



Oak Cottage Primary School

October 2025

Information for Parents/Carers,

CLASS LETTER FOR YEAR ONE – 2nd HALF OF AUTUMN TERM

This letter introduces you to the expectations and procedures for the second half of the autumn term. It also explains the activities and topics to be covered during this half term. If the information on this sheet raises questions or concerns, please feel free to speak to me.

General Procedures

In Year One we work on the transition from the Foundation Stage to becoming independent, confident and flexible learners in Key Stage One. The children will gradually be expected to take on more responsibilities. They need to look after their own property, take letters and verbal messages home from school, return letters out of their book bags and hand in their reading diaries and homework on the correct days. The children will receive encouragement, support and help to achieve these goals.

Activity Timetable

Monday and Tuesday – PE. Please ensure PE kits are worn to school on these new PE days. The children only need to come to school with book bags, coats and sandwich boxes. No other bags or pencil cases are needed. This will help with congestion in the cloakroom and keep lost property to a minimum. Fruit will be available every day. Please bring a **named bottle of water** to sip whilst working in class. **Other fruit drinks should be kept for lunchtimes.** Please make sure your child has a named art apron or an old shirt with them in school.

Homework Procedures

The children in Year 1 are continuing the reading approach for Early Years. They will have a selection of books aimed at their particular reading level. Every child will change their book on a Monday and they can also change their book as often as needed after that, either on their way in to class in the morning or at the end of the day. Please take the time to write in your child's reading diary so that we can keep a check on the progress being made. There should be at least **three entries made per week**. Your child will receive a sticker if they achieve this.

Your child will be given two pieces of homework a week – phonics and maths. **Phonics and maths homework is due in on a Monday. Phonics homework will be given back on a Tuesday. Maths homework will be given back out on a Thursday.**

Your child will continue to have spellings to practice. These are the common exception words that are in the front of the English homework book. Your child will also have maths homework which links directly to what they have been learning in school.

If your child is absent when homework is given out, we will endeavor to give them a copy when they return to school, or your child may ask for a copy at any time.

<u>Theme</u>	Magnificent Monarchs
During this half term, children will be learning about life in London, focusing particularly on the Royal Family, how people travel in London and popular attractions to see and do in the city.	
Subject / Topic	Description of the work to be covered
Computing	Learners will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills. Learners will also consider how to use technology responsibly.
English	- Children will be identifying the main features of recounts and instructions. They will also be writing fact files about landmarks in London. - There are also a range of graphemes that children will be recapping this half term. They will learn some basic prefixes and suffixes and they will continue to practise spellings.
Humanities	- Children will be learning about the Great Fire of London, identifying the main causes for why the fire spread and recognising key words for sequencing events - Name some of the main steps in the coronation ceremony. - Use sources to explain how William the Conqueror became King of England. - Explain how William the Conqueror kept order and conquered England. - Compare the similarities and differences between Norman castles. - Explain how castles have changed over time.
Mathematics	It is our aim to link as many aspects of learning to the class topic each half term, however some of the units are more suited to be taught discretely. Focus areas over this half term are: * Place value within 20 * Addition and subtraction within 10 * 2D/3D shapes.
Music	Children will use 'The Magic Flute' opera, by Mozart as a stimulus. This opera is full of 'fantasy' and 'adventure.' They listen to the story and consider the evil Queen and how music is used to convey her character. They compose their own music to create atmosphere and tell a story with a developing understanding of pitch, dynamics, tempo and rhythm.
PSHE	Celebrating differences

Physical Education	• They will explore the fundamental skills of balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping. They will explore these skills in isolation as well as in combination. • They will explore and develop basic gymnastic actions on the floor and using low apparatus. Basic skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling are used individually and in combination to create movement phrases. Pupils are given opportunities to select their own actions to build short sequences and develop their confidence in performing. Pupils begin to understand the use of levels, directions and shapes when travelling and balancing.
Religious Education	▪ Talk about a gift that is special. ▪ Remember some of the Christmas story. ▪ Suggest a gift to be given to Jesus.
Design and Technology	▪ Moving mechanisms –children will explore moving pictures and create their own moving picture of London.

Thank you to all the parents that have been coming into class and helping. It really has been wonderful and so supportive. If you can possibly come into class on a few Friday afternoons this half term, it would really be appreciated, as we are making lots of D&T moving pictures and many hands will be needed! Please come and talk to me if you think you can spare a few hours or even just 2.25- 3.30.

Mrs Newman
Year One Teacher