



11<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents

Welcome back and a happy new year to all of our Oak Class families. I hope you had a restful break and are ready for this exciting Spring term. This term will be particularly busy as the children continue to grow in confidence with phonics and mathematical concepts.

It is essential that mathematical, reading and writing skills become embedded, or 'second nature'. In Oak Class we teach your child the foundations of learning, if these foundations are strong, children flourish as they progress throughout the school. To ensure these foundation skills are embedded children need to rehearse them. This can feel like you are practising the same information over again however this really is the only way to embed these skills.

Next week your child will receive their Maths Passports which is their maths homework and will allow you to practise these skills at home. More information to follow. You will also find High Frequency Words stuck into your child's home-school book. Some of these are words that the children haven't learnt the phonetic code for yet, therefore they are harder to learn. We expect children to be able to read and write these words independently, regular practice will be essential. Each week I will aim to give suggestions about how to practise these words in fun and imaginative ways.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Shillito

### **In a land before time**

This term we are learning about dinosaurs. We kicked off the topic on Tuesday by discovering dinosaur footprints across the classroom and a huge egg hiding under one of our tables. The children have been inspired by this discovery and have taken their learning in very interesting directions. Each day, whilst taking a welly walk across the main field the children have built a dinosaur nest. They talked about which shape the nest should be and how to make it comfortable using sticks and leaves. On Thursday we took advantage of the seasonal weather by looking at the frost that covered the field and the nest. The children decided that the dinosaurs wouldn't want to lay their eggs in the nest because it was so cold. We then thought about the best way to keep our egg in the classroom warm. They worked together to make a special nest inside a cardboard box, filling it with newspaper and hay. We will continue to be led by the children's interests in this topic.



**Homework**

Homework comprises: reading, learning High Frequency Words and practising a Maths Passport target. Everything you need will be sent home over the next couple of weeks.

**All homework will be collected on Thursdays and sent out on Fridays.**

**PE Kit**

Oak Class are very active with planned times throughout the day for children to be formally instructed about movement and coordination, such as dough disco, dance-write and welly walks. The children also take full advantage of our free flow play meaning they are almost constantly active. However, to prepare them for Year 1 we are introducing them to PE lessons once a week. **Please send your child to school in their warm PE kit on Thursdays**, they will need their school uniform in their PE bag to change into afterwards.

**Reminders**

Please remember that the weather is usually very cold at this time of year and dress your child appropriately for this. Children should have a drinks bottle with them every day, these can be purchased from the school office.