

# Year 3 Autumn 1 newsletter

**Welcome back!!** I hope you've all had a lovely summer and are ready to begin a brand new school year. I'm really excited that September is here and am thrilled to have the privilege of having your child in my class. I'm also looking forward to getting to know you better too. If you ever have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to send me a message on Dojo. I tend to check Dojo when I first arrive at school in the morning and once I have dismissed the children at home time. If your message is urgent or has an immediate impact on your child's day e.g. someone else is collecting them at the end of the day, they've hurt their leg so can't do PE or something that I really need to know for that day, please speak to whoever is on the door at drop off time or myself at home time. Thank you.



The first couple of weeks will of course be about settling your child in to their new class, getting a routine established, setting rules and expectations and welcoming each other back. Children will learn their way around their new room and where resources and equipment is kept. That said, we have a busy half term with lots to do so I will be starting lessons from the first day and getting the children engaged in their new topics.



## DOJO

Dojo will be my primary method of communication with you. Please ensure that you check Dojo regularly for any messages, reminders or information. As previously mentioned, this is also where you can contact me using the private message function with any questions, queries or comments. Friday is my day off and I will not check Dojo on Fridays. Mrs Smith will teach Year 3 all day on Friday. With this in mind, if you need to contact someone on Friday, either message Mrs Smith on Dojo or contact the school office.



## SNACK

Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to eat at morning break. This could be a piece of fruit, vegetable sticks, cheese, yoghurt tube or healthy snack bar. Your child also needs a water bottle in school. This should be filled at home then taken home each night, washed and re-filled for the following morning.



## PE and OUTDOOR LEARNING



**Friday** is our outdoor learning day. Please ensure your child has a change of footwear for this. If you wish them to wear waterproof trousers and/or a different coat, please also send this to school with them on Fridays.



**Monday and Friday** are our PE days. Your child should wear their PE kit to come to school. PE kit is either plain black shorts or skorts and a plain white T-shirt, a plain black tracksuit or black leggings and a plain sweatshirt. Trainers may be worn on PE days. If your child has a black school hoodie, they may wear this on PE day. No other logos, patterns or colours are permitted.



## Library

Our Library session will be on Fridays. Your child will have free choice of the book they would like to borrow. In school, lots of what the children read is prescribed - their guided reading text, their home reader, our lead English text, so we feel it is important to allow the children freedom to select any book they'd like at library time. Your child may therefore bring a book home which is too easy or much too hard for them. Sometimes easy books can be selected because children want to read to younger siblings, want a book they're familiar with or want a book they can read quickly without having to de-code or think about tricky words. Hard books can be chosen because children have seen others reading them, they're from a 'cool' series, the cover looks fun or just for the sheer joy of holding a big book! All these reasons are valid and so whilst we may discuss children's library books with them, they will never be told that they can't borrow a certain title.

## Maths.



Your child will be taught maths daily. Lessons begin with a 'maths warm up' during which the children's mental maths will be developed. We will work on quick calculations, mental strategies and times table facts. As the weeks progress, maths warm ups will also be used to review previous learning to ensure that knowledge, skills and understanding are not lost over time.

The main part of their maths lesson will cover all aspects of maths over the year including number and place value, the 4 operations, fractions and geometry. We work on a spiral approach where we will return to themes throughout the year. We are also looking at ways to make maths meaningful. Areas of maths which would have historically be taught in isolation, such as measurement, have been woven in to the curriculum to make use of existing links.

Next year, your child will be given a statutory times table test. We will work on our times tables regularly in school but 1:1 time at home will be vital for your child's success in this test. Using TT rock stars will definitely help as well as writing them out together, chanting them, making up silly rhymes for the tricky ones and any other ways you can think of to get them to stick! We tell the children that they need to be able to answer any times table as quickly as if someone asked them their name. They need to be fluent in all the multiplications up to  $12 \times 12$ . Once your child has these under their belt, they can learn the related division facts e.g. if they know that  $3 \times 6 = 18$  and  $6 \times 3 = 18$  can they also see that  $18 \div 3 = 6$  and  $18 \div 6 = 3$ ? We call this a fact family and once they have these sets of 4 in their head, they're flying!

## English.



**Writing.** At Oxenhope, we use a text based approach to our English teaching. All the learning in English will stem from a central text. Children will work on reading, GPS (grammar, punctuation and spelling) and writing activities based around the text. They will produce short bursts of writing regularly and will work up to more sustained pieces at points throughout each unit culminating in an extended 'hot write' at the end of the unit to demonstrate the skills they've learnt throughout the half term. They will be taught spelling daily using a scheme called SCODE. This builds on their phonics learning from KS1 and uses the advanced phonic code as well as etymology and morphology to teach spelling through KS2.



