

# Outstanding Oak Trees



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you've had a lovely Christmas holiday and rest. This half term, the children will be focussing on our whole school topic: 'Once Upon a Time...' Our class book is called: 'The Beast Within', which is Beauty and the Beast with a twist as it's written from the Beast's point of view. We will also be investigating Beatrix Potter's books and using the pictures of characters to inspire our artwork. If anyone has any Beatrix Potter books that you'd be happy to share, please send them in. Also, if you have any other traditional tale books, we would really appreciate having a look at them, as this will inspire the children when they're writing their own traditional tales with a twist.

In geography, we will be carrying out lots of map work such as finding 4 and 6 grid figure references and searching for public footpaths, so if you have any ordinance survey maps or other relevant maps of the local areas such as Malton, York or Leeds, please send them in.

Please let me know if you have any questions.  
Many thanks,  
Mrs Milson

## **Spellings Homework and Mental Maths- Monday afternoons**

Oak Trees will continue to be given a new spelling pattern to learn every week, but it will be on a Monday afternoon instead of Tuesday afternoon. Acorns and Conkers class both do their spellings on a Monday afternoon, so we thought it would save confusion if Oak Trees did it on a Monday too. The children are expected to search for at least 10 words that have that particular spelling pattern and then write 5 sentences to ensure they understand the meanings too.

It is particularly important for the year 5 and 6 children to try and be more adventurous with other punctuation marks, fronted adverbials and exciting vocabulary too. Please encourage your child to do this. House points will only be given if children have thoroughly checked their sentences and created exciting sentences.

We will also be practising fun mental maths questions every Monday afternoon, after going through the spellings they've found. This will develop their confidence in answering arithmetic questions and speed up their thinking, processing and reasoning skills.

## **Homework for year 6**

In the spring term, year 6 pupils will be sent the following each fortnight (in addition to spelling):

- Reading comprehension and maths activity
- A writing task

This will prepare children for Secondary School and the volume of work they will receive.

### Encouraging your child to read more

As many of you will know, Oak Trees have a reading competition running throughout the year, which is encouraging them to read more regularly at home.

If your child is reading often at home, please comment and sign their reading records each week, so that we know, how often they're reading and that they are being listened to at home. Reading is invaluable as it will develop your child's imagination, increase their engagement and love of books and improve their writing, spelling and comprehension skills.

Please remember reading texts do include: newspapers, magazines, comics, recipes, letters, information on the internet etc.

### Polite plea to all parents

*This is a polite reminder for all children to have their own named water bottle in school every day. We do encourage children to drink throughout the day, but it seems there are some children who're only having a small drink at dinner time.*

*Also, at present, there are many children in class who aren't bringing a coat to school. Please send them with a coat every day, as if the weather gets too cold or wet, and they don't have coat, they will have to stay inside at playtimes to avoid getting ill.*

### Forest Schools on Thursday afternoons

This half term, Oak Trees and Conkers will be participating in Forest Schools outside each Thursday afternoon (Starting 17/1/19)

They will need their PE and Forest School kits in school every week on both Thursday and Friday afternoons.

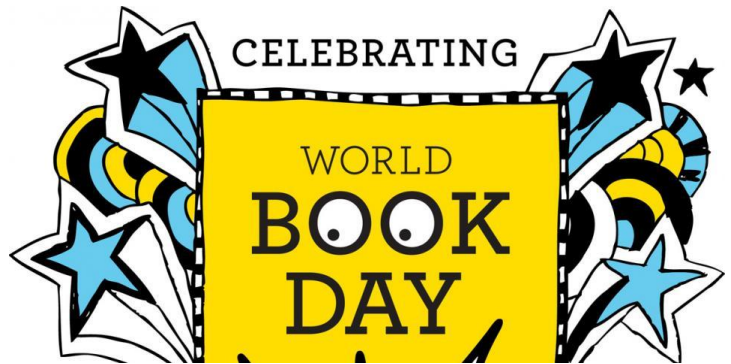
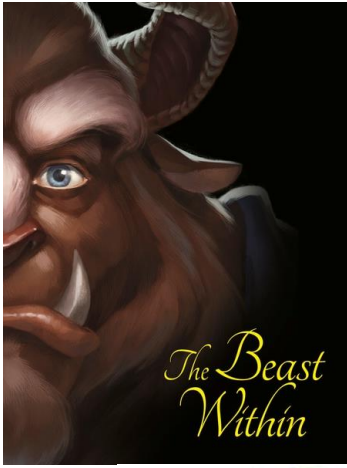
### **Reorganised Learning Zone Library!**

**The Learning Zone has now been revamped! The books have been sorted into labelled sections with different types of nonfiction and fiction books.**

**If your child is interested in looking at and choosing some of the books from the Learning Zone, you are welcome to come on a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon to collect your child from class at 3:10pm, to choose their favourite books. They can keep swapping them for new books each week.**

**If you would like to do this, please let Mrs Husband know at the office which day/week you will be coming to collect your child early. If your child usually goes on a bus or walks home and would like to look at the new books, please email Mrs Husband with your consent.**





*Dates for your Diary (I hope you have a pen!)*

*Spring 1: January – February 2019*

- 14/1/19- Fairy-tale Launch Day  
(Oak Trees children can dress up as Beauty and the Beast character.)
- 5/2/19- Swimming gala at Derwent Pool in morning
- W/C 11/2/19- All after school clubs start
- 13/2/19- Bring an adult to school day
- 18/2/19- Fairy Tale Topic landing 2:15pm in hall.  
(Children to dress up and perform to parents)
- 19/2/19- Year 3 and 4 Peat Rigg meeting for parents
- 21/2/19- Break up
- 4/3/19- Back to school
- 4/3/19 and 5/3/19- Parents Evening
- 7/3/19- World Book Day
- 11/3/19- Curriculum parent session 3:30pm
- 21/3/19- Bring an adult to school day
- 5/4/19- Easter dress up day and children to bring an Easter hamper item in.
- 8/4/19- Last week of clubs
- 9/4/19- Easter Movie afternoon 3:30-5:15pm (snacks and drinks provided).
- 10/4/19- Easter Eggstraveganzer Day and Easter Tea party in PM for parents.
- 12/4/19- Break up