

## Oak Class Newsletter

January 2026

**Welcome to the Spring Term! We hope that you had a lovely holiday. Thank you so much for all the wonderful gifts and cards we received, they were all very much appreciated.**

*This term Mrs Few will continue to teach Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Cain on Thursdays and Friday mornings. We are lucky to have Liam, Mrs Lockwood, Mrs Icke, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Collins and Ms Knights who all work with the class. We hope that you find the information provided here useful! If you have any queries or concerns, please speak to us.*

### Literacy

*Having worked incredibly hard last term we will begin the term with a refresher of all the basic writing skills covered so far. This term we will be using traditional tales from other cultures to base our fiction writing on. Later in the term links will be made to our topics, for example the children will write a non-fiction piece of writing based on Katherine Johnson. The children complete daily spelling and reading activities to develop their skills.*

### Maths

*Using the Power Maths scheme, we have daily lessons covering number, shape, measures and statistics. Each day we try to apply our learning to solve problems and to explain our reasoning. We also have a weekly session focusing on number skills and practice these skills daily. Finally, we have a short daily session where we practice recall of number bonds and develop understanding of number – really working hard so we don't have to rely on our fingers!*

### Other Curriculum Areas

*Art: Art lessons will focus on creating collages and printmaking and we will look at a range of work by artists to inspire us.*

*Design Technology: 'Moving Pictures'. This will involve learning to create mechanisms from paper/card which will then be incorporated into pictures to create a book.*

*Computing: Our two units will focus on simple spreadsheets and on presenting ideas in different ways.*

*P.E: PE continues to be taught by Liam to the class on Wednesday afternoons. Lessons this term are based around adventurous activities and orienteering. During the term there will be whole school PE enrichment activities.*

*Music: Our two music units are called: 'Exploring Sounds' and 'Learning to Listen'. They both involve singing, lots of games to develop rhythm, listening and appraising a wide range of music and playing simple accompaniments with percussion instruments.*

*Topic: Neil Armstrong: children will be learning about the moon landing and making comparisons with other explorers. Seasonal Changes: Children will be collecting and recording data and identifying changes observed between seasons. Castles: Identifying features of castles, finding out about their changes in use, what life was like in a castle – food, jobs, entertainment.*

*PSHE: Health – Making healthy choices. How can we make healthy choices about what we eat? Why is sleep and being active important? How do we keep clean? How do we stay safe in our homes? To support our teaching of diversity and respect for others this term we will be reading two picture books, 'Want to Play Trucks?' And 'Hair, it's a Family Affair. The objective of these lessons will be to learn to be proud of who we are and to find ways to play together.*

*R.E: Christianity – What did Jesus teach about God in his parables? Hinduism – How does a Hindu celebrate devotion to a deity at the festival of Holi?*

*Science: Everyday Materials. Children will be naming and sorting different materials, understanding the difference between an object and the material it is made from and taking part in scientific investigations to develop their understanding of the properties different materials have. Seasonal Changes – Winter to Spring. Children will be observing and describing changes in day length and noticing how their surroundings change as the seasons do. Links will be made to weather and how seasons affect our daily lives.*

### Homework

Children will bring a reading book home every day to read with an adult at home. Please return these to school on a daily basis along with the reading record booklet. Please fill this in after listening to your child read. If you experience any problems with your child's reading, please come and speak to us.

Daily reading is vital. It is important at this stage in a child's reading development to ask many questions about the books they are reading and it is often a good idea to re-read a book they already know or have previously read. New phonics/sounds taught each week will be sent home each week for Year 1 children. Please support your child in reading and blending the sounds in the words to read the sentences accurately.

If your child has had to sound out many of the words, try reading the page back to them. This will help them to have a better understanding of the text and improve their fluency.

Every **Friday** your child will bring home a book they have chosen to share and discuss with you. The book may be a fiction or non-fiction book. This is part of our **SHARE** and **TALK** scheme whereby we encourage children to read a broad range of books and are given opportunities to talk about the books they have listened to. Ple

On our website you will find a list of books we will be reading to the children this term. Please feel free to re-read these books at home, listen to audio versions or videos. The local libraries will stock many of these books.

Please also note that we put spelling patterns being taught each half term on our website page and there are ideas for maths included in the maths section above. Using any opportunity to count, to read and write numbers, make totals with coins and talking about time (days of week, months, telling the time on a clock face etc) is helpful to your child's learning. Numbots is a valuable App/website for practising maths facts. Parents of year 2 children, please support your child to complete their maths and dictation homework each week.

### Requests!

If you can spare some time to listen to readers each week we would love to hear from you.

### Reminders

- Please, please name all clothing. Each week we have items without names that we struggle to rehome – especially after PE.
- Children should bring their book bags to school each day – named on the outside please. Please check book bags regularly and remove any old belongings, letters etc. Please do not send any other bags into school, unless absolutely essential. Please do not put water bottles in book bags as we have had to throw away several books due to water damage.
- Children should bring in a named water bottle. Just **water** please. It is helpful if bottles can have some form of 'sports type' lid as we have many accidents with screw type lids – the children find them difficult to keep firmly closed when they are not drinking from them and we have several spillages a day!
- We continue to provide fruit or raw vegetables for a healthy snack at break or children may bring in their own. Please ensure that snack is named as otherwise children mistakenly eat the wrong item and it naturally causes upset!
- **P.E is on Wednesdays.**
- At this time of year please ensure children come prepared for the weather! Extra layers may be needed.
- Children will need a pair of wellies and a pair of trainers which they can leave in school. They wear these at break times and for outside PE to avoid bringing mud into the school building.
- Please name all clothing, snack boxes and water bottles.
- Don't forget that we love to celebrate achievements outside school – swimming certificates, badges from Beavers etc. These can be sent to school on Fridays for the weekly celebration assembly.