

Welcome to Opal Class... Where all little gems sparkle!

Did we blink and miss the summer holidays? I am sure it may feel like that for some of you. I hope you all have had a wonderful break and are well-rested, full of beans and ready to go go go!!!

I am really looking forward to getting to know those of you I have not met and working alongside you and your children for what promises to be a busy but successful year.

Island Homes - Neverland



We will start our year with a new topic of Island Homes, focusing mainly on the fantasy island that is Neverland. I don't want to give too much away about the adventures we will go on through this magical land but be sure that we will explore the characters from the story; the role they play and all of the places they live around the Island. Get your fairy dust, pirate swords and mermaid tails at the ready and remember... It is going to be an awfully big adventure!!

Bright Sparks

After half term we will be moving onto the topic of Bright Sparks which will see us looking at all things that light up our skies! With a focus on the Great Fire of London we will learn all about this historic event and how far our country has come to make sure it could never happen again. We will also be immersing ourselves in all things

Fireworks and Divali to look at the role of light in British celebrations and those from around the world. A little warning that glitter will be used lots during this topic – just a little opportunity to make your little gems even more sparkly!



Early Morning Routines

I would like to remind you about the routines for children entering the Year 1 classroom in the morning. The children will need to enter school by walking past the hall, going through the wooden gate and then walking through the door into the Year 1 cloakroom. We encourage any opportunity to promote independence amongst our youngest members of school so please try and say your goodbyes on the playground. The cloakroom door will be open at 8.45 and it is vital that your children remain with you on the playground until the outside bell has been rung to avoid congestion and unsupervised children at the wooden gates. Registration takes place at 8.55 and the door will be closed as soon as the children are taken into assembly. If you arrive later than 8.55 please take your children to the main entrance so that we can record them as having arrived safely at school.

Physical Education

This year the children will have P.E. on a Tuesday morning and a Friday afternoon. They will need to bring a kit to school that contains: a white or blue t-shirt, shorts and plimsolls. Wherever possible we go outside for P.E. lessons once a week so we would also ask that you send in trainers, a jumper and some long leggings/joggers. P.E. is part of the National Curriculum and if they do not have their kit they will be unable to take part. Please ensure that the children's kit remains at school all week as timetable changes can occur and it is a real shame when children



are unable to take part. Girls hair will need to be tied back for P.E. sessions and earrings will need to be removed. It would be a good idea to teach your child to remove earrings themselves as timetable changes can sometimes mean that P.E. sessions are on a different day.

Homework, reading Books and Spellings

In Year 1 the children begin to develop reading comprehension skills so we operate the reading book system a little differently to support them in this. The children will be provided with 1 or 2 books a week and these will be changed on a Tuesday. We ask that you read with your child as many times per week as is possible; re-reading books will give your child the opportunity to develop fluency skills and will provide you with the opportunity to ask questions to support their understanding of the story.

Spellings will be provided in the form of spelling walls with approximately 15 words on. Once the children have learned all of the words on the wall – and can spell them independently – we will move them on to the next word wall. The words are a mixture of high frequency and common exception words.

Each half term your child will be given a homework topic web, full of different ideas to support their classroom learning. There is no requirement for the children to complete all of these activities and if they would like to complete something not listed on the topic web they are more than welcome to. We love seeing a range of really individual pieces that show each child's skills and interests.

In addition to this your child will bring home an English and Maths task each week that will help you to understand what they have been learning about in the classroom.

Autumn Term Pop-ins

During the Autumn Term there will be 2 opportunities for you to visit the Year 1 classroom. The first session will focus on the transition from Diamond to Opal Class, the National Curriculum and assessment without levels. There will also be plenty of opportunities for you to ask questions about Year 1 learning and beyond. This session will be on **Thursday 14th September at 2.30pm**. The second session will focus on phonics and the Phonics Screening Check. This session will be on **Wednesday 1st November at 9am** and will last for approximately an hour.



Opal Class are now on Twitter so if you would like to follow us our twitter handles are: @cloptoncottage for Mrs Parsons and @WinchelseaYear1 for Miss Davis.

Sunshine, Clouds and Rainbows

The children may talk to you about white clouds and rainbows after a few days in Opal Class as it is our class reward system. Just so you know what they are referring to the children start every day on the white cloud and have the chance to move to the sunshine for a team point, the rainbow for a sticker and the star for a trip to another teacher to show their good work. If the children make inappropriate choices they will move their picture down to the grey cloud, then to the rain cloud and finally if they make a third bad choice they finish on the thunder cloud where they will unfortunately lose 2 golden time minutes.

I will be more than happy to answer any questions you have about the new school year but please be aware that mornings can be a little busy! I will always be around at the end of the day for a quick chat or, alternatively, you can make an appointment with the office.

Thank-you,

Miss Davis ☺