



Welcome back!

I hope that you have all enjoyed your summer holidays and are looking forward to the new school year.

For those of you who are new to Year 3/4, this letter will hopefully explain some of the processes and things that we have going on this term.

Spellings

Each week the children will be given around 8 words, which they will need to practise at home. Spellings will be tested each Thursday, and they will then receive their spellings for the follow week. The words are taken from the Year 3/4 word list and the spelling patterns that we learn over the course of the year.

When helping your child learn their spellings, there are lots of fun ways that you can approach this such as: you could use the 'look, cover, write' method; you could get your child to write the word in different styles; or they could trace the letters with their fingers in the air. Use whichever methods works best for your child; the more opportunities that they have to practise their spellings the better they will do.

Times tables

By the time children leave Year 4, they are expected to know their times tables facts (up to the 12 times table) by heart. In order to help them achieve this target, we will use a number of methods to support them. The main two are our Times Table Challenge and Times Table Rockstars.

Each child will be given log in details to access the TTRockstar site. We use this both in class and as a way to practise at home. The idea is to make this as fun and accessible as possible.

The class challenge is a timed quiz of around 15/20 questions. Each child starts by recalling the 10 times table and then builds in a new multiplication as the child becomes more fluent. The challenge is designed so that the children are continually recalling previously learnt tables as well a new one. This way they are not just focusing on each times table in isolation.

Each week, we will be working on strategies to help the children recall multiplication facts within lessons. Each child's results are monitored, so that if they need extra support or increased challenge then they will receive it. However, it is important that you try and help your child practise these at home. They will know which tables they need to focus on and they are welcome to take copies of the challenges home to help them practise if they wish.

Reading

In Destination Reader, we read from a class book for two days, in reading groups for two days and then practise our comprehension skills each Friday. This means that the children are spending approximately 45 minutes each day practising their reading skills and comprehension.

Each child will also receive their own reading books for home reading. Please try to hear your children read at least three times a week. The more that you can support them with their reading the better they will do. Each time they read, please note into their reading record the pages they read and who read with them.

PE

PE will be on Monday afternoons and swimming will be each Tuesday morning.

As the weather is getting colder, please try to include a warm jumper and jogging trousers so that we can still go outside if the weather allows. Also, if your child wears earrings then please can you make sure that they are removed before school.

Book bags

Finally, in Oak Class we store book bags in each child's tray. This means that if they have lots of key rings on their bag this may cause problems. As such, please can you make sure that they limit keys rings to two.

If you have any questions about anything that we will be covering this term, feel free to come and ask.

Thank you again,

Jennie Owen