



Monday 11th September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school and to a new academic year! All of the children have settled into the class well and are picking up the new routines brilliantly.

We have a busy term ahead and I would like to take this opportunity to inform you of areas of the curriculum we will be covering and some weekly events for you to be aware of. In Owls class, Monday to Thursday mornings are split between Maths (taught by Mrs Jones) and English (taught by Mrs Taylor) and on Fridays we remain together for Science and creative activities. In addition to the core learning taught by our school staff, Owls class will also benefit from specialist teachers for French, Music and P.E. which I am sure they will enjoy. (A curriculum overview is attached)

Homework (English and Mathematics) will be set on a Thursday for it to be completed and handed in by Tuesday of the following week. We encourage parental involvement in homework, especially if your child is experiencing difficulties. However, if they do need further support, please advise them to come and see me, or Mrs Taylor for English, or write a message for us via the parent feedback on their homework sheet.

Weekly spellings, and the associated spelling rule, will be sent on a Monday via the Seesaw app and with your child via their Home Spelling Logbook. The children will need to learn their weekly spellings, and its rule, ready for a spelling test on Thursday of the same week. Children who get more than one spelling wrong will have intervention support and will be retested on Friday or Monday. It is especially important that your child develops confidence in spelling a range of familiar and unfamiliar words as well as understanding the rules that need to be applied to spell such words. Therefore, your support in helping your child is very much appreciated.

To evidence your child's reading practices, they will be given a reading record book. Your child should read at home both independently and to an adult on a regular basis (daily, if possible, but at least 3 times a week). In addition, it is important to discuss what your child has read to help develop their reading comprehension skills. Each time you hear your child read, record it in your child's reading record book. The children have been told the expectations of how they should record their reading and this information is also at the front of their reading record book. Their reading record book and reading book need to be in school every day so that adults in school can hear your child read and record their comments. You may find these remarks can help you to further support your child at home. To allow children to experience a wide range of literature, at the back of your child's reading record book is an age-related book list. The children are to read three books from this list each half term in addition to other books/magazines/graphic novels they may want to read from home. They also have their own



barcode to book out/in school library books and their SeeSaw login details. We are planning book-related events through the year, so keep a look out on the school newsletter/app and via emails/letters.

For Maths there is a need for quick recall of all times table facts up to 12 x 12 and an expectation that children have a bank of known key facts, which they can recall instantly. Each half term we will have a different focus on a set of Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) and a copy will be sent home. Please spend some time each week helping your child to learn these facts as well as their times tables as these skills will be invaluable to their progress and ability to apply their math's skills.

PE will be on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, although your child's PE kit should be in school at all times as we sometimes have PE lessons on different days. Please ensure your child has the correct kit for lessons and all items, including their school uniform, are clearly labeled. No jewellery is to be worn and earrings must be removed.

Forest School will take place on Tuesday afternoons every third week. All dates for Forest School are available on the School App or can be found on the school newsletter. Children should wear clothing suitable for Forest School to school on the days which they have a Forest School session (long sleeve tops and full length trousers/leggings should be worn at all times.)

I am looking forward to working together to ensure your child is happy and that they achieve their full potential. Should you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to speak me while on the gate before or after school or email me.

Thank you and kind regards

*Mrs Jones*

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