

Welcome back and also a warm welcome to our new starters, new Reception children and their families. It was lovely to see so many smiley faces upon return and children settling happily into their new classes.

Now that things are gradually adjusting, the guidance for schools allows us to hold face-to-face school community events that many of you will have missed over the last couple years due to the pandemic.

Autumn term key dates and events are outlined below. Further information for events and reminders are posted on ClassDojo and text message reminders sent too nearer the time, so please make sure you are signed up to ClassDojo and that we have up to date contact details for you.

If you have any problems with ClassDojo, please contact the main office and Mrs Penswick will try and assist you.

| Date   | School Event  |
|--|---|
| <b>AUTUMN TERM 2021</b>  |   |
| Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September                              | <b>Beaufort (blue) House</b> ONLY non-uniform<br>(Winning house reward for most BEST points 20-21)  |
| <b>Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b>                           | <b>Non-uniform – Suggested £1 donation paid on ParentPay</b><br><b>(Raising funds for the children’s end of term BEST shop rewards)</b>   |
| Week beginning: 4 <sup>th</sup> October                        | Year 6 Condoover Residential  |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> October                                | World Mental Health day (Nationally Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> October)<br>Awareness day in school   |
| Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> October                             | From 8am - Sibling/family photos<br>During school time - Individual photos (all year groups including Pre-school)   |
| Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October     | Harvest Festival : 9.05am – Years 1 & 2.  |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October                             | Year 3 Stone Age workshop   |
| Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October | <b>Parents’ Evenings:</b><br><b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct:</b> 3.20-6.20pm (All year groups: Reception, Y1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6)<br><b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Oct:</b> 3.20-5.30pm (Years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6) |
| Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> October                              | <b>‘Show Racism the Red card’</b><br><b>Wear something red (no donation)</b><br>Awareness day in school   |
| <b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>                        | <b>Last day of term</b>   |
| <b>HALF TERM</b>   | <b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct – Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov (inclusive)</b>   |

## PE

A reminder that we are asking for the children to come into school in their PE kit on their PE day. PE days are as follows:

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Monday    | Y3 Crane and Y5 Skylark  |
| Tuesday   | Y3 Heron and Y6 Eagle  |
| Wednesday | Y2 Kingfisher and Y2 Flamingo  |
| Thursday  | Y1 Puffin, Y4 Starling, Y5 Swift, <b>Reception Robin &amp; Wren*</b> |
| Friday    | Y1 Penguin, Y4 Raven, Y6 Owl   |

**\*Please note, there has been a change to the original rota and both Reception classes PE has moved to a **Thursday**. A text reminder will be sent when Reception commence their PE lessons.**

Children should wear the following kit:

House coloured T-shirt

Plain black/blue joggers or shorts

School jumper/cardigan

Trainers

Children should still wear a coat to school for break/ lunchtime.

## OPAL — Outdoor Play and Learning

We are now able to have OPAL fully running at lunchtimes, which the children are very happy about. OPAL allows children to have a range of outdoor play opportunities, targeting different types of 'play' and promoting a range of social skills. We are in the middle of creating a giant sandpit at the back of the school, so if you have any of the following items to donate, they would be very much appreciated:

**hand trowels, buckets, spades, sand play toys, body boards.**

We are also awaiting the arrival of our new welly racks. A reminder that as Autumn draws in and the weather becomes wetter, if the children want to play in the digging area/ on the field, they must have wellies in school. You can also send them with waterproof trousers if you wish, as they can get muddy.

## Spellings

You may have noticed we have removed spellings from the children's homework tasks (Y2-6). We have recently invested and been trained in the Read, Write, Inc. Spelling programme, which now means children in years 3 to 6 now have 30 minute spelling sessions, daily in school. This is a significant increase on what the pupils previously had allocated for spellings and will enable daily in-school practise and application, which should better embed their learning of spellings, patterns and rules.

Year 2 pupils will transition to the Read, Write, Inc. spelling programme later in the year once they have completed their phonics programme.

## Homework and Reading

Please see below a copy of the homework timetable for all year groups for 2021-2022.

A reminder that for junior children (years 3-6), evidence their homework grid task should be posted/added to their ClassDojo profile (as you did with work during home learning/during lockdowns). Year groups have posted welcome letters for your child's year group on Dojo, which explain more about the year group and key information.

You will see there is a heavy emphasis on reading as part of the homework timetable. This is because it is well researched and evidenced that those who become fluent, competent readers, go on to be more successful across a range of subjects and achieve higher. The children do read regularly in school, however, it will significantly help your child's reading ability if you read for short periods regularly at home too. In short, children who read at home make progress much more quickly than those who don't and it's a great way of supporting your child's learning at home.

### Homework Overview 2021-2022

| Year Group | Homework   |
|------------|--|
| Reception  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home reading<br/><b>Minimum</b> 3 reads/ adult signatures from home per week. Two books (Floppy copy &amp; book bag book) out on Mondays / in on Fridays</li> <li>• Library book and ORT books changed on Fridays</li> <li>• Sound ring and word ring – practise daily until confident.</li> <li>• Regular handwriting sheets sent home as new sounds are taught.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Online access to: Bug Club reading</p>                                    |
| Year 1     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home reading<br/><b>Minimum</b> 3 reads/ 3 adult signatures from home per week.</li> <li>• Two books (Floppy copy &amp; book bag book) out on Mondays / in on Fridays</li> <li>• Library book and ORT books changed on Fridays</li> <li>• Termly spellings</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Online access to Bug Club reading</p>  |
| Year 2     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home reading<br/><b>Minimum</b> 3 reads/ 3 adult signatures from home per week.</li> <li>• Two books (Floppy copy &amp; book bag book) out on Mondays / in on Fridays</li> <li>• Library book and ORT books changed on Fridays</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Online access to Bug Club reading and Times Table Rockstars/Times tables</p>   |
| Years 3-6  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home reader</li> <li>• <b>Minimum</b> 3 reads/ 3 adult signatures from home per week.</li> <li>• Books changed once read and signed.</li> <li>• Homework Grid – Expectation of 1 task per week (<b>work to be posted on child's profile on ClassDojo*</b>).</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center; color: blue;">Homework to be handed in by the following Monday.</p> <p style="text-align: center; color: green;">Online access to: Bug Club reading and Times table Rockstars/Times tables</p> |

\* Please contact your child's class teacher if there are difficulties with this.