



Dear Parents,

Thank you to those who came to our open classroom after school last Monday. Here's a few pieces of information following on from this and for those who couldn't make it.

Everyone has settled in really well to Foxes class and we've enjoyed beginning our new unit of work on Charlie and the Chocolate factory, using chocolate to inspire us in art and also to investigate solids, liquids and gases in science.

On Tuesday next week (17<sup>th</sup> September), we are taking part in a workshop with the River Ribble Trust. We will be outside all afternoon and will go down to the brook. Please could all children have their Forest School clothes in school to change into, including welly boots, a waterproof coat, either joggers or leggings to change into and an extra pair of socks. If they have waterproof trousers or suits, please bring these in too. If your child doesn't have welly boots, we do have some spare in school that we would like to recycle. Please let me know their size and we can find some for them.

All children now have reading books which should be coming home every day in their school bags. Please read with your child every day! It makes a huge difference to their education both now and in the future. Please feel free to write in their reading diaries but we also encourage the children to write in these themselves.

In their reading record books, there are logins for Times Tables Rockstars and Ed Shed. Year 4 will have the government Multiplication Tables Check in June. They will be tested on all the tables up to 12 x 12. 10 minutes on Times Tables Rockstars a few times a week is an easy way for both year groups to learn their tables and speed up their recall.

On Ed Shed, the children will find games to help them learn their spellings. Their new spellings will appear from Saturday each week and the children will be tested on Fridays. I will also send home a paper copy of the word list. Maths homework will also be on Ed Shed weekly.

Reading homework comes home in a book. This week there is an activity to design a bookmark based on Roald Dahl's books. After this first activity, the children will have 6 activities to choose from, only complete one each week! The activities are based on books and are a great opportunity to share books with your child. You can help them complete the tasks or let them do them independently but please talk about the books they have read, read with them and discuss their ideas as this helps them get the best out of their reading homework.

We're looking forward to many exciting events over the year. Here are some dates for your diary:

River Ribble Trust - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September - see above

Tree Planting - Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November pm

Geography Fieldtrip to Blackburn - date to be confirmed

Swimming - for 2 weeks beginning Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

Let's Go Sing concert in Blackpool - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2025

If you have any questions or if there is anything that you would like to discuss with us, please contact us on the emails below.

Thank you,

Mrs Riddell and Mrs Gow

[askmrsriddell@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:askmrsriddell@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

[head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@balderstone.lancs.sch.uk)

<b>Homework</b>	<b>How often?</b>	<b>Given out</b>	<b>Hand in</b>
Reading	Every day		
Reading homework	Once a week	Wednesday	By Tuesday
Maths homework	Once a week	Friday	Thursday
Spellings	New spellings each week	Saturday online	Friday test
Times Table Rock Stars	3 times a week		