



Doddiscombsleigh Primary School

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Dear Parents,

WELCOME BACK!

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed sharing the Christmas play with the children. A huge well done to the children for their efforts with the play and a big thank you for all of the help with costumes, props, and learning lines. I particularly loved seeing all of the children in their costumes- they looked great!

I look forward to building on the routines and learning in Oak Class from last term. Oak Class are an excellent group of children to work with and I have much learning and fun to share with them over this academic year.

OAK CLASS ADULTS

Working alongside me in Oak Class we have a skilled Teaching Assistant, specialist Teachers for Music and PE, and also our resident French specialist!

Class Teacher: Mr Stewart

Teaching Assistant: Mrs James

PE Teacher: Mr Maloney

French Specialist: Mrs Elworthy

Music Teacher: Mrs Price

MEDICATION

The school can only administer prescribed medication which needs to be left in the office with a signed permission form. Any other medication, including over-the-counter medications, will need to be administered by parents/guardians.

TIMETABLE

An example timetable for a week in Oak Class is attached to this letter. Please note that this is only a guide and remains flexible so that we can provide the best learning opportunities.

READING / Accelerated Reader

The children have been working extremely hard over the last term using Accelerated Reader- I greatly appreciate their efforts with this. We have set challenging targets for this term for each child to gather a certain amount of points using Accelerated Reader (the targets are all differentiated). Your child can see their target by logging on to Accelerated Reader (they should know how to do this). The children earn points towards their target by reading books and completing quizzes using Accelerated Reader. I have included a link in your child's Google Classroom (in the "assignment" section) so that your child is

able to log on to Accelerated Reader at home to complete quizzes or check progress towards their target. If a child meets their target, they will be rewarded with some celebration free time at school!

Your child should read at home 5 times a week. I will check reading diaries on a daily basis and award 5 house points for every time your child has read at home (by doing this, they should meet the targets mentioned above). Your child should bring their reading diary home with them every day and also bring the reading diaries back into school with them the following day. Where possible, please could you listen to your child read/ read with them, as this is a powerful method for helping them progress with both reading and writing. It is also useful to quiz your child about their understanding of what they have read. The "reading dog" bookmarks that your children will bring home with their reading books are an excellent resource for giving ideas, and ensuring coverage of, different types of reading questions.

Books with mature topics/themes

We are aware that, with the children doing well with Accelerated Reader, some children are able to read and understand books aimed at older children (books with more mature topics/themes). To help parents and children decide if a book is appropriate, we are labelling books with more mature themes (e.g. violence) with a **diamond symbol sticker** on the spine of the book.

When a child picks a new book, if it has a diamond sticker, we ask that parents decide whether or not they feel the content of the book is suitable for them. For example, some older children might enjoy a book like The Hunger Games while others may not like the themes or feel that they are appropriate. Through using the diamond sticker coding, we hope to ensure that all children are able to access texts that excite them and that are appropriate for them, on an individual basis.

HOMEWORK

Following the same format to last year, the children will continue to bring home 2 homework books:

1. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Book.
2. Maths Book

The format for completing homework books with the children is the same for both books and is detailed below:

1. The children will have recorded the page numbers that they need to complete for homework in the chart at the front of their book (this will be 1 or 2 pages of the book).
2. Once the children have completed their books, it would be beneficial if you could mark the learning with your child (using the answer section at the back of the book). You could then try to work with them on any areas that they have found difficult, or leave feedback in the book for me, and I will support the children in the area identified. In the moment feedback (and coaching) is one of the best methods for helping children progress with their learning.
3. Homework books should be returned to school on a Thursday.
4. Homework will be set on a Friday.

SPELLING AND MULTIPLICATION

See separate letter (you will receive this within the first 2 weeks back at school). The letter will give details of tests, dates and the words/ times tables that your child will be learning over this half term.

CURRICULUM

Please have a look at the attached topic web and knowledge mats to see what we will be studying this half term. We have a fantastic set of topics and I'm particularly excited to be sharing this learning with Oak Class

If anyone is interested in helping this academic year, we will be looking for an adult volunteer to join us for Forest School, on occasions- watch this this space for further details.

As always, thank you for supporting Oak Class with their learning.
Mr Stewart and The Oak Class Team