

Dear parents,

Welcome back to the new school year! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break even if, like me, you did not manage to actually get away anywhere this year!

I am really looking forward to getting back to as much of a normal as we are allowed. We continue to follow Government advice as it changes and you have my assurance that everyone's safety is at the top of my list of priorities. We have been advised to offer the full range of curriculum subjects although the way that they will need to be delivered may vary slightly. Oak Class are classified as a "bubble" and do not need to socially distance but will be reminded of the need for good hygiene practise. We will not be mixing with any other "bubbles" during the school day.

Oak class will be taught by me every day supported in the mornings by Mrs Cotton with Rising Stars delivering PE on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Dean teaching computing.

The classroom has been arranged slightly differently to comply with advice. All seats face forward and children will be in set places for the whole day with a pot of equipment that is not shared. They must not bring additional pencil cases into school. Where we use shared equipment, it will be cleaned thoroughly.

As there has been such a long gap in your child's education in school, we are setting baseline assessments in maths and English during the first full week back. This will help us to determine any gaps in knowledge and establish a "real" starting point for each child to accurately measure progress from. Following these assessments, all children will be set targets. It is our aim to identify learning needs and set aside time in the school day to work on them. You will be informed about what your child needs to work on so that you can support them at home.

Reading will be a major focus during the Autumn term and we will be asking all children to select a school reading book during the first week that is pitched to match their assessed reading level. Please support them at home with 20 minutes daily reading as a minimum.

Your child will have already brought home their spelling book. There is a grid with all the spellings for this half term. Please keep this book at home and use it to practise spellings in. Spellings will be tested on a Wednesday and this will take the form of a simple dictation.

Homework will follow the same format as last year. There will be several activities and a "free week" where you can choose to do something different and record it in the homework book. Your child can do these in any order completing 1 each week although some tasks may need to be left until the teaching has happened in school. Please encourage your child to do these tasks to the best of their ability and to take pride in their presentation. Homework is to be handed in on a Monday and books will be given back by Wednesday.

We place great importance on the knowledge of x tables and these will be tested on a Tuesday with children earning certificates for each level completed. We will also be encouraging children to continue to practise using the times table rockstars.

On PE days, your child will need to come to school in school PE kit appropriate for the season to limit the need for changing. They will need indoor shoes however and will need to bring trainers to put on for outdoor PE. They will also need a pair of plimsolls or black trainers to be kept in school at all times to change into in the event that their outside shoes get muddy.

Following the success of what became known as "Wellbeing days" with year 6 last year, we plan to offer something similar this year. A day each month will be dedicated to outside learning. We will explore the local countryside by walking some of the beautiful footpaths that border our school and truly take our education outside finding out about the changing seasons and the flora and fauna of Hertfordshire as well as exploring local woods, building camps and learning how to set a simple fire and cook outdoors. I will give you more information about this in a separate letter but children will need sturdy footwear and a good waterproof coat for these activities.

Our planned residential trip to Norfolk has been cancelled as I am sure you are aware, current government advice is that residential visits cannot safely take place at the moment. We have, however booked Wymondley Wood provisionally for the summer term. Fingers crossed that the restrictions are lifted by then! We will update you further when we have more information.

The grid at the bottom of this letter details the broad teaching areas to be covered this term and a more detailed 2 year rolling programme can be found on the school website.

As you are aware, we are limiting visitors into school at the moment so it will be very difficult for me to chat with you as I may have been able to do in the past, however please do not hesitate to contact me on my school email below if you have any questions or queries and I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as I can.

Looking forward to the year and fingers crossed for a more normal time!

Julia Beaven

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<p>English</p> <p>Class reads: King of shadows by Susan Cooper and Street child by Berlie Docherty</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus on Macbeth. Writing genres covered: Description, writing in role, letters, poetry, fiction (from our literary heritage) <p>Reading, Spelling, punctuation, grammar and handwriting all term</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Texts set in the past, recounts, instructional and information texts, balanced arguments
<p>Mathematics</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number and place value reasoning, decimals, powers of 10, addition, subtraction, multiplying by powers of 10, x tables, multiples, factors and prime numbers 2. Multiplication and division, multiplying and dividing decimals, fractions, standard methods for calculating
<p>Science</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Properties and changes of materials 2. Exploring the work of famous scientists
<p>Topic</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shakespeare and life in Elizabethan England 2. Childhood in Victorian England
<p>Computing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data matters E safety 2. Word processing core skills
<p>RE</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rules for living / Harvest 2. Light as a symbol / a Christian and a secular Christmas
<p>PE</p>	<p>Games</p> <p>Gymnastics / Dance</p>
<p>PSHE</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Team work 2. Respecting rights
<p>Music</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tudor music 2. 2. Notation and using the stave

Art/DT	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tudor art and exploring a famous painting2. Printing / Victorian cameos / Christmas cards
French	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Getting to know you2. School life