

Oak Class Summer Term 2022

Dear Parents,

The summer term seems to have arrived very quickly! The children have settled back after the holiday and are working well. We look forward to long sunny days in school with lots of outside time. Apologies that our Buckfast Abbey trip had to be cancelled at the last minute due to Covid at the venue, we hope to organise some enrichment activities for the Summer Term soon.

Team

The Oak Class team this term remains as Mrs Holden (Class Teacher), Ms Stephens (Teaching Assistant), Ms Foster (PPA cover) and Miss Dabill, a final placement trainee teacher from Plymouth University who will be with us until July.

Curriculum

I hope you find the Summer Term Curriculum Overview on the website informative. We have a Science and Geography focus for the Summer Term.

Our big learning questions this term are 'What plants would Little Red Riding Hood see on her journey through the woods?' 'What would you like to have in your picnic?' and 'What might I see on a train ride from Devon to London?'

At the end of last term we were able to complete our 1-1 benchmark assessment of reading for all children. In conjunction with ongoing phonic assessments this has given us a clear indicator of reading levels and key areas for development.

Please ensure your child's reading record booklet is in school every day as phonics, spellings, key word and other activities will now be added as appropriate. We do ask that you make comments in your child's yellow reading record book each time they read. Your contribution to the reading process is valued and the record is an important element in planning our next steps. In addition to teaching the mechanics of reading we focus heavily on reading for pleasure so if your child has a favourite text that they can read and discuss themselves feel free to comment on this also.

Phonics

As you know we enjoy daily Phonics sessions in school. We are currently revising Phases three to five for reading and spelling to develop independence and fluency. If your child brings home additional materials to support their development we would appreciate it if they could complete the tasks which appear in their reading record books. As always, we are grateful for your support in this area. In June all Year 1 pupils take part in the National Phonics Screening. All Year 1 children are assessed on the same set of forty words which focus solely on their ability to decode using phonics. I will shortly be sharing additional information with you. Even staff do not have a preview of the words in the test each year until the day so we will be working on developing skills to allow children to access the materials as confidently as possible.

P.E.

Just a reminder that PE is on Monday and Tuesday and children should continue to come dressed in their kit on these days.

Outdoor Learning

On Wednesday morning part of Ms Foster's session continues to focus on outdoor learning so wellies and suitable waterproof coats will be vital as they like to access the outdoor space in all weathers. Even when the weather is warm, long sleeves are essential for safety and of course children will need sun hats and sun protection. Please could any sun cream be in a named container which we will keep in a central basket, your child will need to apply it themselves but there will of course be adult supervision. **Applying long lasting sun protection cream before children come to school is really helpful as you can imagine the time it takes to ensure 27 children have used their cream correctly!** Please remember that we aim to be nut free as some children have allergies. This includes contents of sun lotion which may have nut oils as a main ingredient.

Badges

We are consistently rewarding children with House Points for appropriate behaviour choices and outstanding effort. We are encouraging them to wear their badges daily. If you have lost a bronze badge they are available to purchase from the office. Children usually acquire a badge per year and may be heading towards or have recently received a silver badge for earning 2000 points in total.

Snack

Our free fruit scheme is still running and every child is offered a piece of fruit each morning. We cannot guarantee which fruit is available daily so if your child does not like all fruit it is sensible to provide a snack you know they will eat and children may bring their own fruit or vegetable snack if they prefer. Some children are bringing plain cheese and crackers or bread sticks as a healthy alternative and others have a very healthy cereal bar (of course not chocolate or high sugar items). We usually ask children just to have one snack that they can peel or manage themselves, we are always on hand to open fruit bags etc but peeling many oranges can be tricky!

Water bottles.

Children are able to access their bottle of plain water at any point during the school day and are reminded to do so at regular intervals. We do ask that these bottles contain water and not squash or other drinks unless we have agreed this for a specific reason. It is really important that bottles are non-spill or sports cap style rather than screw top as we have had frequent spillages recently. It is important that every child brings a fresh water bottle daily, we do have access to fresh water for top ups but not bottle brushes etc so we are not in a position to effectively wash bottles left over night.

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Names

Please continue to name everything that your child may take off or put down at school in a font they can recognise, **initials or surnames are less easy for them to claim as their own or indeed for other people to pass back to them.** Lots of children have the same or very similar school shoes and most in Year 1 are a similar size. Please write inside each shoe to prevent a mix up! We will always endeavour to return named items but have little hope of returning unnamed items.

We look forward to sharing your child's next steps in learning and as always, communication is key. A brief chat before or after school is fine but for a lengthier or more confidential discussion please email the office and we can arrange a discussion at a mutually convenient time. I realise Covid restrictions have prevented us from welcoming you into our classroom. Please do keep an eye on our blog and social media to keep up to date with events in Oak Class. If your permission for the blog and social media have altered please do not hesitate to let me know.

Here's to an excellent term ahead for Oak Class!

Kind regards,

Kate Holden