



SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Wood Lane
Headingley
LS6 2DT

0113 275 5890
janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk

Monday 24th April 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Final term!

We hope that you and your child had an enjoyable Easter break. The class now are well over half way through Year 3 and are demonstrating they are becoming independent Key Stage 2 learners.

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.

This topic will encourage our learning about, and from, nature as we continue to demonstrate our learning individually and as part of a team in Forest School. Please note Forest School will continue to be on the same day this term, every **THURSDAY** afternoon. Children need to bring clothes and shoes to change into and that can get muddy. As we enter our British Summer warm clothes as well as sun hats and sun cream are encouraged, dependent on the weather that day!

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 '**The Fox Busters**' 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. We will also focus on comparison writing, looking at last terms class book and how the Fox (from the book) is portrayed in each story, asking are there any similarities or differences?

Every day children should bring into school their book bag, including their reading books from the school library/reading scheme and their spelling book. The children will continue to receive new spellings to practise each week and can change their books on a weekly basis. We suggest that Year 3 children read to an adult four to five times every week for about ten minutes each time. This can be supported by questions from the Reading Comprehension bookmark. Please let me know if you would like any additional copies.

To help practise all of these skills, each individual child has a password that allows access to the Athletics, Times Table Rockstars Spellodrome and Reading Eggspress websites. These passwords have previously been sent home but if you do not have a copy, please let me know. As well as the book bags and passwords, children should also continue to bring in appropriate clothing for our non-classroom activities: P.E. (**now on MONDAYS**), Forest School (now on THURSDAYS) and Swimming (Fridays).

Across most of this term, I will continue to teach the class across all subjects, with the exception of Tuesday mornings when Ms Virgin will teach Art and Friday afternoons when Mrs Maver will take the class swimming whilst I am preparing lessons, making resources and assessing progress. Since the New Year, our PGCE student, Miss Taylor, has been teaching as part of her placement. So far she has made a very positive impact with the children. She will continue to teach various subjects over the next half term as she completes her studies. Throughout the week the children will also continue to benefit from the support of Mrs Farnhill, Mr Riley and Mr Nash.

You will receive a separate homework leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home. Please remember that the most important homework you can do is reading together regularly, practising phonics and spellings and helping children to learn facts for their Maths Passport targets.

We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Please feel free to arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

Thank you

Mr Martin

Staff working in class this half term	Days when clothing needed	Spelling day	Library book day
Mr Martin Mrs Farnhill Mr Riley (mornings) Mr Nash (afternoons) Miss Taylor	Forest School - Thursday P.E. – Monday Swimming – Friday	Test – Monday New spellings - Tuesday	Wednesday