



Oak Class Newsletter –September 2019



Dear Parents,

Welcome to all Parents and families new to Aspley Guise Lower School. Welcome to Oak Class everyone! We hope that you have all had an enjoyable summer break and that your child settles quickly into school life and enjoys their learning journey with us.

This year we are welcoming all of the children to school on Wednesday 4th September. It, therefore, may be a little busy on the first morning. Mr Brown has already informed you, at the transition meeting, that due to the number of new parents and children arriving together that it will be much easier for all if only one parent comes into the school, and, if another parent is present, they wait outside the classroom door. The parent that comes in can help their child find their coat peg and book bag draw. It would then be best for all if you can say goodbye and leave your child to start their fun and adventures with us all!!

Below you will find some information about Oak Class:

Arrival at School

Thank you for helping to settle your child on their first day. For the first few weeks, the children will come into school by the 'back 'door of Oak Class, this is the same door that they came into school on their first day. Once they have had a few days, please encourage them to come into the class independently as it makes settling them so much easier. From the 16th September, all children will come into school through the side door on the right hand side of Elm Class on their own. This is the door that the rest of the school uses. A member of school staff will be there to help them all. You can prepare your child by informing them that they will need to hang up their coats, on their peg just outside the classroom.

On their second week of school they will be given a home-school link book and a reading book, containing no words. They will need to place their home-school link book in the tray inside the classroom every day. **The home-school link book can be used to send us messages and information, as we do look at it each day, and it will also be used as a reading record. If you have any messages during the first three days, prior to getting their reading record, please inform us in the morning and we will take a note of your requirements.** Please remind your child to give their book in each morning; we will obviously be there for gentle reminders too. We do encourage as much independence as possible and find that having to organise themselves in the morning is a good way for the children to do this. We find that the children are able to manage this very quickly without parental help!

Going home from school

Please wait on the playground and we will send the children to you out of the front door of the classroom. If you are going to be late please inform the school office as soon as possible. If your child is being collected by someone different from the normal arrangements please inform us by writing a note in their home-school link

book. It does take us a while to link parents to their children so please bear with us if we need to ask you who your child is!

Learning Support Assistants

Mrs Boozer works in Oak Class on Monday to Thursday and also Friday mornings. Mrs Boozer is a HLTA (higher level teaching assistant) and implements whole-class work, group work and individual work with the children. Mrs Warrington will be working with us most mornings and Miss Timlick works with us every afternoon.

Themes

The children learn through free play and planned activities relating to themes, which cover the seven areas of learning in the Foundation Stage curriculum. There are three prime areas and four specific areas. These areas are as follows:

PRIME AREAS

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical development

SPECIFIC AREAS

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive arts and design

The themes for this half term are:

Weeks 1 and 2: Settling in and myself

Weeks 3: Colours

Weeks 4 and 5: Autumn and Harvest

Weeks 6 and 7: Looking After Pets and Animals

Sounds Write

Sounds-Write is the programme used throughout the school to teach reading and writing using phonics.

We will start Sounds-Write (SW) on Monday 9th September. Mrs Lenk, Mrs Wray or Mrs Boozer will teach a session daily in the morning. So that you are able to support your child with this vital area of their learning we will briefly outline what it involves at this stage.

Sounds-Write is a system that uses phonics (letter sounds) and develops reading and writing alongside each other. It has proven to be a highly successful way for children to learn and is used throughout the school

We will introduce a few sounds at a time, in context, using CV (consonant, vowel) and CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words. The children will learn that words contain sounds and that letters can represent these sounds. The children will be taught how to blend sounds into words and how to segment words into sounds. They will also learn how to manipulate sounds in words.

They will not be using letter names at this stage and in order to avoid confusion, we would appreciate it if you could try not to use them with your child at home. Instead, the children will be taught to pronounce the sound precisely, e.g. 'b' not 'buh'. We will be focusing on the Initial Code to begin with, where the children are taught that sounds can be represented by one letter or by two of the same letter e.g. <ff>.

Sounds-Write is a multi-sensory system and therefore should appeal to all children, regardless of their preferred learning style. Every time the children see and hear a word, they are asked to say and write the sounds and the word as well.

We will be starting on Unit 1 and focusing on the sounds 'a', 'i', 'm', 's' and 't'. We will be making words such as 'in', 'at', 'mat', 'sit'. To support your child at home you can ask them to read and write words containing these sounds.

We will keep you up to date with the sounds we are working on in our Sounds-Write lessons so that you can follow up our work at home. However it is important to remember that the sounds need to be in context, i.e. look at the sound within a word and ask what sound the letter is representing in that word, rather than looking at a letter on its own and asking what sound it makes.