**Reading.** Children will have reading lessons daily. 3 of these will be guided reading sessions around a shared text. Here, we will unpick new vocabulary, answer questions from a text and complete other text based activities. There will be one individual reading lesson per week where children will be listened to individually. The 5th reading lesson will be where children visit the library.

## Foundation subjects.

Your child will be offered a broad curriculum including all subjects. Each half term, they will study History or Geography, Art or DT, Science, RE, Spanish, PSHE, Computing and PE. This year, they will be taught to play the recorder as their music learning. We use a topic based approach to much of our learning and many subjects are linked around a central theme. Some subjects, by design, stand more on their own such as computing or RE.



## Behaviour

In KS2, we use a traffic light system for monitoring behaviour. We believe that clear rules, expectations, sanctions and rewards are vital in helping your child to feel secure and to know what is expected of them at school. Your child's name will begin every day on green. If they remain on green all week, they will get 15 mins of 'green time' (free choice activity) on Friday. If they chose to break any of our school rules, they will move their name to amber. They will lose 3 mins of green time every time this happens within a week. They will be able to move their name back to green if they show an improvement in their behaviour. If their behaviour doesn't improve, they will have to move their name to red. They will speak with Mrs Jones about their behaviour and you will be informed. They will also miss 3 mins of green time. They will move immediately to red if they hurt anyone with actions or words. You will again be informed. House points will be awarded for praise and reward as well as lots of verbal positive reinforcement and some children will receive certificates each Friday as part of celebration assembly. You will be sent a private Dojo message on Wednesday if your child is getting a certificate.



## A bit about me.

### Miss Auty - A bit about me.



I knew I wanted to be a teacher by the age of 13 and graduated with a BA(Hons) in Primary Education after completing a 4 year degree course in 2004. I worked for 9 years in Keighley and began working at Oxenhope in 2013. Outside of school, my main hobby is performing. I love to be on the stage and I sing, dance and act in musicals and plays around the local area. I attend Ilkley Road Methodist Church in Riddlesden where I am a worship leader. I am a keen traveller and have been fortunate enough to visit many wonderful places around the world. It's a big world out there though and there are still lots of places I'm yet to explore. Closer to home, I enjoy walking in our beautiful countryside and love eating out, especially if it's for a curry!



### At a glance. Who and what?

MONDAY - Miss Auty all day. PE kit

TUESDAY - Miss Auty all day. No special equipment needed.

WEDNESDAY - Miss Auty all day. Home reading book. I'd like your child to have their home reading book in school every day but Wednesday will be our individual reading lesson where children will read this book in class and staff will listen to children 1:1. Therefore, please ensure your child definitely has their book every Wednesday.

THURSDAY - Mrs Smith until 11:00am. Miss Auty for the rest of the day. No special equipment needed.

FRIDAY - Mrs Smith all day. Miss Auty's day off. Please contact Mrs Smith or the office with any urgent questions etc on Fridays. PE kit. Outdoor Learning. (change of footwear, coat etc) Library book.

### Bits and bobs messages.

Hair - If hair is long enough to be tied up, it should be up for school. This stops it from flopping forward when the children are working and also helps keep our little creepy crawly friends at bay.

Things from home - thank you so much for the children's pencil cases! They're fab and the children are working really well with them. Apart from that, they don't need to bring anything else from home. Lots of learning time can be taken up sorting out issues arising from football cards, fancy stickers, bracelets, note pads, teddies, key rings etc etc. Your help and support with this is very much appreciated. If your child needs a fidget or another learning aid, we can of course discuss this.

Watches - children may wear a watch for school. The primary purpose of the watch should be to tell the time. Ones which take photos are not allowed and I would discourage flashing screens and watches with games etc.

Earrings - small, simple studs are permitted for school.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this. I hope I haven't bombarded you too much and that you've found it useful. As I enter my 21st year in the job I love, I am acutely aware of what a difference good communication and a solid partnership between school and home can make.

Your support and engagement are very much appreciated. There will be lots of times when you can get involved by coming in to school this year but please know that the little things you do every day with your children at home do not go unnoticed in the classroom and I'm so thankful.

I'm here if you need me and am excited to see where your little ones can fly to this year. Let's do this! Miss Auty

