

Oak Class parents' meeting Thursday 19th September 2019

- **Welcome to Oak class**

This is a 2 year journey. We work towards getting the children "secondary ready" by the end of year 6 so that they are equipped to meet the challenges of moving up to secondary school. There will be an increased challenge in the work but all children will be given appropriate levels of support as well where needed. To help with this Mrs Cotton works in Oak every morning and Mr Preston will support on Wednesday mornings. Mrs Dean works with us to deliver the computing curriculum.

There are both challenges and opportunities of working in a mixed year 5/6 class (the chance to repeat concepts not yet mastered and the chance to extend the most able)

Children will have increased responsibilities both in terms of jobs around the school and in terms of their own learning and levels of independence. Parents please try to allow your children to take more responsibility for homework, correct pe kit, letters etc.

- **Reading** Even though by now your child may be a fluent and independent reader it is still really important that they read every night and that you monitor this. They need to be selecting books of increasing challenge in order to work towards the expected level for the end of year 6. This level has increased significantly over the last 3 years.

You can support them by: hearing them read, reading their book as well so that you can discuss it, discussing what they might select next etc.

In school we use Accelerated reader to assess children and they are given a ZPD levels which shows them the level of books that will provide the right level of challenge. They may read books from home but only if they bring them in and discuss this with me first. books from home. Each book is then quizzed on and a new one selected. We also use AR to do reading assessments at the end of every half term.

Writing – please support excellence in presentation and make sure that they are doing continuous cursive even in homework. Year 6 we will be building up a portfolio of writing throughout the year to help to determine our child's writing level at the end of the year. This may be externally monitored.

- **Maths** – please continue to practise superhero times tables which are tested on a Thursday. At the moment we are reinforcing the previous level for most children as there has been some "slippage" over the holidays. Also seek practical opportunities for maths at home e.g cooking and shopping and please make sure that your child can tell the time on both a digital and analogue clock – telling the time is not part of the upper KS2 curriculum as it is assumed that by this stage all children have mastered this skill.
- **New homework arrangements** – We wanted to make homework less of a chore, more fun and to involve parents in more than just English and maths. You will have a set of activities each half term and you may select one to do each week. Please remember to fill in the form once completed. You will also be able to build in a "free week"
- **New spelling system** – Children will mostly be given the set of spellings for their year group. They will be tested in sentence dictations with enough time given for the children to complete. If by half term anyone is really struggling, we may well give them the previous year's set. Please use the activities in the home spelling book to practise tricky words. Books will be collected in during the last week so that they can be given the next set.
- **PE** – Will be on Tuesdays and Fridays please make sure that your child has outside kit for Tuesdays and indoor kit for Fridays.

- **Assessments** - In maths and English done half termly - more for me than the children to ascertain progress – they will be assessed against the below age related expectations / age related expectations / greater depth.
- **School trips** - trips may be planned to support the curriculum and we will inform you by letter when these are happening.
- **Residential trip information** – We have for many years taken the children to Wymondley Wood scout hut in the summer term. Parents have requested that we also offer a different sort of trip as many schools do... one that is more adventure /activity based. These sorts of trips are more expensive so we have decided to alternate a trip to an adventure centre with a trip to Wymondley Wood. Therefore in the summer term (June 3 – 5) we will be going to Wymondley Wood and the following Autumn term going to a Kingswood centre.
- **SATs** – For year 6 and optional sats for year 5 will be the week commencing May 11th 2020
- **Parent's evenings** – Will be on Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd October

Please make an appointment to come and see me if you have any concerns about your child both in terms of academic progress or wellbeing and I will be happy to meet with you.