



Opal Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2020/21



Welcome to the start of Year 1 and a new school year. Mrs Dunham will be teaching on Mondays and Tuesdays, Miss Marshall will be teaching on Thursdays and Fridays and on Wednesdays both of us are in school (2 for the price of 1!). We are excited to be teaching Year 1 this year and, along with Mrs Riley, hope to have a great year with your little ones.

English

Our main focus for the Autumn term will be the correct use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in our writing. We will be continuing with phonics this year in order to secure the children's ability to read and spell. As part of our homework we will be sending a book home for the children to read. Books will be changed on a Monday and Thursday. Please try to listen to your child read for at least ten minutes every day; talk about the story and ask questions like 'what happens when...' and 'who are the characters...', 'what happens first..?' etc. This will help your child to make progress in their reading comprehension as well as their decoding. We shall also be continuing to build a sight vocabulary of words, which we can read on sight without the need to blend. Spelling lists will be coming home for the children to learn and these will be tested in school. We are also going to work on forming all of our letters correctly and begin to encourage joined up handwriting.

Maths

In Maths this term we will be counting forwards and backwards up to 100. We will be practicing writing numbers 1 to 20 in numerals and words. We will be identifying one more and one less than a given number. We will identify and represent numbers using objects and pictorial representations including the number line, and use the language; equal to, more than, less than (fewer), most and least. We shall also be practising addition and subtraction skills to 20, as well as counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10. We will be looking at 2D and 3D shapes, and identifying these in our environment. We will also be looking at tens and ones.

Topic

For the first half term our topic is 'What I like about me'. The children will learn about themselves, their bodies and how to keep themselves healthy. We will learn about people from history, such as Florence Nightingale. After half-term our topic will change to 'Castles and Knights' where we will be learning about different types of castles and how they have changed over time.

Ralph



We would like to introduce you to Ralph, our new class mascot. He loves to go on adventures and will be going home with one child each week. He comes with his own backpack and adventure book therefore it would be great if you could help your child to



write/draw about the adventures they went on with Ralph so they can then share with the rest of the class what they got up to. We look forward to hearing about all of the fun adventures your child and Ralph go on. We will make sure Ralph gets a bath every week!

Reminders

Please can you make sure your child has a suitable P.E. kit in school, these can be stored in their lockers and will be sent back home when we have done P.E. to be washed. For the first half term we will do PE on Mondays and Fridays, after half term this will be Tuesday and Friday. Please add layers as the weather begins to get colder.

Please make sure that reading records and books are always in their book bags and that they are brought into school every day! We will encourage the children to transport letters home to you and bring the replies into class but we will not be going through their book bags.

Each half term there will be a project web sent home with some optional ideas of tasks to complete which are linked to our topic. Please help your children to complete some homework, but do not do it for them. The children will be rewarded for completing any tasks with team points and stickers.

Please make sure all uniform, PE kits, tupperware and drinks bottles are clearly named; that way we can return them when they go missing.

Due to the current situation we are unable to allow parents into the school site so if there are any concerns please contact the office and leave us a message or arrange a telephone call if needed. We are eager to ensure all children achieve and are happy during their time at school so please make contact if you have any issues. We will ensure our twitter pages are kept up to date with any relevant information and also examples of learning so please follow us so you know what is going on in Opal class.

Mrs Dunham @MrsJDunham

Miss Marshall @WinchelseaYear1

Mrs Riley @Winchelseaopal

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Dunham, Miss Marshall and Mrs Riley

