



Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

A warm welcome back to all children and parents! We hope you have had a fantastic holiday and are now raring to go- as we are! We are looking forward to another busy and action-packed year. We have already planned several exciting events for the year to make learning as exciting, creative and inspiring as possible.

As always, children are at heart of everything we do. Your child's welfare and learning are extremely important to us. If there is anything that you think might be affecting this as the year progresses, then please speak to your child's class teacher. Our partnership with parents/carers is vitally important. Given the challenging curriculum- particularly in reading, writing and maths- the positive involvement of parents/carers in their child's education is vital in order to give them the best possible start in life. The transition from Year 4 to Year 5 can sometimes be a challenge for children. Year 5 and 6 requires children to take greater responsibility for their own learning. They have to be organised, resilient and independent. This can take time for some children who are new to Year 5 and to children in Year 6 who may struggle with this. Rest assured your child will be supported in school but your support from home is extremely important too.

Meet the Teacher

We will be holding a 'Meet the teacher' event between 3.15p.m and 4.15p.m on Tuesday 18th September. This is an excellent opportunity to understand the expectations of Year 5 and 6; look at your child's learning environment and address any early issues/questions/queries you may have at this stage. It is an informal event so you do not need to make an appointment. Please come along to Oak class (Mr Street 's/ Mrs Smith's classroom) at 3.15p.m. You are very welcome!

Staffing this Year

Beech Class- Mrs Parker. Mrs Miller will cover non-contact time on a Monday morning.

Maple Class- Mr Guyan. Mrs Clough will cover non-contact time on a Thursday.

Oak Class- Mr Street will teach Monday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Smith- who was newly appointed last year following Mrs Chipp's retirement- will teach Tuesday and Wednesday.

As the new school year is underway we thought it would be a good opportunity to bring a few issues to your attention.

Homework

Topic related homework challenges will continue this year. They will also include activities which relate to your child's empowering learning targets for the term which are 'Effective Participators' and 'Team Workers'. You will see that there is a compulsory vocabulary activity, spelling task and maths task for the term. Children will be expected to complete the vocabulary activity; learn their spelling list and complete the maths activity every two weeks. Children will be expected to learn their times tables at home to complete their times table challenges in school. The national expectation is that children will know all their tables up to 12x12 by the end of Year 4. It is therefore vital that if your child does not know their tables, they learn them as quickly as possible.

For children who are finding homework difficult, we have a Homework Club every Monday break time and Thursday lunchtime in Oak Class. Children are able to attend the club as frequently as they wish and do not need to attend the club every week. Your child will receive their homework book with their challenges next week. We are looking forward to seeing the amazing homework, as always, throughout the term! If there are any questions regarding homework, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Reading

We ask that you continue to hear your child read at home to maintain their enjoyment of reading. Even if they are a fluent and expressive reader! It will continue to develop their ideas for their writing. Each class has their own reading reward scheme which your child has already been made aware of. Please ensure that you support your child in noting down the books they are reading and the pages they have read in their reading log.

P.E Kit

A reminder that children should bring their P.E kit with them into school on a Monday and take it home on a Friday. Indoor P.E kit should include plain, dark shorts and a white t-shirt, whilst outdoor kit should include, shorts or jogging/tracksuit bottoms, a warmer top and trainers. P.E is a statutory requirement for all children so it is important that all children take part every week. If there are any medical issues which means your child cannot take part in P.E or problems with your child's P.E kit then please contact the school.

Swimming Lessons

This year there are changes to which class will attend the Hydro for their weekly swimming session.

Oak Class - Autumn Term (Beginning Monday 10th September)

Maple Class- Spring Term

Beech Class- Summer Term

Eden Camp

As you are aware the trip to Eden Camp will be on Tuesday 11th September. If you have not completed the Parental Consent Form or paid your voluntary contribution of £11, please do so and hand in as soon as possible. If you have not received your email with details about the trip earlier this week, here is a summary below:

- Please ensure your child is on time for school at 8.50am. The coach will be departing just after 9.00am.
- We hope to return for the end of the school day at 3.15pm.
- Children will require a packed lunch (no glass please).
- Children will wear school uniform.
- Please ensure your child has a suitable coat as most of the day will be spent outside.
- Please ensure your child does not bring any electronic devices (phones etc.)

School Uniform

You should have received an email confirming our school uniform policy. If there are any questions regarding this please ask.

Walk home consent

This letter came home with your child on Wednesday. Please ensure you complete the consent form if you would like your child to walk home from school on their own.

Arriving at school no earlier than 8.40am

If your child walks to school on their own, please ensure they do not set off too early. Bilton Grangers breakfast club require the playground up until 8.40am. We are also not ensured to have unaccompanied children in the playground before this time. Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 5/6 Teaching Staff