



Tuesday 10th September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to school and to a new academic year! All 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 myself) 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 and Music which I am sure they will enjoy. (A theme 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 send us an email. Most homework will be set on Seesaw and, now that the children have their own iPad to use in school, we will be using Seesaw as an integral part of classroom practice to capture our learning in lessons, alongside work in our exercise books. Log ins for the Seesaw app can be found in the back of their reading log books.

Weekly spellings, and the associated spelling rule, will be sent on a Monday via the Seesaw app. 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 make more than one mistake will have intervention support on Friday to help them and they will be retested on the following Monday. It is very 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 in order to spell such words. Therefore, your support in helping your child is very much appreciated.

Children should read at home (independently and to an adult) on a regular basis (daily, if possible, but at least 3 times a week). These should be recorded in your child's 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 and record their comments. It is also important to discuss what your child has read to help develop their reading comprehension skills.



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 will be invaluable to their progress and ability to apply their math's skills.

On Monday and Tuesday afternoon, your child will have P.E. For these lessons, your child needs to bring in a pair of navy/black/grey tracksuit trousers/jogging trousers/shorts/skort a white t-shirt/polo shirt and daps/trainers. Please ensure your child has the correct kit for lessons and that all items, including their school uniform, are clearly labelled. No jewellery is to be worn and earrings must be removed.

Forest School will take place on Wednesday afternoons. All dates for Forest School are available on the School App or can be found on the school newsletter (Owls first Forest School session is on Wednesday 18th September.) 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.)

Year 4 and Year 5 will be swimming this term. From September, Ross-On-Wye swimming pool are introducing an intensive course for school swimming lessons. This means that instead of swimming once a week for ten weeks, we will complete our ten sessions by swimming every afternoon for two weeks (Monday 14th October – Friday 25th October.) More information regarding swimming will follow shortly.

During the summer term several of the classrooms have been painted, a new history timeline has been put on the wall outside of Woodpecker's Classroom, the reception area has had a make-over, the nook has new flooring and shelving, and areas of the playground have new planting. We think our school looks great and we very much want the children to enjoy and benefit from the environment and the resources. Therefore, we will be encouraging the children to show respect and work together to look after the school, their books and equipment. This will be a school rule focus, whilst still being ready and being safe. We would appreciate your support with this.

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 to me on the gate before or after school or email me. kjones@goodrich.hereford.sch.uk

Thank you and kind regards

Mrs Jones

