



## Opal Class Newsletter - Spring Term 2020/21

Happy New Year! We hope you, and the children, had a great Christmas and a well-deserved rest over the festive holiday.

### English

This term we will continue to focus on the correct use of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in our writing. Some of us will begin to learn about question marks and exclamation marks. We will be continuing with phonics this year in order to secure the children's ability to read and spell. This term reading books will be changed on a Monday and a Thursday. Please continue to listen to your child read as often as possible, 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 with our weekly spellings. In order for the children to achieve expected standard in writing they need to be showing they are beginning to develop a cursive style so we will continue with joined-up handwriting this term.

### Maths

In Maths we will be using the number line to count on and count back in order to complete addition and subtraction calculations. We use the language; equal to, add, plus, take away and subtract. We will continue to count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10. We will be looking at fractions and begin to divide objects into halves and quarters. We will also learn to half and double some numbers. This term we start to talk about multiplying, in terms of lots of ... and also dividing, in terms of sharing amongst a group. We will start to work on worded problems and solving mathematical problems which are written in sentences.

### Topic

For the first half term our topic is 'Into the woods we go' where we will be looking at traditional tales that focus on mythical and magical creatures that live in the deep, dark woods. The children will learn about famous tales and their authors, write their own stories and paint their own backgrounds. After February half-term our topic will change to 'Jungle Jamboree' where we will be learning about jungle animals, specifically those that live in the Amazon Rainforest. They will be looking at Fairtrade food and how the rainforest alliance is working to protect the rainforest and the animals that live inside it.

### Reminders

Please can you make sure your child has a P.E. kit in school on Tuesday and Friday. After February half-term our days will change to Monday and Friday. Please continue to provide layers until the weather starts to brighten up.

Please make sure that reading records and books are always in their book bags and 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.

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

We are eager to ensure all children achieve and are happy during their time at school so please feel free to discuss any questions or issues with us. Unfortunately we are still having to keep a distance on the playground so the reading diaries or a telephone call to the school office are our best form of communication. 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.

