

Autumn Term

Welcome to Class 1 and the beginning of what I hope will be a happy and enjoyable first year at school. The children have worked incredibly hard to learn the school routines and boundaries and they seem to have settled in beautifully. Thank you for your help with encouraging your child to say goodbye to you at the school gate in the morning and for your quick exit. If your child is happy to walk down to the classroom on their own from the main school gate, using the same path as most of the older children, then that is wonderful and should be encouraged. Mrs Bond or I are always waiting for them in the classroom, ready to help them sort out their belongings and help them to wash their hands. If your child would like for one of us to walk them down, then please just wait with them in the car park until we arrive. We will continue to support at the gate until I feel that all the children are confident to make the journey on their own. After that we will wait in the classroom for them. Every half term I will write a curriculum letter for you, so that you are able support your child with their learning at home. This curriculum letter can also be found on the school website. Once the permission slips have been correlated by our office staff, I will start putting photos onto our Class 1 webpage. I will include pictures of your children working, our displays and pieces of work that they have produced. Each half term our topic will change. This half term our topic is Colours.

Thank you for sending your child to school with a drink bottle each day. We do ask that your child's bottle is filled with water please. I would be grateful if you could ensure that their bottle, as well as all their clothing, is named please. I would also like to ask that your child has spare pants and socks in their P.E. bags in case they have a toileting accident. If your child doesn't have any at school, could you please send some in and we will pop them into their P.E. bags. Thank you.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Our focus this half term is helping your child to settle and feel happy in their new classroom. They will be taught the class and school routines, behavioural expectations and where places are around the school. Our class rules, which focus on caring behaviour and safety, are called our Golden Rules. The adults who work in the class will support children in their play and will encourage them to explore the new activities each day and to learn each other's names and build friendships. The children will be encouraged to look closely at the world around them and share feelings of wonder at the changes that take place in the natural world as the seasons change. They will be taught about the harvest, and we will reflect on the gift of God's bounty.

Literacy. Your child will be introduced to a number of phonemes (letter sounds) and they will bring home these letters in their book bags. They will play games and participate in activities that will help your child to develop their ability to hear the phonemes in simple 2

and 3 letter words. They will develop their fine motor control, ability to hold a pencil using the tripod grip and their letter formation. They will learn how to write their name and develop their ability to hear and generate rhyme. Reading books will be issued during the first week of next half term. Their phonics lessons will help to equip them with the skills that they need to succeed with their reading books. Those children who are ready will receive word box words which will allow them to practise the skill of blending to read. To encourage a love for stories and books, the children will be able to select a book from our library box. These are high quality fiction and nonfiction texts that should be read by an adult to your child. These are not reading books. This half term we will issue them every Thursday. After the half term holiday, we will issue them every Friday. Please can you ensure that your child brings this book to school on the designated day so that they can swap it for a new book.

Each half term we will have an author focus. Over the next few weeks, we will look at the work of David McKee; author of the Elmer books.

Numeracy. Your child will participate in a range of activities that will help to develop their sorting and classifying skills. They will practise counting and subitising in a range of contexts. Your child will be developing their ability to recognise the numerals to 10 and match them to a quantity. They will have the opportunity to use balancing scales and we will help them to develop their understanding of heavier and lighter. They will learn to identify, copy and create their own simple patterns. They will learn to identify and name simple 2D shapes.

Understanding the World. They will learn about the changes that happen when the season changes from summer to autumn. They will have the opportunity to explore fruit and vegetables and they will learn about where some of their food comes from. They will design and make their own baked apples (hopefully using apples from our school trees) and other fruit-based recipes. Your child will learn how to use the school's iPads and play some simple games. They will learn what is meant when we refer to 'technology'. They will also visit the local church.

Physical Development. Your child will participate in a range of activities that will help to develop their spatial awareness and gross and fine motor control. In P.E. they will play games that encourage turn taking and working cooperatively with others. Every Thursday we will have a specialist sports coach leading the session.

Creative Development. Your child will be learning how use sponges to print, scissors to cut paper and shapes to create collage pictures. They will learn how to paint self-portraits and how to wash out their brushes when changing colour. They will use glue and glitter and learn about the colour wheel. They will be encouraged to sing songs and rhymes.

Kind regards,

Mrs Davies

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Davies

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