

Welcome back. We have had a fabulous start to our new term and the children have settled into the school routine wonderfully and enjoyed sharing their summer holiday stories.

**Morning Work** The class doors are open at 8.30am. Each morning the children will be set an activity to complete, which you are more than welcome to stay and help with. These may range from maths to art. At 8.50am the class Teacher will call the children together to take the register and lunch requirements.

**End of School** - Class ends at 3.15pm. The Class Teacher will lead your class to the playground and dismiss children once they see their parent in the playground. If someone other than a parent is to collect your child please let the Class Teacher know at the beginning of the day as children will not be handed over unless we have your authority. If you allow your child to walk home please give written signed consent for this and hand to the class teacher.

**Reading Books** - We are in the process of assessing reading levels and will be sending a reading book home within the next week. Could we please ask parents **not** to help themselves to reading books as we prefer the Class Teacher/Teaching Assistants to make an appropriate selection and to monitor the children's progress. We will only issue a new reading book once the old one has been returned.

**Clothing** - Please could we ask you to label **all** of your child's clothing clearly to help them locate it when they are changing for PE and in case items get misplaced and end up in lost property.

**PE kits** - It would be very helpful if children could bring their PE kit (white t-shirt, blue shorts/tracksuit bottoms and trainers, for outdoor PE, in a bag) on a **Monday morning** and take it home again on Friday for washing. It is very important, from a health and safety aspect, that the children have the correct PE kit for these sessions. PE sessions this term will be Monday and Tuesday for all classes. Please can children also have clearly labelled drinks bottles.

**Forest Schools** - Please could we ask you to ensure your child has wellies/old shoes (clearly named and in a carrier bag) that you don't mind getting muddy and a raincoat on the day their class has forest school. Mr Whapham's class - Wednesday, Miss Gulliford's class - Thursday, Mrs Johnson's class - Friday.

**Homework** - Children should bring home a Homework sheet today with the task options for this term. We will also have weekly spelling and times table tests each week. These will be on a Friday. It would be helpful if you could help support your child with these tasks. Please see overleaf for an explanation of our times table challenge.

**Bronze Age Roundhouse experience - Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> September**

The children should have brought home a letter with details of the exciting day trips we have arranged at the Heatree Activity Centre, Manaton (near Dartmoor). Thank you to those of you who have already completed the consent and made your payments. This is a really exciting and unique experience and will provide the children with an insight into this era and inspire them in their work this term.

**Weekly letter distribution** - in our efforts to be more eco-friendly, with the exception of this week, all weekly letters will be emailed to parents/carers using the email addressed you have provided. If you have specifically requested paper copies these will be provided. All correspondence will also be put on the school website [www.ovschool.co.uk/parent](http://www.ovschool.co.uk/parent) information/years 3 and 4.

If you have any questions please do come and speak to us. Thank you for all your support with settling your child into the school routine this week. We hope you have a lovely weekend.

**Diary Dates (don't forget to check the school website, [www.ovschool.co.uk](http://www.ovschool.co.uk) for up to date information)**

Thur, 11<sup>th</sup> October - Friends of Orchard Vale - School Disco (more details to come)

Thur, 18<sup>th</sup> October - School photos (more details to come)

Fri, 19<sup>th</sup> October - Non Pupil Day

Mon, 22<sup>nd</sup> to Fri, 26<sup>th</sup> October - Half Term

PTO/...

## Times Tables Safari Challenge

Year 3 and 4 will be taking part in the 'Times Tables Safari Challenge' each week. They will begin by searching for a Flamingo (2 times tables) and will have a week in which to practise their animal's challenge.

On a Friday, they will be given a times tables test sheet based upon their current animal. It will include a range of mixed and out of order multiplications that the children must complete within 5 minutes in order to progress to the next animal and the next times table.

Children will be able to track their progress using the displays within class and can use these in order to find which times tables they must practise for the week. Parents are welcome to come and look at our new class displays based around this challenge and monitor your child's progress through this new programme.

One of our parents has kindly created an OV maths test website ([www.mathstest.org](http://www.mathstest.org)). If the children would like to practice at home using a tablet, laptop or computer they will need to access the safari section of the website and choose the animal they are currently being tested on.

Mr Whapham will be running a 5 minutes demonstration for any interested parents on **Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm in his classroom.** Please feel free to come along.

If you have any questions or queries regarding this please don't hesitate to talk to your class teacher.

Country	Times Tables	Challenge Information
Flamingo	2	5 minutes testing – children must answer all given questions within the time limit.  Each child will be given a passport. Once children have completed a animal times table, their passport will be stamped and they will move on in search of the next animal on the list.
Giraffe	10	
Toucan	5	
Pufferfish	Mixed 2, 10, 5	
Elephant	3	
Penguin	4	
Rhinoceros	Mixed 3, 4	
Tiger	8	
Hippopotamus	11	
Lion	Mixed 8, 11	
Orca	6	
Zebra	9	
Warthog	7	
Monkey	Random	

Miss Gulliford   Mrs Johnson   Mr Whapham