reading time (everyday). They will also read a different book in a weekly guided reading session with us.

Planners

Planners must be brought into school every day and your child should put it in the basket in the classroom. Your child's planner will be looked at by an adult at least once a week, usually on the child's guided reading day. If you have written a message in the planner to be read more urgently, your child must give this to an adult in the class. We will also use the planner as a form of communication with you, so please check your child's planner on a daily basis.

Water bottles

Please make sure children have a water bottle so they can drink regularly whilst at school. This must be taken home every Friday to be washed and brought back the following Monday. Children can fill their water bottles up at school during the week from the water fountain.

If you have any queries or concerns about your child's academic or personal progress, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Best wishes, Mrs. Rothwell and Mrs. Campbell