

Oak Trees Newsletter Spring 1 2023

Happy New Year Oak Trees families!

The 2023 sees the launch of a new topic '**Once Upon a Time**'. Our **Launch day** takes place this Thursday with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Children will be dressing up as a traditional story character and enjoying tea and cakes with the Mad Hatter (Mrs Price!) They will also be introduced to our class novel Alice in Wonderland and be taking part in associated drama activities. For the **Landing** of the topic, we are delighted to have a visit from an author and illustrator (who is also a parent at the school!), Neil Clark.

Oak Trees class also will be welcoming Miss Caple, a student teacher this half term.

Our approach to homework has changed. Tasks are based upon using the attached (age-specific) Topic Knowledge Organisers. We will be using these same Knowledge Organisers in class with the children, across all subjects, since they are a useful tool in supporting the children with their recall of essential knowledge. Please get your child to complete their tasks in their home-learning books - these will be sent home next week. We look forward to seeing their work and greatly appreciate your support with this.

This half term we will continue with **our Hawkes PE lessons on a Monday** for all year groups and all children will have a second PE lesson on Friday. All children should wear PE kit to school on both days – please ensure indoor (black/navy shorts and a white t-shirt) and outdoor kits are worn including trainers.

Many thanks for your continued support and if you have any questions, please do send a message via ClassDojo or the school office.

Dates for your diary

5th Jan: Topic Launch 'Mad Hatter's tea party'.

13th Jan: Trip to the library.

16th Jan: Visit from Para-Olympic swimmer, Oliver Hind.

26th Jan and 9th Feb: Pop Up library.

8th Feb: topic 'landing' – author visit

10th Feb: Young Voices trip

PE

We expect children to be coming to school in their PE kit on Monday and Friday. Please can you ensure this is in line with our uniform policy (see email sent on 15.07.22).

Times tables and spelling homework

Children are sent home new **spellings** to learn each week for their **test on Monday**. They will bring their red spelling book home with their new spellings stuck in (on Monday) and you will be able to see the scores from their tests in the back. Please help your child to also practise any incorrect spellings.

Children will also bring home a **times table** practise book. Please could you help them to learn these for their **test on a Friday**. They need to know these inside out, back to front and out of order! We do practise in school but the 'little and often' approach helps these to secure and embed their knowledge/recall.

Water bottles/snacks

Please ensure your child has a **named** water bottle in school on a daily basis. Children are able to bring a healthy snack for break time- please fruit/veg only.

Reading

In class, children can choose a book from the class library to read for pleasure. They also have a reading book to read with an adult which is matched to their reading level - please read with your child at least three times a week to boost confidence and support progress with their reading skills.

Curriculum coverage for this half term

The following list outlines the area of the curriculum we will be studying for each subject.

KO indicates that there is a knowledge organiser for this topic, where you can find additional details about the key information the children will be learning about:

- **Maths: Y3** Multiplying and dividing 3,4 and 8 x table (KO), and a 2- digit by a 1-digit number(KO to follow later), including a remainder. **Y4** Multiplying and dividing, 3, 6, 9, 7, 9 ,11 and 12 x table and by 1 and 0 (KO). **Y5/6** Fractions – ordering, adding, subtracting (Y6 also multiplying and dividing fractions) (KO).
- **English:** fiction – setting description; non-fiction – letter writing; poetry – nonsense.
- **Science:** Animals (including humans): **Y3/4** Skeleton, muscles, nutrition (KO); **Y5/6** Human life cycle, puberty (KO)
- **Computing:** Coding (KO)
- **Geography: Y3/4** Settlements(KO); **Y5/6** Trade and Economics(KO)
- **DT:** Textiles – making a chair organiser
- **RE:** the children will be learning around the question '**Why do people pray? What? Where? How? When? Why?**' They will explore this notion through the religions of Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. Children will learn about what places of worship are for and about the most important functions of a place of worship
- **PE:** Ball skills and dance
- **Music:** Use Voices expressively and creatively. Play tuned and untuned instruments. Use staff and other musical notations. Compose music for a range of purposes. Listen with concentration and understanding. To evaluate and appraise their own work. Develop performance skills.(KO)