

Oak Class, January 2022



I hope that you all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed watching the children's nativity.

This will be a slightly shorter, but equally packed, spring term ahead (including a couple of planned trips). All upcoming dates and details will be on the newsletter as usual.

Spellings

Spellings are tested every Wednesday afternoon and the new spellings are handed out afterwards. Each child is given differentiated spellings and the pass mark is 8/10 for all children. Any child who is unable to gain 8/10 is given the opportunity to practise and retest the next day.

Times tables - Year 4s

As I explained at Parents Evening, the current Year 4s will be taking part in the statutory Year 4 multiplication tables check in June of this year. As a result of covid, these tests have been delayed for the last two years but it looks as if this year will be back to 'normal'.

The test is a short online quiz to make sure their times tables knowledge is at the expected level. The children are asked to answer approximately 25 questions on times tables from two to twelve. They are given six seconds per question, with three seconds rest between each question, so the test should last less than five minutes. In terms of layout and how it runs, the test is very similar to the shorts tests on TTrackstars.

The most likely questions will be around the six, seven, eight, nine, and 12 times tables, as these are the hardest for most children to learn. However, any question could come up which is why I encourage the children to practise each of the tables. The more practice and support that you can give your child, the easier it will be for them to learn these.

If you would like more details about the test then you can visit

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/multiplication-tables-check-development-process>

If you are looking for another way to help them practise, then I highly recommend:

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

Reading

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for your support with reading over the autumn term. It is very important that your child is given opportunities to practise reading at home as the more they practise the more their confidence grows and the better they cope with the challenges of school.

Remember that when your child reads, please make a note in their reading record. If you do forget to write down each individual time, then you could make a note each weekend of their total reading for the week. Every child who reads at least 3 times a week is given a raffle ticket for the reading raffle, which is draw every half term.

If you think that your child is ready for the next level up or you find that they are struggling with their current book, then please also let me know in their Reading Record.

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Forest Schools

This term, we are very lucky to be able to offer Forest Schools to Years 3 & 4 with the amazing Mrs Dawson. The children will be given the opportunity for child-led investigations and for practical exploration of the natural world around them, which enables them to practise and apply things that they have been learning about in subjects such as Maths, design technology, science and art.

Forest school will be on Tuesday afternoons. The children will need warm, weather appropriate clothing. I recommend that each child has a pair of wellington boots, gloves, and a warm, water-proof coat as they will be going out in all weathers.

If you have any questions about anything that we will be covering this term, don't hesitate to come and ask.

Best wishes for the Spring Term,

Jennie Owen