



P.P.S. Oak Class

September 2017
Autumn Term

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Petworth C of E Primary School and Oak Class. We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We are looking forward to a very exciting term ahead!

During the first three weeks of the term our learning will focus on supporting children in their transition into Oak Class. Our aim is to enable all of the children to feel safe and secure in their new environment, and to know what is special and unique about them and their new class. As the children begin their new school year, we will talk about the rules we need to follow in order to make Oak Class a happy place, as well as showing respect for our school and other people around us.

Over the next few days, please bring in the Learning Journals that you filled in over the summer with your child so that we can share these with each other.

If you would like to continue learning about this topic at home, you might like to encourage your child to use a mirror to look at themselves and then draw a self portrait. You may also like to bring in photographs of people who are special to you and your child or special

Magical Me

places that you have visited.

Here are just some of the specific skills we will be focusing on during this half term.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be building relationships with the adults in Oak Class as well as with each other and understanding their identity within the school community.

The children will also be thinking about celebrations at Harvest time, as we talk about how food is grown and harvested, as well as saying thank you for the food that we are given.

Communication, Language and Phonics

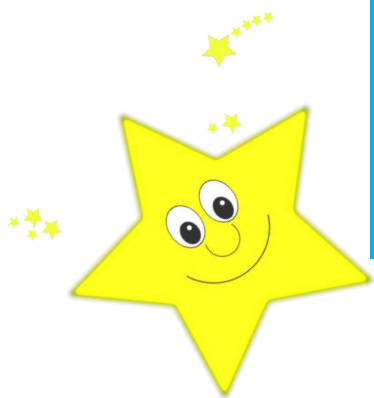
During the term there will be a focus on developing your child's communication skills; this will include listening activities and a range of scenarios that encourage spoken language with adults and their peers.

Daily phonics teaching will include specific teaching of reading skills. The children will be learning to recognise and use letter sounds in everyday life and begin to blend those sounds for early reading.

Mathematical Development

Mathematical skills will be acquired and practised during self initiated play in the stimulating environment and supported by adult intervention. Adult led activities will also apply basic number skills in counting, number recognition and addition with numbers 1-10.

This is just an outline of what the children will be exploring during this topic. We are using these newsletters to give you information about your child's education as this will replace the foundation subjects comments on the annual report.



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Physical Development

The children will be constantly developing their fine and gross motor skills within the classroom in a range of planned activities such as; manipulating play dough, clay, using scissors or digging in the sandpit and using the bikes and trikes. The children will also become familiar with getting changed into their PE kits and explore some basic movement, balance and control skills in the hall with Mrs Gill.

General Information

Children in Oak Class will have PE sessions every Friday, as well as having opportunities to use the outdoor climbing equipment. Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school every day.

Throughout the year there will be a number of ways in which you can support your child with their learning at home. During the first few weeks your child will be issued with a reading book chosen for their age and stage of development, which we will change regularly. We encourage you to read at home with your child everyday, to give them valuable practise with this key skill. In the early stages of their reading journey, think about the story in the pictures with them, can they talk about what might happen next or role play the narrative? Or perhaps identify letters and sounds that are familiar with them. Please use the Reading Record book provided in your child's book bag to comment on your child's understanding of the story and what skills they have been practising. As well as their reading books, children will bring home library

books. These will be chosen by the children themselves during our regular library sessions and as they are the children's own choice, they may be more suitable to be read to them or shared in a more collaborative way in order to develop their love of books!

In order to encourage your child to read as much as possible, we have a 'Reading Lightyears' system in Early Years and Key Stage One. Every time that your child reads at home, they will move up the stars in the classroom. The totals will be collated every half term and children will have the opportunity to achieve bronze, silver or gold stickers depending on how many times they have read. Please write in your child's Reading Record every time that they read, so that your child can move up through the lightyears!

Over the next few weeks, your child will have the opportunity to bring in something special from home and they will make the transformation into an Oak Reporter! They will be given time to show their special item to the class on a Friday afternoon and talk about it, listening to and answering questions from their friends. Each week three children will be chosen to bring in their special item, so please check the board to see when it is your child's turn. Special items may include a favourite toy, a piece of artwork or a photograph from an outing. If your child would rather just show an adult rather than speak in front of the class, please still feel free to bring something in when it is your child's turn as we would love to see it and hear why it is special.