



Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely getting to know your children and Miss Brine, Mrs Rumney and I wanted to thank you for giving them such a positive start to the year. We know that beginning a new term can be a little bit daunting, especially if it involves a class move, but the children are settling in well and are already learning their new routines. We have started the term by becoming Grand Designers and building our class charter together. This links closely to our first History topic: Ancient Greece. I appreciate how much information comes home at the start of term, so I have tried to summarise the most important things you will need to know to help support your child/children below.

Classroom Routines

- Please send your children in each day ready for learning with their coat, bookbag and water bottle. We would very much appreciate it if you could ensure that all items (especially jumpers) are named. A fruit snack will be provided for all year 2 children but please could you provide a healthy snack for the year 3 children to have a break time.
- We start each day at 8:30 AM with a morning work activity. Either Miss Brine or I will be on the door to welcome the children or working with individual children in class to support them with their interventions. It would really benefit the children to be in on time so they can join in with these activities and get themselves ready for the day.
- We change our Reading Books on Monday and Thursdays for the children who are still reading ULS books or are on White or Gold level. Once the children have reached Lime level, they are welcome to change their books as they finish them.
- PE will be on Monday afternoons for this half term only with Coach Luke.
- Mrs Rumney will be teaching the children on a Friday morning and the Doves will lucky enough to have their Forest School sessions on Friday afternoons this half term.
- We love finding out about your children's interests and have a Show and Tell session on the first day back after each holiday. We would welcome your child bringing in something special to show the others if they wish.

Reading

Sharing stories and discovering new authors is one of our favourite activities in Doves and supporting and encouraging your children to become more confident and independent readers is a key part of our curriculum. We are aiming to have heard all the children read by the end of next week so they can **take home their new reading book and reading record on Friday 12th September**. This will mark the start of this year's reading challenge. This year, the children will have a very special prize if they reach 250 nights of reading before Sunday 12th of July: a tea party with Mrs C-C.

As a reminder, if the children are still on the phonics reading scheme, they will need to read each book three times before they are changed. This helps to develop reading fluency and expression. After the phonics scheme, the children will move onto the colour banded books and these only need to be read once.

Phonics and Spellings

The year 2 children will be finishing their phonics curriculum this term and the year 3 children will be continuing their daily spelling lessons using our excellent spelling scheme: **SCODE** (<https://scodespelling.com/>). We found SCODE to be highly engaging last year, with the etymology lessons being a real highlight. However, we have made the decision that all the children in year 2 and 3 need to take home five of the first commonly used words to learn each week. To ensure we spend most time actually learning spelling rules rather than testing the children, every child will get the same words to learn – which means that some children will know all or most the words each week while others will not. The words will be coming home in a small book and this is where the children will be doing their tests. This will allow you to see how they have got on each week. I will be attaching a master list of all the words with this letter.

Times Tables

We have already started learning our times tables this year. This means that every child in Doves will have a daily times table lesson. The year 2s will be starting with their 10s then moving onto their 2s and 5s. The year 3s are starting with their 3s, 4s and then 8s. I have attached a copy of the booklets we use in school for your information and in case you wished to support your child with any additional practice at home.

Finally, I have attached a curriculum map for this term which outlines all the key learning objectives we will be covering. If you have any questions or an expertise, then please do let me know – we always warmly welcome visitors to Doves.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Vicky Gambier