

Marsh Class Autumn 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 about 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 an email



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I will look at my emails 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 me briefly at drop off time.

COVID-19



Please ensure you have read and are familiar with all the information Mrs Jones has sent out. Although the virus is still part of our lives and we must follow the guidance we have, it is my aim to make the transition back in to school as smooth and happy for your child as possible. I'm sure many of the children are nervous and know that you as parents will have worries and questions about how the year will run. We of course do not know what the full year will look like but taking one day at a time, my primary aim is to get your child safely and happily back in to school, to nurture them and look after their mental health and to begin teaching some fun and engaging lessons that will support them with re-engaging with school.

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. We will be undertaking some assessments to enable us to see what the children have retained from their previous years in school and to let us know what we need to teach this year. Homework, spellings, times tables, reading books etc will not be sent for a few weeks while we settle children in and assess them to see where they are academically. I will be sure to send further information when we are going to begin weekly spellings, homework etc. On the next page you will see an outline of our curriculum. At the moment, we are working on curriculum timetables up to October half term. As always, if anything changes or there are any new things you need to be aware of, we'll keep you informed. Please rest assured that the missed learning from last year will be constantly taken into account and the curriculum will be adjusted to reflect this whilst endeavouring to cover as much current content as possible.

SNACK.



Children are permitted 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

Friday is our PE day. Your child should wear their PE kit to come to school. PE lessons will take place outside in the Autumn term so please ensure your child is in appropriate clothing for the weather. 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.



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, particularly in the USA. New York is my all time favourite place on the planet!! 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!



Maths.



Your child will be taught maths twice each day. The first part of their day will consist of a session based on mental maths development. We will work on quick calculations, mental strategies and times table facts. As well as this, some of these sessions will be spent developing the children's reasoning and problem solving skills and strategies.

Their second maths lesson will cover all aspects of maths over the year including number and place value, the 4 operations, measurement, fractions, decimals, money, time, statistics and geometry.

This year, Year 4 pupils across the country 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 12×12 . 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 This year, we are continuing to 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 and writing activities based around the text. They will also be taught reading skills in small groups and will be taught discrete GPS lessons to ensure coverage of skills and to help us fill gaps from last year. 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.



Foundation subjects.

This year, topics will continue to be taught school wide and you will be able to see how their new learning this year builds on their learning from last year although the topic has the same title. This supports the children to see how their years in school are a continuation of each other and how their learning builds. Our first topic is entitled 'The Village' and will give us all the opportunity to learn more about where we live. Your child will be offered a broad curriculum including all subjects. Using the topic as a starting point, they will study History, Geography, Art, DT and Science. They will also study RE, Spanish, PSHE, Music, Computing and PE. They will have at least one outdoor learning session per week. **Our timetabled outdoor session is Monday.** Please ensure your child has wellies or alternative footwear with them. If the weather is poor, they may also bring waterproof trousers and of course a waterproof coat.



Behaviour

Our KS2 traffic light system for monitoring behaviour remains in place in Year 4. We of course understand that some children may find the transition back in to school challenging and we will do everything we can to support them with this. Clear rules, expectations, sanctions and rewards will be vital in helping your child to feel secure and to know what is expected of them at school. We also have extra safety measures to follow at this time so children following instructions and behaving well is of heightened importance. 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. You can check in with your child about their behaviour each day by asking them if they stayed on green. This will help you to keep in the loop with any low level misdemeanours your child may have been involved in. House points will be awarded for praise and reward.

