

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you have all had a restful Easter and are ready and eager to tackle to term ahead. As you all know, the children in Year 6 will be undertaking their SATs tests in May (Monday 13th – Thursday 16th May). Our first two weeks back will be focused around preparing the children for their SATs; helping them to feel as comfortable and at ease as they possibly can.

I want to take a moment to tell you all about how proud I am of all the children in Oak class. They have worked so hard this year and have made outstanding progress. These assessments will simply reinforce what they've learned and reflect their incredible efforts. I do not want any of them to feel disappointed if one of their tests doesn't go their way: we are all human after all and it will not change my pride in them. I wish them all the best of luck and have all my fingers crossed that they'll attain what they deserve. 😊

To support their spellings, I have invested in a programme called Spelling Shed (I do wish I'd found this resource earlier, however). All of the children have been provided with a username and password that can be used at home. Activities have already been assigned on it and it. Using it for only 10 minutes a day will be of great help. This will form part of their homework for the rest of the year as I am able to check who has been completing the assignments and can how each individual has been getting on. Regular weekly homework will be provided prior to the SATs but will become more topic based once the testing is over.

This term's topic will be 'Volcanoes'. Within this topic, we are going to explore the events that took place in Pompeii when Mount Vesuvius erupted. We will look at how we have been able to learn about ancient civilisations due to the remains left behind. This topic lends itself excellently to creative writing where the children will be able to apply their writing skills to a historical narrative. We will be consolidating their ability to use dialogue to advance plot and action as well as showcasing their use of figurative language when describing settings and characters. Within this topic, we will also be undertaking a variety of art activities as well as designing and constructing erupting volcanoes. In the final half term, we will be focussing much of our time on the Foundation subjects (science, history, geography as well as British Values). The hard work will certainly continue after May!

On the last day of term – Friday 12th July – the Oak children will be hosting their leavers' assembly. We will begin planning it together after SATs. I have already had some excellent suggestions from parents as to what they might like to see included within it so feel free to speak to me if you too have an idea. The children will take full ownership of the planning of their assembly. My main aim is for it to be something they'll remember forever as it certainly is the end of an era for them all.

To take advantage of any nice weather we may have, the children should have their PE kits in school at all times. I plan on doing plenty of PE in the summer term: this will include athletics-based activities, rounders as well as ultimate frisbee.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the support you've given both myself and the children this year. It is much appreciated and teaching your children has been a joy. I wish them all the best for the next phase in their lives and education.

Miss Parrott