

Oak / Chestnut Class - September Newsletter 2018/19

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome aboard all new parents and children across the unit. It has been lovely to see all the children back to school and so keen. Our Reception children have settled in incredibly well and this week we will get to see them all in together. We have lots happening over the new term and lots of exciting learning opportunities planned for the children.

A reminder that this Wednesday 12th September there is an opportunity to come and say hello. Feel free to join us anytime between 3.20 pm and 4.00 pm.

We have outlined below some information which you will find useful.

School day

The school day will begin at 8.45 am with children coming into class and taking part in early morning activities. During this time we will also carry out some small group / 1:1 intervention work. We ask that children come in as quickly as possible to enable us to settle ready for learning at 9.00 am.

Staff

Reception / Year 1 and 2 will enjoy working as a unit. Mrs Barnes teaches Year 1 and 2 in Chestnut class and Mrs Parker teaches Reception and Year 1. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to work together and may well be in a group with either member of staff for some parts of the day. Miss Newlove and Mrs Tiley are the teaching assistants in the unit with Mrs Cann and Mrs Lake working as 1-1 teaching assistants within Chestnut Class. On Thursday afternoons Mrs Mapstone will cover PPA for Mrs Parker teaching RE / PSHE to Reception and Mrs Miles will teach RE to Year 1 and 2 alongside PE. Year 1 and Year 2 will do PE within their Year groups.

P.E

As mentioned above for Year 1 / 2 PE will be on Thursday afternoons therefore we would like children to come to school in PE on Thursdays for Term 1 / 2. Reception will have PE on Tuesday PM so we would like them to come to school in their PE kit on Tuesdays for Term 1 and 2. Please note that PE kit will need to be in school all week for other sporting activities.

Spellings/ reading

For Year 1 / 2 spellings will be given out on Tuesday. They will be taught the sounds required for spellings during that week and tested the following Monday. All spellings will be placed in the correct week in the purple home school contact books.

- Reception will receive sounds taught
- Year 1 will be expected to read the words given.
- Year 2 (and some Year 1) will be expected to spell the words.

All children have received a purple home contact book in which their reading level will be recorded (set by the class teacher) and the expectation is for children to read at least three times a week. Please note that reading books will not be changed unless parents have signed the book. Children reading at level 5 or below will be expected to read the book twice; once to decode and make sense of words and second time for fluency and deeper understanding. We will change books at least once per week. All children are expected to bring to school every day their purple contact book and reading book and

place in baskets in the classroom. Children are not to change books on their own, this will be done by one of the teaching staff during the school day with the children.

Water bottles

Please can all children ensure they have a named water bottle in school in order that they keep hydrated throughout the day.

Clothing

As the weather changes please can we ask that you ensure your child always comes to school with a waterproof coat. They will be going outside throughout the day, rain or shine. We also ask that you check that every item of clothing is clearly named. Please ensure that if you have bought or had passed on a previous student uniform that their name is removed and your child's name is added.

Homework

This term the homework will be a topic approach and should be handed in on Tuesdays. This is as well as spellings and reading (mentioned above). Further information on homework will follow in the next two weeks.

OWL (Outdoor Woodland Learning)

For one morning each term Mrs Rivers (Beech class teacher) will be teaching a lesson outdoors. Further information about the dates of these sessions will be sent as the term progresses.

Explore afternoon- Fridays

Friday afternoons will be an opportunity to work as a whole unit and for children to be split into family groups for an 'Explore afternoon'. Children will rotate around art/craft activities and use the new outdoor area within this time (building work is commencing Monday 10th Sept). In order for this to go ahead as planned we are asking for parent volunteers to help set up and pack away as well as work alongside children with members of staff. If anyone is available to help we would be very grateful.

Building work

Building work on the new EYFS and KS1 outdoor area is scheduled to begin on Monday 10th September. The plans have been put up around school for parents to have a look at. The work is due to be completed within a week but we envisage there may be some disruption during the time of the build. Thank you for understanding.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to an amazing year,

Mrs Barnes and Mrs Parker