



# SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

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Wednesday 5th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Welcome to Rhine 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 day 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 begin their four year journey through Key Stage 2.

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 have chosen to read 'The Hodgeheg' by Dick King-Smith to start our English work this term. Later this year we will also be studying other books by King-Smith, by Roald Dahl and by other authors.

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 Woodley** 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 Farnhill and Mrs Woodruff**.

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. In particular on **Tuesday afternoons**, we will be developing 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. Given this, we request that children bring a **change of clothes** for those 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 year is Thursday** for which your child will need a plain white T-shirt, dark shorts and trainers. Please send these into school at the start of term and they can stay in school until the end of term. In colder, wetter weather we will aim to still enjoy P.E. outdoors where possible and so children will be able to wear tracksuits as necessary. Everything should be clearly marked with your child's name and kept in

a bag on your child's peg throughout the half-term. On **Friday afternoons all children will be swimming at Kirkstall Leisure Centre**. After an initial assessment in the pool by centre staff, the children will receive lessons appropriate to their needs. These lessons start next Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September. Your child will need a swimming costume and towel in a large plastic bag. Please ensure for both P.E. and swimming that hair is tied back and earrings are removed before school.

Day	Please bring:
Monday	Book bag (including spelling book) and water bottle.
Tuesday	Forest School kit, water bottle and book bag
Wednesday	Book bag (to change library book) and water bottle
Thursday	P.E. kit, water bottle and book bag
Friday	Swimming kit, water bottle and book bag

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. If you have not yet had chance to meet me or to talk through any of your thoughts at the start of the year, I will be available in class for a **Key Stage Two introductory drop in from 3.30pm until 6pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Please sign up for your 10 minute slot using the below reply slip and return to school by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September. We will confirm your specific timeslot by text message as soon as we can.**

Yours faithfully,  
Ian Martin

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I would like a 10 minute slot with Mr Martin to discuss my child \_\_\_\_\_ at the start of Key Stage Two on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September between:

3.30 and 4.00

4.00 and 4.30

4.30 and 5.00

5.00 and 5.30

5.30 and 6.00

(Please circle one)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_