

Dear Oak Parents,

We have been delighted to welcome the children back to school and are incredibly proud of how positively they have settled into the new term. It has been wonderful to see our Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children beginning to form new friendships, showing kindness and support towards one another and embracing new experiences with confidence.

Over the summer, we have carefully reviewed and continued our refreshment plans of our continuous provision, to ensure that our learning environment continues to inspire curiosity, independence and creativity across all year groups.

As part of this, our continuous provision is now known as **Discovery Time**. Discovery Time gives children opportunities to explore, investigate, create, collaborate and apply their learning independently throughout the day.

Each area of the classroom has been thoughtfully redesigned and given a new identity. One of our new spaces is Pottery Place, where children can develop their creativity, fine motor skills and imagination through playdough or clay. Alongside this, all areas of the classroom now have exciting new names which will help children understand the purpose of each space and encourage them to take ownership of their learning environment.

We are already seeing the children engage enthusiastically with these areas, making discoveries, asking thoughtful questions and following their interests.

Our learning this term...

This term we will focus on building strong relationships, establishing routines and nurturing a love of learning. As always, we will provide opportunities for children to learn through a balance of direct teaching, exploration, practical experiences and Discovery Time.

Phonics and Reading

Our Reception children will shortly begin Phase 2 phonics, where they will learn their first single letter sounds and start to use these sounds for reading and writing. Further information about our phonics approach and how you can support reading at home will be shared soon.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 children will continue to build upon their phonics knowledge through daily phonics lessons. They will continue to bring home reading books that are carefully matched to the sounds and knowledge they have already learned, helping them to develop confidence, fluency and success as readers.

We will shortly be sharing further information about home reading and how to log reading on our online reading record system. We greatly appreciate your support in helping your child develop a lifelong love of reading.

Whole class reading

This term, our whole class texts will focus on the themes of community, belonging and ourselves. Through these carefully chosen texts, the children will explore what makes them unique, how we work together as part of a community and why kindness, respect and inclusion are so important.

These texts will form the foundation of much of our learning across Oak Class and will support rich discussions, vocabulary development and opportunities for children to share their own experiences and ideas.

Mark-making and Writing

Our class texts will also feed directly into our Drawing Club sessions and writing lessons. Children will immerse themselves in stories, develop their imagination and oral language skills, and use their ideas to inspire mark-making, drawing and writing. Across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, children will have opportunities to respond creatively to texts while developing the skills needed to become confident and enthusiastic writers.

Alongside this, each of the year groups will have daily handwriting. This will include building fine motor skills, gross motor skills and developing formation of letters.

Maths

In maths, we will continue to develop children's confidence, fluency and reasoning skills through practical activities, discussion and problem-solving opportunities.

Reception children will begin their mathematical learning through practical exploration, songs, stories and games. They will focus on developing a secure understanding of numbers, counting, subitising, patterns and early mathematical concepts through both adult-led activities and Discovery Time opportunities.

This term, Year 1 children will be focusing on:

- Place Value (within 10)
- Addition and Subtraction (within 10)
- Addition and Subtraction (within 10)
- Geometry: Shape

This term, Year 2 children will be focusing on:

- Place Value
- Addition and Subtraction
- Addition and Subtraction
- Shape

Humanities

This term, our humanities learning will focus on helping children develop their understanding of themselves, their community and the world around them.

Across Oak Class, all children will begin to develop a stronger sense of the past and an understanding of chronology, exploring how they have changed over time and placing important events in order. This helps children build an awareness of their own personal history as well as the wider world around them.

We will also begin learning about our local area, encouraging children to notice and appreciate the unique features of the community in which they live and learn.

Reception children will be introduced to the concept of maps and what they can tell us about a place. They will begin by exploring maps of our school environment, identifying familiar features and developing early geographical vocabulary as they learn about the spaces and places that are important to them.

Year 1 and Year 2 children will explore the enquiry question:

"What is it like here?"

RE

This term in Religious Education, we will be exploring key Christian beliefs and traditions, helping children to develop their understanding of Christianity and reflect on important questions about faith, belonging and community.

Reception children will be exploring the questions:

- Why is the Word of God so important to Christians?
- Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?

Year 1 and Year 2 children will be exploring the questions:

- Who do Christians say made the world?
- Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Science

Our science learning this term will encourage children to explore, question and investigate the world around them through hands-on experiences both inside and outside the classroom.

Reception children will explore the units:

- Changing Seasons: Autumn Treasures
- Our Beautiful Planet
- Exploring Outdoors
- Changing Seasons: Whatever the Weather
- I'm a Scientist

The children will spend lots of time observing seasonal changes, collecting natural objects, exploring weather patterns and developing their understanding of the natural world. Through practical investigations and outdoor learning, they will begin to think and work like scientists by observing, questioning and sharing their discoveries.

Year 1 and 2 children will investigate the units:

- Push or Pull?
- Loud or Quiet?

Through practical experiments and investigations, children will explore different types of forces and discover how pushes and pulls affect objects. They will also investigate sound, identifying and comparing sounds and considering how they are made.

- Forces and Space: Seasonal Changes
- Plants: Introduction to Plants

Children will build their scientific knowledge by exploring seasonal changes throughout the year and observing how these affect the world around them. They will also investigate plants, learning about what plants need to grow and thrive, and exploring the different parts of a plant and their functions.

Creative curriculum

Role play will be an important part of learning across Oak Class. Through both structured and child-led opportunities, children will use their imaginations, collaborate with others and develop their communication, language and social skills. Many of our role play experiences will link to our class themes of community, belonging and ourselves, as well as the stories we explore in Drawing Club and our wider curriculum.

The children will continue to enjoy weekly music lessons with Ms Askew, where they will develop their musical skills through singing, listening, performing and exploring rhythm and melody.

As we move towards Christmas, all children in Oak Class will have the exciting opportunity to take part in our Nativity performance. This is always a special part of the autumn term and gives children the chance to develop their confidence, performance skills and teamwork while sharing the Christmas story with our school community.

Throughout the term, children will also work with a variety of materials, tools and techniques to create a range of art and design technology projects. They will explore drawing, painting, collage, sculpture and construction, developing their creativity and learning how to evaluate and improve their designs. We look forward to showcasing some of their wonderful creations as the term progresses.

PSHE

Reception children will begin with All About Me, where they will explore what makes them unique, develop an understanding of their feelings and learn about the important people who help and care for them. In Term 2, they will move on to Valuing Difference, learning to celebrate similarities and differences, understand that all families are unique and develop kindness and respect towards others

Year 1 and Year 2 children will begin with Me and My Relationships, focusing on friendships, feelings, communication and working positively with others. In Term 2, they will study Valuing Difference, exploring respect, inclusion, fairness and how we can celebrate diversity within our school and wider community. These themes support our aim of helping every child feel valued, confident and connected as a member of Oak Class.

PE

PE lessons this term will focus on foundational skills and building collaborative work.

Our PE lessons will be on Monday. Please ensure your child has their PE in school everyday. Dressing themselves forms part of the reception curriculum and building greater independence in this skill benefits the years 1 and 2.

We are very much looking forward to sharing our learning journey with you over the coming weeks and celebrating the progress and achievements of every child.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we look forward to an exciting, happy and successful year in Oak Class.

Best wishes,

Miss Murphy