

Dear Okapi Class children, parents and carers,

Welcome back!



Laurie



Hana

We hope you had a wonderful summer break. Our new topic is – Community (you can see our topic web on the school website).

Paul will be working with us as our Learning Support Worker.

Drop off and pick up

- Please drop your children off at the gates between 8.40am and 8:50am, registers are taken promptly at 8:50am and morning work begins as soon as the children come into the classroom.
- Please collect children at 3:10pm by the outdoor classroom, the gates close at 3:20pm.

Class Expectations

- We are continuing to embed the 'Redfield Way' this year, and will always aim to be kind, safe and ready. We are 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 Class Dojo to share in class.
- Please **don't** bring in any **toys, keyrings or stationery** from home – we have resources in school and it can be upsetting if special possessions get lost or broken. If you do bring something into school this will be kept in the safe until home time.

PE

Please see below for our PE slots this term:

- Friday afternoon will be our indoor PE slot (our unit is dance this half term)
- Thursday afternoon will be our outside PE slot (our unit is 'co-operative learning' this half term).

Spelling

- We are moving to the Unlocking Letters and Sounds programme of learning for our spellings this year so please keep an eye on our Class Dojo page for updates on this next week.
- (We currently use Unlocking Letters and Sounds to deliver our phonics programme in Early Years and Key Stage 1)
- Spelling tests will take place on a Friday morning.
- Each week's list of words will likely be linked to a spelling rule and 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.
- We use Accelerated Reader in school, and encourage children to complete quizzes on the site once they have finished their book. They will have an opportunity to do this in school, but can also complete this at home using the log in they have been given.
- All children can 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 at least 10 minutes.

Times Tables

- We practice times tables daily 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 flash cards.
- If you have lost your log ins let us know and we can get you a new log in.

Communication

- Dojo is the easiest way to contact us, and we can call you back if you send a message. We aim to reply to dojo messages within 2 working days.
- Please **don't** use Dojo 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 3.10pm and 3.20pm 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 Dojo, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having trouble accessing your account. We will also update Dojo 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,

Laurie (Bonobo teacher) Hana (Okapi teacher and Paul (Year 6 Learning Support Worker)