



P.P.S. Oak Class

September 2023
Autumn Term

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Petworth C of E Primary and Oak Class. We hope everyone has had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We are looking forward to a very exciting term ahead!

During the first half of the term, our learning will focus on supporting children in their transition into Oak Class. Our aim is to enable all of the children to feel safe and secure in their new environment, and to know what is special and unique about them and their new class. As the children begin their new school year, we will talk about the rules we need to follow in order to make Oak Class a happy place, as well as showing respect for our school and other people around us.

This week we have been reading 'Super Duper You', talking about our interests and what we like to play with at home and school. We have also been thinking about how we are similar and different to our friends and celebrating these. We have used mirrors to look closely at our facial features and used our words to describe our friends, for example talking about their hair colour and style, height and eye colour. For the remainder of the week we will use our knowledge to draw pictures of ourselves on Oak leaves, which we will put on our classroom door so that everyone knows who we are!

Next week, we will be reading 'The Colour Monster' and 'The Colour Monster goes to school' in order to discuss the different feelings we may have both at school and home. We will be thinking about how we might show these emotions, as well as how we can help each other if we have an emotion that we might not like feeling, such as sadness, jealousy or anger.

Towards the end of September, we will be taking part in a whole school topic week, finding out more about Petworth. We will be using Google Earth to look for places we recognise in Petworth, as well as finding our road names and homes. We will also look at our local community and what Petworth has to offer, as well as thinking about the people in Petworth who help us, such as the fire service, care workers and shop staff. This will include a trip to Petworth Park and library, details of these will follow shortly. The week following 'Petworth Week' will include some visits from people in the community that help us.

P.E.

Children in Oak Class will have P.E. sessions every Wednesday, as well as having opportunities to use the outdoor climbing equipment. Please ensure that your child has their P.E. kit in school every day and that it is all named. We will send P.E. kits home periodically on a Friday to be washed. Please ensure they are returned on the Monday. It would be useful if you could put a spare change of underwear and socks in their P.E. bag too, in case of any accidents. Please ensure that earrings are removed or covered with tape on a Wednesday for health and safety reasons.

Uniform

Please make sure that **ALL** uniform is named. Children will have the opportunity to use our outdoor environment in all weather, therefore please ensure your child has a coat, gloves, hat etc. as the weather gets colder.



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Tapestry

All parents should have received an email from Tapestry at the beginning of term which included a link to set up your account. Once you have set up your account, you will be able to see photographs and observations that we have made of your child's learning. You could use these as a talking point with your child, in order to find out more about their day and the activities that they have taken part in. We would also love to see the activities and learning that your child does at home, so please upload notes and photographs if you wish to. We will always try to share these with the rest of the class, in order to celebrate their achievements. These could be things such as riding a bike for the first time, trying new foods, visiting family, practising counting or recognising sounds as you walk through the town.

Reading

Over the next week, your child will be issued with a reading book, which will initially start off as picture books. Once we have started our Phonics teaching, reading books will be sent home to reflect your child's stage of reading development, which will be changed twice a week. We encourage you to read at home with your child everyday, to give them valuable practise with this key skill. In the early stages of their reading journey, think about the story in the pictures with them; can they talk about what might happen next or role play the narrative? Or perhaps identify letters and sounds that are familiar with them. Please use the Reading Record book provided in your child's book bag to comment on your child's understanding of the story and what skills they have been practising. As well as their reading books, children will bring home library books that they will change every Friday. These will be chosen by the children themselves during our regular library sessions and as they are the children's own choice, they may be more suitable to be read to them or shared in a more collaborative way in order to develop their love of books!

Ideas for home

Below are some ideas of activities that you might like to try at home with your child. If you complete any of them, please bring them in so we can share them with the rest of the class, or take a photo and upload it to Tapestry.

- Explore different feelings and when you might feel these emotions. Talk about how it is perfectly acceptable to feel these emotions, as well as thinking about how you can control. Some ideas could include finding a quiet place at home to play a game if you are feeling angry or making a card for a relative if you are sad and miss them.
 - As we learn about ourselves and our new friends in Oak Class, think about how we are different or the same to others. Talk about your interests and compare these to siblings. What do you like doing that is the same and what do you like playing with that is different?
 - We have explored drawing ourselves and thinking about how we all look different. Use paint, pencils or chalk to draw yourself at home. You could use a mirror to help identify your eye and hair colour.
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