



Autumn Term 2024

Oak Class



Dear Parents and Carers



Welcome back to the beginning of another year at St John the Baptist and Oak Class. I hope you had a lovely summer break. This term's topic is a return to Stone Age to Iron Age, building on what we have previously learnt about life in prehistoric Britain. We have arranged many exciting activities to support the children's learning including a geography trip, which will provide the children with valuable learning experiences by bringing the topic to life. Please find attached a topic overview so you can see some of the key activities and learning journeys the children will be covering.

START OF THE DAY



When the gates open at 8:40, your child will have a spelling /reading activity to complete. Where possible, please ensure that your child is in school by 8:45am at the latest, giving them enough time to fully benefit from this element of their learning. The register will be taken at 8.50 and your child will be marked in as late if they are not in school at this point.

P.E.



It is very important that the children have their full PE kit in school throughout the week, so that they can fully participate in these lessons. Please make sure your child has suitable trainers for outside games, with optional tracksuit bottoms for warmth. **Please ensure that all of your child's kit is named.** Earrings should be removed for PE and Games – please provide your child with a small named envelope of plastic bag to put their earrings in. If this is not possible, then they should be covered with micro-pore tape provided by you. Long hair must be tied back. Oak Class will have PE every Thursday and Friday.

COOKING



Oak Class will be cooking this term – learning about following recipes and then making adaptation to suit theirs or others' tastes.

HOMEWORK



Maths homework will be given out every Friday, which will be a Maths task based on the week's learning, or revision on an area that has arisen as a need for focus. **This homework is due on Wednesdays.** Spellings will be given out on a Friday, with the daily task completed as per the Spelling timetable, which is glued into their homework books as well as being on the website. There will also be the topic-based homework – also stuck in their homework books. These tasks are an excellent way to develop the children's creativity, apply what they have learnt in school and learn how to organise their time.

TIMES TABLES PRACTICE



Children are expected to be able to recall all their times tables rapidly and accurately by the end of year 4. Those who still have difficulty with this, should be practising them on a regular basis. We would recommend TTRockStars (TTRS) and Hit the Button to support their tables' learning (there are links on the website).

READING



It is important that all children do some daily reading. Children should log their reading in their comments book, including a summary of what they have read each day; however, we would also strongly welcome your comments too. Sharing their reading and discussing it with an adult is still an essential activity for years 5 and 6; key questions you could discuss to gauge your children's understanding are below:

1) During the book: What has happened so far? What do you think will happen next? How would you feel if you were a character?

2) After the book: What was your favourite part? Why? Who was your favourite character? Why? What did you learn? Why do you think the author wrote it? Would you have changed the ending?

3) About the story: What kind of story is it? Where is it set? When is it set? What words describe it? How do you know?

4) About characters: What sort of character is [name]? Is he/she friendly, mean, or nice?

5) About the author: How does the author get us to feel scared or excited?

6) About the text: Which parts of the text would you change if you were editing it?

We will be circulating the Parent Reading Information booklets again, which provide further ideas for questions in order to test your child's understanding of what they are reading.

Reading records are checked to ensure the children are reading regularly. Children will be given opportunities during the week to access the Accelerated Reader quiz linked to their completed book.

Our reading initiatives at St John the Baptist are:

Our Reading Awards (book worms). This is a rolling process where a child's word count is constantly rolled over to the following year. This ensures that the child will progress through the award system and therefore promote, encourage and nurture their passion for reading.

Reading Leaves (weekly) – these are given via the class teacher to celebrate an element of your child's reading. The intention is for every child to have received a leaf by the end of the term. Before we break up for Christmas, a winning ticket will be drawn from each box (EY/KS1, Y3&4, Y5&6). The prize is a trip to a nearby bookshop with Mrs Sharrock to choose a book

HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES

As part of our aim to provide our children with healthy lifestyles, we would like to remind you that your child should be provided with a healthy packed lunch. If your child would like a snack at break time, please can you ensure it is a piece of fruit or vegetables, such as carrot sticks. **Please do not send your child to school with nuts, peanut butter or products containing nuts** as we do have children in school who are severely allergic to such items.



WATER BOTTLES



Your child should have a named **plastic bottle** of drinking water to have in class; **these should not be used for squash or fruit juice please.** Children are encouraged to fill these up at the start of the day and during break and lunchtimes.

SCHOOL CLUBS

We will be offering a range of clubs for the Autumn term. These will be detailed in the weekly newsletter.

AND FINALLY

If there are any parents or grandparents who would like to come to listen to some children read, please let the office know.

I hope your child enjoys their learning this term. If you have any questions or queries about anything, please either email me using the school office address or make an appointment before or after school.

With kind regards

Mrs. Stoner