

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ENSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Mann

Oxford Road
Enstone
Chipping Norton
Oxon
OX7 4LP

Telephone: 01608 677268

Email: office.2103@enstone.oxon.sch.uk

www.enstone.oxon.sch.uk

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back after the summer holidays – I hope you are all ready for a busy new term.

EVENLODE CLASS

Evenlode is a Y4,5 and 6 class numbering 33 pupils. In the mornings, the class will be split into two groups. The Otters group will be taught by Mrs Walsh on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and by Mrs Mann on Thursday and Friday. The other morning group are called the Herons, and they will be taught by Mrs West on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Walsh on Thursday and Friday. The class will come back together in the afternoons and will be taught by Mrs West on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Mrs Walsh on Thursday and Friday. We will be supported throughout the week by Mrs Pearson, Mrs Slark, Mrs Lock and Mrs Matthias.

CURRICULUM

This term, we are studying a geography topic called: Why are rainforests important to us? The children will be developing an understanding of biomes, ecosystems and tropics, and mapping features of the Amazon rainforest and learning about its indigenous people. They will learn about how the Amazon is changing and how humans are having a negative impact on it and any action that can be taken to help. We will then look at how we use resources in our local area and how we can become more sustainable as a community. After half term we will begin a history topic called: What is the legacy of the ancient Greek civilisation? We will be investigating the city-states of Athens and Sparta to identify similarities and differences between them, learning about democracy and identifying the ancient Greeks' legacies and their impact.

PE

P.E. lessons will usually be on a **Tuesday and a Wednesday**; however, this could be subject to change so please ensure that your child has a full kit in school every day. The kit should include plain navy-blue school shorts, a school P.E. T-Shirt, navy tracksuit bottoms and a warm navy jumper or fleece. Trainers are also essential and



a spare pair of socks is also useful, particularly for girls who wear tights to school. Please remind your children that if they stay for a sports club after school and wear their P.E. kit home, they need to remember to bring it back in the next day. In Term 1, Years 4&5 and some Y6 children will be swimming on a Tuesday.

CLOAKROOMS

All children have a peg to hang their coats and P.E. bags on. Children need to bring their PE kit in the proper school PE kit bags and avoid large rucksacks or other types of bags. The children should also bring in proper school bookbags which can be put into their drawers so please make sure they are slim enough to fit in! Please ensure that your child brings their bookbag to school **every day** and that they have their reading book, reading journal/diary and homework folders inside it.

HOMEWORK

Spelling

Spelling homework will be collected in on a **Monday** to enable us to mark it before the last Spelling lesson of the week on Wednesday when new spelling homework will be set.

How could you help out at home with their spelling homework?

Ask them what their spelling rule is and what they have been learning about it in school. Initially, encourage your child to find words that fit the spelling rule. Try and devise ways to remember that rule for example a rhyme, rule or mnemonic. Then select words that your child is likely to find useful from the words that they have generated and find out what they mean. Put those words into sentences. Sometimes there will be a spelling investigation or worksheet supporting the week's objective. Some spelling rules will last for one week, others may spread over two or three weeks depending on how complex the pattern is. As well as spelling rules to learn, the children will also have personal spelling lists based on the Year 3&4 and Year 5&6 spelling lists. They will focus on learning approximately three words a week before being tested on these again, in Assessment week in Term 2.

MATHEMATICS

Maths homework may be a practical or written task. Your child should be able to complete this task with a minimum of support as it will be reinforcing the objectives covered in class or revising basic skills. These tasks should not usually take your child more than 30 minutes to complete. If they seem to be taking longer, please mention this, as it may be indicative of a problem that needs our attention. Similarly, if you find that a lot of input is required from you in order for your child to complete the homework, please let us know. Maths homework will be set on Wednesday and collected in on a Monday.

By Year 5 your child should be confident in recalling all times tables up to 12X12. If they cannot yet do this, it's time to get practising! They should also be proficient at telling the time using both analogue and digital clocks (including 24- hour digital time), so please help them to keep this skill sharp.



READING

Reading homework is to read at least four times a week and to record this in their Reading Diaries; this will include reading aloud to an adult at least once a week. This is a minimum requirement, and a lot of children will choose to do more - the more the better! It would be useful if the children could record the page numbers so that we can monitor how much they are reading. It is important that they gain some momentum with their reading by reading more than 2/3 pages at a time so they can really start to enjoy their books. It is most helpful for us if you sign your child's reading record and make any appropriate comments each time you hear them read. Reading records will be checked and signed weekly in school on a **Monday** morning. It is important that your child views this homework as being as important as any other work set, and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that reading at home is done and reading records are kept up to date. It is important that your child reads a varied "diet" of books and uses the time when reading to an adult to discuss the book, as the assessment of reading in Years 5&6 is not just judged on fluency but comprehension skills that can be developed through "book chat" with you.

In addition to these reads, we will provide a **reading response task** for them to complete weekly and Reading diaries will be checked each Monday. Please take the time to look at the Reading Diaries with your children as we have set the children some **reading targets** for the Autumn Term. These could be reading skills or habits that we would like them to work on and suggestions for new authors or genres for them to try. Please encourage your children to work on these targets so that they can be successful in achieving these objectives- thank you!

It is also important that your child does not put off doing homework until the evening before it is due in, so that if they have difficulties, they have time to discuss issues with us or seek extra clarification or help with a task. The children are encouraged to seek help independently from their class teacher and as they are given five or six days to complete most tasks, they will have plenty of time in which to do this. We are always happy to go through homework or clarify instructions or tasks. They can also be encouraged to go to Homework Club which is running on a Thursday lunchtime, where they can receive some assistance and support from the supervising teacher.

CLASS DOJO HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

This year, we are running a 'Dojo Challenge' to encourage and motivate the children to complete and hand in their homework. For each piece of homework that is handed in on time, the children will receive one point. A maximum of 4 points can be achieved every week, one each for reading, spelling, Literacy and maths. The points are accumulated on a 'Class Dojo' and the children will be able to see their points building each week. The reward for children achieving the target number of dojo points will be a treat afternoon just before the half term; we will discuss with the children what activities they may be interested in, and they can sign up to one of their choosing. After the half term break, the challenge will reset, and the children can start collecting points ready for the next treat afternoon.



We hope that you find this information helpful. If you need to speak to us about any concerns or queries, please feel free to email the school office to arrange an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S West *Mrs L Walsh*

Class Teachers