It would be helpful to you and your child if you could attend the Sounds-Write session for parents. This will be held on Wednesday 18th September straight after school. There will be a crèche available for current children and their siblings. This will be held in Ash Class.

The children also need to be encouraged to make appropriate use of capital letters, i.e. only use them at the beginning of sentences and at the start of names at this stage. **Please do not teach your child to write their whole name in capital letters.**

Reading Books

We give your child a reading book during the first full week at school. This is likely to contain no words. Please look at the pictures and tell the story using the pictures with your child. Discuss the characters (how they look, feel, are acting etc), plot (what is happening, what might happen etc) and setting (where is the story happening, what is it like there etc). We will issue books containing words after our initial assessments are completed.

Please try to hear your child read every day and make sure their reading book and home-school link book are in school every day, even if they have not yet read the book at home. Books will only be changed when you have signed that you have finished them.

We will soon be starting to hear your child read phonic-based books at school to reinforce the work we will be doing during our Sounds-Write sessions. A record of the books we read at school with your child will be attached to the inside cover of their home-school link book.

PE

This term P.E. will be taught on Wednesday and Friday mornings, starting on Wednesday 13th September.

Please make sure that your child's plimsolls are the correct size and that all their clothes (P.E. kit and school uniform) are named. We will need indoor and outdoor kit at all times; please see the school prospectus for our kit requirements. Please leave P.E. kits at school, as we sometimes need them on days other than P.E. days. The children will be asked to take them home at the end of each half term to be washed. Please help your child to get dressed independently at home.

Outside Classroom

We go outside as much as possible so please ensure that your child has a named coat with them **at all times** even when the weather looks good in the morning. Ideally, a lightweight rain coat to be left at school would be good. Please could you provide a pair of named wellington boots to stay at school at all times. If this is difficult, we do have some at school your child can use.

Library

Library visits take place this term on Mondays.

Each child is able to choose a book to take home for the week. Current books must be returned before new ones can be issued.

Homework

We do not formally set homework as the children are still very young and learn best at this age through practical activities. If you want to help your child to progress, the best way is to make use of everyday activities, e.g. counting stairs, talking about the shapes of objects at home and outside, discussing the weather/environment and playing games. These are things that I'm sure you all do anyway but they are extremely relevant and interesting for the children. Most children would also benefit from extra practice at using pencils and scissors.

Wow

This is your opportunity to tell us what your child has done /achieved out of school and anything that has helped them to 'grow their brains'. For example swimming without arm bands, writing their name, having a go at something new –basically anything you want to share. You will receive a WOW sheet to fill in and send back when you would like to. We will be displaying WOWS on a display board.

Lunch Times

School lunches are free every day until the end of Year 2 and during Reception your child will be encouraged to use a knife and fork independently.

Snacks

The children will receive a free piece of fruit or veg every day. This is given out at morning playtime. If you would like to provide your child with an additional snack please ensure that it is a piece of fruit or veg or dried fruit.

Milk

Milk is provided for the children during Reception year. Please ensure that you inform us if your child has an allergy to milk, or any other substance that you have not already informed us about.

Water

All children need a school named water bottle (containing water) in school every day. Water helps the children concentrate and obviously ensures that they do not become dehydrated.

Spare Clothes

If we need to change your child into some of the school's spare clothes, please ensure that they are washed and returned as soon as possible, as our supplies are limited. It would also be useful to keep a spare pair of named pants in their PE bag.

Nut Ban

As we have a number of children with potentially fatal nut and sesame seed allergies, please ensure that any food brought in does not contain these products.

Parents consultations Autumn Term.

These will be held on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October from 3.45.

Please refer to the school calendar on the website for dates throughout the year.

Any Concerns / Questions

If you need to contact to us please either:

write a note in their home-school link book

email us directly at either l.lenk@aspleyguiselow.co.uk or h.wray@aspleyguiselow.co.uk We will endeavour to reply within 24 hours of our working pattern (see below)

If a face to face meeting is more appropriate, we can arrange to meet after school. As you can appreciate, it is difficult talking at the beginning of the day. We are always around at the end of the day if you have anything you need to talk to us.

We hope that you and your child enjoys their introduction to school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs.Lisa Lenk, Mrs.Heather Wray Mrs Monica Boozer Mrs Warrington Miss Timlick
(Class Teacher) (Class Teacher) (HLTA)
(Mon,Tues ,Weds) (Weds Thurs ,Fri)