



Dear Parents

Happy New Year! We hope everyone has had a lovely Christmas holiday and is ready for the exciting term ahead. We are very much looking forward to getting back to work and having fun as we continue our learning journey in Oak class.

The Curriculum

Maths

We will be continuing with our maths studies, aiming at achieving mastery which means that our children can tackle problem-solving with resilience, have confidence in reasoning and show fluency in understanding and recalling number work. We have spent a term using our Rapid Recall scheme and our pupils are showing improvement in speed and confidence of number facts. Please do encourage your child – he/she is tested twice a week and the list of key facts to focus on is brought home daily in his/her planner! We will soon be introducing the *Times Tables Rockstars* programme to make learning and practice of maths facts even more fun - watch this space!

English, reading and spelling homework

We will continue to work on reading comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar skills throughout the term. Our creative writing will focus on persuasive writing including letter writing, advertising language, writing and delivering speeches as well as debating.

In Oak class we aim to promote a love of reading and are continuing to develop our reading area. We have a good range of books that we encourage the children to read. Children who are on free reading are welcome to take these books home as their reading books. Alternatively children on free reading may bring in a suitable, age-appropriate book from home. Children who are following the school reading scheme must make sure they change their reading books regularly with the help of Mrs Jenkins. We would be very grateful if children both on the reading scheme and free reading could be encouraged to record their reading at home in their planners even when reading independently. We also encourage children to recommend good reads to their class mates.

Please encourage your child to read *every* day after school. Children in Upper Key Stage 2 still benefit hugely from being heard to read, reading a book with an adult, or even being read to! It is a great way to share the experience of books and create enthusiasm and enjoyment of reading.

Every Friday, pupils in Oak class are given a new list of spellings with a practice sheet. Children should have this sheet completed and handed in by the following Friday (at the latest) and on this day a spelling test is carried out. Please encourage daily practice of spellings as this makes for better retention of spellings in the long-term.

Topic

We have the exciting theme of Brazil to study this term, where we will be looking at the physical geography as well as the political geography of the country. We will learn about the customs, way of life, food and climate of Brazil and be able to compare these with the UK. A topic project homework task will be sent home shortly for pupils to work on; as usual there will be a wide choice of ideas to suit all!

PE

Our PE lessons this term have changed: Mrs Campbell will be teaching PE on Mondays and the focus will be Games in Spring I; cricket in Spring II.

Mrs Rothwell will be assisting Mr. Bode in Spring I when the focus is Outdoor and Adventurous Activities; football will be taught by Mr. Bode in Spring II.

We ask that children have suitable PE kit in school for both indoors and outdoors. We suggest long tracksuit bottoms/leggings for outdoor lessons, as well as trainers. If the weather is particularly inclement indoor PE kit (shorts, T-shirt and pumps) may be needed.

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.

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead. If you have any queries or concerns about your child's academic or personal progress then please do not hesitate to come and speak to us.

Best Wishes

Mrs Rothwell & Mrs Campbell.