



## OAK TREES CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

### SPRING 1 2022

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! We hope your festive time was happy and healthy and that the children are refreshed and ready to start the new school term!

Our topic for this half term is '**Memory Box**'. During the Launch Day this week, children had the opportunity to bring in an object that held a special memory for them which was displayed in our Museum of Memories. They have made a memories box in which to store items that hold special memories for them which they can, if they wish, use throughout their childhood. This half term, we are hoping to visit the York Castle Museum to enhance the children's learning (COVID restrictions permitting) and a walk around the city walls. Please see below for more details of the curriculum for this half term.

#### PE/forest School

PE continues to be on a Friday as well as our daily *Get Active* sessions in the classroom. Children are still expected to come to school in their PE kit on a Friday in Oak Trees class. This half term they will be focusing on ball skills with an emphasis on football. Please can the children also have their Forest School kit on a Friday for this half term consisting of outdoor footwear (preferably wellies) in a separate carrier bag and waterproofs.

#### Wet Days

Please ensure the children have a warm coat for playtimes that is waterproof - the children will always be outside unless the weather is dire!

Instrument lessons continue to take place on a Thursday, so please encourage your child to practise, and to bring their instrument in on this day.

**Spelling book and Reading Record:** Encouraging independence and a sense of responsibility is high on our priorities at Leavening School, however, please give your child a little nudge to ensure they keep their reading record book and spelling book in their bag when it is not needed. This will ensure they have it for Monday's spelling test and any time when they are reading with an adult in school.

**At home Weekly**

**English**

**Reading**

Please keep reading a range of genres with your child and recording it in their **Reading Record**. Children will have the opportunity to take books home each week, including a 'reading for pleasure' book.

**5 Dojos awarded for reading at least 3 times - younger children with an adult.**

**Spellings**

*Please keep on encouraging your child to learn their spellings each week.*

*They will now be tested and given new spelling words on Mondays.*

**Maths**

**Times tables**

Children should be **practising on a regular basis**, on **TT Rock Stars** whenever possible. Little and often is the best approach for learning to be embedded. The children will practise **three times a week in school**, but the ideal is 5 times a week, so please encourage your child to practise at least **twice a week at home**.

**Dojos** will be awarded for practising.

**Half termly**

**Please see the homework grid for details.**

# Our Curriculum outline this half term

## Computing

As **computer scientists**, our topic is Emails. Specifically, we will focus on:

To think about different methods of communication.

- To open and respond to an email using an address book.
- To learn how to use email safely.
- To add an attachment to an email.
- To explore a simulated email scenario.

## PE/Forest School

As **sportspeople** we will be developing our ball skills with a focus on football.

In **Forest School**, we will be focusing  
On conservation of the environment and wildlife.

## English

As **readers**, we will be enjoying texts connected to our topic, Memory Box, and our subject areas. Our Class novel is Julius Zebra by Gary Northfield- this is a comedic novel set during Ancient Egyptian times.

As **writers**, will be looking at comedy with a particular emphasis on character in narrative writing, jokes using puns and writing limericks.  
In non-fiction we will be learning about debating and balanced arguments.

## Humanities

Our focus this half term is on History and as **Historians**, we will be learning about Ancient Egypt.

In **RE** we will look at the key question: 'If God is everywhere, why go to a place of worship?'

## Art and Design

As **artists**, we will be looking at the work of Claude Monet and developing painting skills using watercolour.

## Science

As **scientists**, we will be studying **Light**. We will be asking the key questions:  
How do we see objects?  
How does light travel?  
How can light be dangerous?  
How are shadows formed?

Y5/6

What is light made up of?  
Are shadows the same shape as the objects that cast them?

## PSHE

Our topic for this half term is 'Dreams and Goals. This will focus on aspirations, how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this.

## Mathematics

As **mathematicians**, we will be focusing on:

**Year 3 and 4:** length and perimeter, multiplication and division.

**Year 5 and 6:** fractions, decimals and percentages.

**French** As French linguists we will be learning all about animals. Year 3 will focus on Jungle animals, whilst Year 4 will explore Pets. Year 5 will be working on animals linked to the zoo and Year 6 will be considering a variety of animals allowing them to describe habitats of animals. We will all be learning to express our preferences and we will be using a range of adjectives in French. We will endeavour to secure our understanding of adjective placement. Year 6 will also use Perfect tense. Throughout the tasks we will be completing speaking, reading, listening and written activities.

**Music** As musicians we will be exploring using our memories to recall music. Listening skills will be developed exploring the music of Beethoven, increasing our musical vocabulary and also developing our abilities to use our inner ears. We will use our inner ear and musical memory to work out the melody of Beethoven's Ode to Joy. We will develop our performance skills by eventually performing Beethoven's Ode to Joy in 3 parts. Year 5 and 6 will understand basic triads and will use the keyboards to play these chords. We will continue to practise the songs for Young Voices awaiting yet another date for our trip, we may even be word perfect by then!

