Oak Class Year 5/6 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to Oak Class and to the new school year! I hope you have all had an enjoyable and restful summer break.

It has been lovely welcoming the children back into school, and I am very much looking forward to the year ahead. Year 5 and Year 6 are such important and exciting years, and our focus will be on ensuring that every child feels happy, supported and challenged as they continue to develop both academically and personally.

This year, due to staffing arrangements, I will be greeting the children from the Oak Class corridor at the beginning of the school day. Please do not take this to mean that I am any less available to you. If you ever need a quick word or catch-up, please feel free to come and speak to me. I really value being able to touch base and keeping clear lines of communication between home and school. If there is something affecting your child, however small it may seem, please do let me know! I can only resolve situations or put additional support in place when I am aware of them.

This year, we are lucky to have Miss Khanam as our Oak Class Teaching assistant!

Below are a few reminders and some useful information about our routines in Oak Class:

PE Days

Our PE days will continue to be **Mondays and Fridays**.

Children should come into school wearing their PE kit on these days. Where possible, PE lessons will take place outside, so please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and has a water bottle available.

Daily Mile

Children should keep a pair of trainers in school throughout the week for the Daily Mile. These may also be worn during break and lunchtime activities.

If trainers need to be taken home for any reason, please make sure they are returned to school the following day.

Water Bottles

Please send your child into school with a clearly labelled water bottle.

Water bottles will be kept in our Oak Class hydration station so that the children can access them throughout the school day. Bottles will be rinsed and refilled as needed and will be sent home each Friday afternoon for a thorough clean. Please return them to school on Monday morning.

We also have spare cups available in the classroom if a child forgets their bottle.

Bartholomew Bear

Bartholomew Bear will continue his adventures with the children of Oak Class this year!

Each week, one lucky member of the class will take Bartholomew home for the weekend. He will go home on Friday afternoon and should return to school on Monday morning.

Bartholomew comes with his own diary so that children can record the adventures they have shared with him. Families are very welcome to add: photographs (but please do not feel that these need to be printed), drawings, writing, tickets or any other creative way of recording the weekend are

equally welcome. We love hearing about everything Bartholomew has been up to!

Reading

Regular reading remains an extremely important part of learning in Oak Class. Reading frequently helps children to develop their vocabulary, comprehension, imagination and confidence across the wider curriculum.

To encourage regular reading at home, each child has a Reading Loyalty Card attached to their reading diary. Each time your child reads to an adult, please record the reading in their diary and sign one of the dots on their loyalty card.

Once all of the dots have been completed, the card can be handed in and your child will be able to choose a reward from our Oak Class Reading Prize Box. A new reading card will then be added to their diary.

Children will also bring home a library book, which can be changed on Monday afternoons. This can be enjoyed alongside their individual reading book and any class reading.

Please encourage your child to read at home **at least four times each week.**

Times Tables

Secure multiplication and division facts are essential across many areas of the maths curriculum, particularly as children progress through Years 5 and 6.

We will continue to practise times tables regularly in school, with a focus on developing both fluency and rapid recall. Support at home makes an enormous difference, so we would be grateful if children could also practise their times tables **at least four times each week**.

All children have access to **Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)**, and login details can be found in the back of their reading diaries.

Another useful website for additional practice is www.timestables.co.uk.

Short and regular practice is usually much more effective than one longer session each week.

Homework

Homework in Oak Class is designed to reinforce the learning taking place in school and to help children develop good independent learning habits.

Children should:

- **Read at least four times each week;**
- **Practise their times tables at least four times each week; and**
- **Complete their weekly spelling homework.**

Spelling homework will be sent home on a **Monday**, with the spelling test taking place the following **Monday**.

At different points throughout the year, children may also receive an additional piece of English or maths work to complete at home. This might include comprehension activities, grammar work, arithmetic or maths reasoning questions. The aim of this is to be support theme with personal tricky topics.

We appreciate that family life can be busy, so our aim is always for homework to be purposeful and manageable rather than overwhelming.

Finally...

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. A strong partnership between home and school makes such a difference to the children, and I am looking forward to working closely with you throughout the year.

Please never hesitate to come and speak to me if there is something you would like to discuss, whether it is a concern, a question or simply something you think would be useful for me to know about your child.

I am really looking forward to another positive, busy and enjoyable year in Oak Class.

Kind regards,

Miss Wilcock and Miss Khanam