



SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

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Thursday 17th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Ganges class!

We hope that you and your child had an enjoyable summer holiday and we would like to welcome you all back to the new school year. We've had a great first week together in class and we are looking forward to a fun year of learning where the children will demonstrate their developing skills in increasingly independent ways as they continue their journey through Key Stage 2. The children have certainly approached new routines in class and around school with maturity.

Our general topic this term is the science led 'Humans and other animals' and you will receive details soon of the half-term's homework. This will consist of a topic task, some maths activities, spelling and reading. We are reading 'Varjak Paw' by SF Said together to start our English work this term. We will read a variety of books by different authors throughout the year.

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 4 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 a book to bring home. 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.

I will teach the class across all subjects throughout the week and year. The children will also benefit from other teachers in school including **Ms Virgin** who will teach art, **Ms Earl** who will teach French, **Mrs Hill** will teach maths and **Mrs Maver** will teach PE whilst I am preparing lessons, making resources and assessing progress. On a Wednesday afternoon the children will learn Djembe with **Avtar Manku**. Throughout the week the children will also benefit from the support of **Miss Smith**.

Where we can and where it will best help the children to learn, we will take advantage of our school grounds to learn outdoors and there will also be opportunities for trips locally and further afield later in the term. We will be building on the **Forest School** skills that the children developed in Year 3 by using local areas such as Woodhouse Ridge to apply and inspire our work back in the classroom. The children are not yet changing in school as part of our COVID-19 risk assessment, so please ensure that your child comes to school each day in shoes that are comfortable to walk in and with a coat.

Initially children will be taking part in appropriately organised **P.E.** wearing their normal school clothes and this will take place on different days of the week.

Finally, please get in touch with me either directly 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,
Helen Barley