

Oak Class Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 2016: Welcome to Petworth C of E Primary and Oak Class. We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We are looking forward to a very exciting term ahead! Attached is an outline of the learning opportunities planned for your child at the start of this term.

Core Skills

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, 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 both Harvest and Christmas time. We will be learning the Christmas Story and exploring why Christians celebrate with gifts and presents!

Communication, Language and Phonics

This 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, addition and subtraction with numbers 1-10. The children will be exploring money through role play as well as investigating 2D and 3D shapes as they take part in a range of problem solving challenges.

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



We really value the support we receive from parents at home and have outlined some key information to enable us to work together.

Children in Oak Class will have regular PE sessions on Wednesdays and will also have 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 continue 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 records provided in your child's book bag to comment on your child's understanding of the story and what skills they have been practising; they are a really useful means of communication between home and school. 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, 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 and talk about it, listening to and answering questions from their friends. Each week 3 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 could include a favourite toy, a piece of artwork or a photograph from an outing. If your child would rather just show myself or Mrs Ford 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.

Curriculum Experiences



All about me!

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 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.

The children will have the opportunity to share their Learning Journals that they have completed over the summer and talk about their likes and dislikes. We will be reading the book 'Harry and the dinosaurs go to school', which will lead onto us creating our own dinosaurs, thinking about what they might look and sound like. Through this experience the children will be developing their skills in their Personal, Social and Emotional development, as well as Communication and Language and Expressive Arts and Media.



People who help us



During this learning experience, the children will be thinking about their community and those who help us within this local area. We will be visited by a lifeguard and police officer in order to ask questions and find out more about how they can help us. This learning experience will incorporate imaginative role play as the children act out different scenarios, as well as creating their own stories using their verbal and mark making skills. The children will also be using their problem solving skills in Maths as they are presented with some challenges from the emergency services! Through this experience the children will be developing their key skills in Communication and Language, Literacy, Expressive Arts and Design and Understanding the World.



Christmas

As we move closer to Christmas, the children will spend some time exploring why this time of year is special for Christians and why we give gifts at Christmas. We will be part of the Early Years and Key Stage One Christmas production as well as taking part in our Carol Service Nativity at St Mary's Church. We will also use our measuring skills to wrap presents, as well as writing letters to Father Christmas and his elves! Through this experience the children will be developing their key skills in Literacy, Mathematics and Understanding the World.

How you can help at home!

For the Autumn term experiences, we have outlined below a number of activities and tasks that you might like to try at home with your child to develop their learning further; however, should your child have a particular idea or interest other than these we would be happy for them to complete an alternative task.

All about me:

- As outlined above we will be exploring what makes us individual; looking in mirrors and creating self-portraits would be a great way to develop this theme at home.
- In order to support us in thinking about places and people that are special to us, you might like to encourage your child to draw pictures or bring in photos that are special to them, so that we can find out more about every child in Oak Class.

People who help us:

- You might like to read books at home with your child about the emergency services or other people that help us in the community. You may wish to visit the library to find out some interesting facts that your child can share with Oak Class.
- Use junk modelling to create your own fire engine, lollypop sign or hospital.
- When out and about, you could count how many people you see that help us or talk about what shapes you can see on the emergency service vehicles.

Christmas:

- You could talk about who is in the nativity and draw or paint your own Christmas story scene.
- Your child might like to write a letter to Father Christmas, using their Phonics skills to help them.
- Using junk modelling, your child might like to make their own Christmas decoration to bring in and hang up in Oak Class.

Thank you for your help at home, it really makes a difference. We are extremely grateful for all your support.