

Dear Okapi Class children, parents and carers,

We hope you had a lovely half term!



We are looking forward to having you back in school after our October half term. Our new topic is – Compassion: Identity and Diversity. (You can see our topic web on the school website).



Mike and Becca will be working with us at different times as our Learning Support Worker.

Land and Trips

Land Event: Thursday 7th December at 3.30 - End of term celebration of the children's work

Trip/workshops: Our Harry Potter Studios Trip will be taking place January 24th.

Drop off and pick up

- Please drop your children off at the gates between 8.45am and 9.00am, **lessons start promptly at 9:00am**. Please collect children at 3:25pm by the outdoor classroom.

Class Expectations

- We are continuing to practice our Redfield Way this year, and will always aim to be kind, safe and ready. We are so excited to share and celebrate our Year 6 achievements, both in school and at home.
- We won't have a designated 'show and tell' time in class, but if you have an achievement or piece of learning from out of school that you are excited to share, we would love to see it – you can bring it in or send us a picture/video on Seesaw to share in class.
- Please **don't** bring in **toys or stationery** from home – we have lots in school and it can be upsetting if special possessions get lost or broken. If you are bringing something in for the day to share, please let us know so that we can keep it somewhere safe.

PE

- Our PE days are Monday and Thursday (swimming). Please ensure children come to school on those days wearing clothing and footwear suitable for PE (trainers, t-shirt, leggings, joggers or shorts).
- Please make sure that all children with long hair have been given a swimming cap or hair band to tie up their hair for swimming lessons. This is essential for the children to take part.

Spelling

- We have launched a new spelling platform called Spelling Shed this year - <https://www.spellingshed.com/> . Your children will have spellings and activities set on this platform weekly. If you are unable to access Spelling Shed, there will be a paper copy of the term's spellings sent home instead.
- Spelling tests will take place on a Friday morning.
- Each week's list of words will be linked to a particular spelling pattern, which will be taught in lessons throughout the week.

Reading

- Reading at home can have a huge effect on children's progress, as well as encouraging them to read for pleasure.
- All children will bring reading books home from school and they may have books of their own choice from home or the public library that they choose to read.
- Children should read independently or to an adult at least 5 times a week for 10 minutes.
- If your child mainly reads on their own, it is helpful to talk to them about what they're reading and ask them to summarise what they have read so far.
- Please try to sign the reading record when your child has read to you or has read independently.
- If you are interested in inspiring book recommendations for your child, please let Hana know.

Times Tables

- We practice times tables frequently in school but any extra practice at home is always useful – they provide the building blocks for lots of our maths, so it really builds children's confidence to be fluent in their times tables.
- A little practice each day makes a huge amount of difference. Please use Timetables Rockstars - trockstars.com as well as encouraging your child to make and use flashcards.
- If you have lost your log ins let Hana or Becca know and they can get you new log ins).

Communication

- Seesaw is the easiest way to contact us and we can call you back if you send a message. We aim to reply to Seesaw messages within 2 working days.
- Please **don't** use Seesaw for emergency messages as we cannot check them while teaching or in meetings. Continue to call the office for emergency messages.
- A member of the Year 6 team will be available on the playground between 3.15 and 3.30 every day. We are happy to catch up for an informal chat then and can arrange a meeting for longer conversations – we will aim to arrange meetings within a week.
- We will send out all school messages through Seesaw, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having trouble accessing your account. We will also update Seesaw with news about our learning in class and photos of the children's work.
- The school website will be updated termly to share topics maps, spelling lists and any additional resources that can support learning at home.

Can you help?

- We would like to build a directory of skills or expertise that our families would be willing to volunteer in school.
- Please could you let us know if you would like to support in school and have a particular skill (for example an art technique or drama experience) or area of expertise that you would be willing to talk about (such as a career, religion, or knowledge of a different country or culture).
- We would love to involve as many families as possible in our learning, and year groups across the school may ask to draw on your expertise.
- If you are interested in and able to support on trips or visits this year, we would also love to hear from you.
- Thank you in advance if you are able to contribute!

Kind regards,

Hana and Becca