



# SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

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Monday 19th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Welcome back!

We hope that you and your child had an enjoyable break. The class are now moving into their last term in Year 3 with a greater emphasis on using learned knowledge and skills independently and in a range of contexts. We will be particularly concentrating on explaining our learning and our reasoning.

Where we can and where it will best help the children to learn, we will continue to take advantage of our school grounds to learn outdoors and we hope there will also be opportunities for trips locally and further afield later in the term. We will continue to develop our outdoor skills together in **Forest School** – learning from and about the natural world around us, expressing our ideas using found resources and using that world as inspiration for our work back in class. Hopefully this will include returning to Woodhouse Ridge. Given this, we request that children bring a **change of clothes** for a new time – **Friday afternoons**. We advise that these should be clothes that can get muddy, that will be comfortable and that will be appropriate in all weather conditions. It may be that sunhats even become necessary!

**Our P.E. day in school this term is Monday.** Children should continue to come to school on Monday in their PE kits and with tracksuit bottoms (or similar) and their Shire Oak jumper over the top. Where we can, we will do P.E. outdoors.

As you will know from my previous letter, **all children will be swimming at Kirkstall Leisure Centre on Tuesday mornings. These lessons start on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April.** Please see that letter for full details. In summary however, they will need to come to school in their swimming shorts or a tankini with clothes over the top that they can easily take off/put on. They should also bring an open supermarket style bag for life that contains a change of underwear, a snack and any ring armbands that they might need.

Our topic this term is 'Extreme Earth'. This is predominately a Geography and Science based topic. We will be investigating various aspects of our Earth including looking at natural disasters such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. We will be studying what the Earth is made of and how volcanoes and earthquakes happen, as well as linking this to History by looking at some famous volcanoes and earthquakes from the past. We will also be learning about forces and magnets and about electricity in our science work. You will receive details soon of the half-term's homework. This will consist of a topic task, some maths activities, spelling and reading.

In Maths, we will be continuing working on our Maths Passport targets, which aim to set secure foundations in arithmetic. We work towards these every day and our aim is to complete ten questions for each target in 30 seconds! It really helps if we can practise them at home for ten minutes every day. Each child has specific targets to which they are working and these can be found on the laminated target sheet previously sent home with each child. If you are unsure of these, please ask and we can send home new copies. Equally if you would like any supporting materials or games which you think might help your child at home, please see me.

We are also working on using the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in different situations and contexts. This might involve using money and giving change, deciding on appropriate ways to solve word problems, exploring patterns of number or using more than one operation at a time when

solving problems (amongst other things). Please continue to support your child by including Maths in everyday conversations and interactions with your child.

Our topics will feature throughout our writing, as will our class book. Our class book for this half term is 'Foxbusters' by Dick King-Smith. We will continue to focus on ensuring we have varied and interesting sentences that make sense and are appropriate for the audience and purpose. This will include extending our sentences with connectives, using a variety of sentence openers and appropriate use of detailed language, whether more precise or more descriptive. We will continue to develop strategies for checking, editing and improving our first draft writing independently.

Alongside our daily writing and maths sessions, we will also prioritise our reading and spelling progress including weekly spelling tests. All children should therefore have **book bags** (if you would like a Shire Oak one, these are available to buy from reception) which should be brought into school and taken home **each day** so that all children can regularly practise these skills. We suggest that Year 3 children **read to an adult four to five times every week for about ten minutes each time**. This might be a book from home, the local library, from the school reading scheme or from our school library. We will have a library session every week when children will choose two books to bring home. Please help your child to remember **Wednesday is our library day** because for many children in class their library books replace the home reading book from the school reading scheme. It is therefore important that library books are read and changed regularly. We will also put spelling books in the bags. Additionally each individual child has a password that allows access to both the Mathletics and Spellodrome websites and separate ones for the Reading Eggspress and Times Table Rockstars websites. These passwords were sent home again last term but if you do not have a copy, please let me know.

I will teach the class across all subjects throughout the week and year, with the exception of Wednesday morning when **Mrs Hill** will teach maths and **Ms Virgin** will teach art whilst I am preparing lessons, making resources and assessing progress. Throughout the week the children will also benefit from the support of **Mrs Woodruff** (Mon – Weds) and **Miss Robson** (Thurs & Fri).

<b>Day</b>	<b>Please bring:</b>
Monday	Book bag (including spelling book) and water bottle. Please wear PE kit to school.
Tuesday	Please wear swim shorts/tankini with clothes over the top. Please bring a big, open bag with change of underwear, snack and ring armbands. Water bottle and book bag
Wednesday	Book bag (to change library book) and water bottle
Thursday	Water bottle and book bag
Friday	Forest School kit, water bottle and book bag

Finally, please get in touch with me either directly in school, via [mrmartin@shireoak.online](mailto:mrmartin@shireoak.online) or through the school office if you have any worries or concerns. It is very important that we work together to help your child to enjoy school, work hard, learn well and to show their very best behaviour throughout the school year.

Yours faithfully,  
Ian Martin