



# Class 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new school year. This first term is always a busy one and all about ensuring that your child settles quickly and as well as they can. With all of the fun, learning experiences we have to explore I'm confident, that with your support, we will have an exciting yet fulfilling term ahead!

I have tried just putting down a bit of an overview to explain what we'll be doing throughout this Autumn Term. Our curriculum is different to any other class in the school but equally as important. We generally take our lead from the interests of the children, this is why we tend to have such a successful yet happy classroom! Your role in helping your child succeed and develop is crucial, so please if there is ever anything that you are unsure of please ask, the Home~School partnership we develop is so important. I look forward getting to know them *and* you over the coming weeks and thank you in advance for your support!

Yours Sincerely,

*Mrs Hanley*

## Reading books

Reading books are to go home every night. Listening to your child read regularly really enables them to progress, not only in reading but also other areas of Literacy. Please don't expect them to read full sentences but simply talk about the illustrations and predict the endings. These are key skills for children at this age. Please use [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk) to access additional books using a scheme called 'Bug Club'. Attached to this letter is your child's individual log in details to enable them to access this wonderful resource at home aimed at Reception up to Year 6 children. These online books can be shared or read to them. However, the children can 'earn' rewards by completing bug quizzes, enabling them to 'decorate' their clubhouse with stickers and trophies. This website is extremely beneficial and is used throughout the whole school.

**If you would like to learn more about Bug Club please stay for an informal chat/demonstration on Friday 11th straight after assembly at 3.15pm**



**Water bottles** - Please ensure bottles used in class have your child's name on and are taken home at the end of each day to be cleaned to avoid the spread of germs. Flavoured water and juice is not permitted.



**Outdoor Shoes** - If your child hasn't already done so could they please bring in some outdoor shoes; such as wellies to enable them to play out and on the field regardless of the weather.

**I am a broken record about this but here I go again... PLEASE help to avoid potential clothing mix ups by ensuring your child's name is on ALL of their clothing, P.E. kit, gym & outdoor shoes, jumpers, t shirts, everything!**



## Early Years Curriculum Overview

This year sees a new way of assessing the progress of children in the Early Years. To do this we have to do 'Baseline' Assessments within the first few weeks of this term, in order to see where their learning is at the start of the year to then compare it at the end of the year in July.

Basic literacy skills will be practised daily either as a whole group, in pairs or small groups. They have already brought home their first reading book, when they are ready for a new one, they are welcome to change it by asking Mrs Brydon or myself. We do Guided Reading sessions each week and this helps us to see the level of comprehension and use of clues to help them begin their reading journey. The children in Reception will shortly be bringing home their Phonics books. This is their homework, to practise saying, reading and writing the sounds we are focussing on that week. Each Friday we will do a sounds review, either in small groups or 1- to-1 to see how secure the children are with these sounds. It is crucial to their progress that these are reinforced at home.

Mathematics skills will be done daily. We try to ensure the basic concepts are grasped through lots of practical activities, in a real world context to help the children understand why we need such skills. This also lets them develop these skills outside of school.

All the other areas of learning will be addressed in the topics and themes that we will explore. So far from getting to know your children I'm getting a feel for their interests. These seem to range from traditional tales to superheroes, castles and seasons. Learning through play is a huge part of this age range and the children will experience this daily. Observations of their learning will be carried out by Mrs Brydon or myself. However, as children don't just learn at school please let us know if they impressed you with any aspects of learning at home and this can be documented on their learning profile. The observations and profile will be shared with you when we meet in November (see below).

Our gorgeous Little J's will also have access to the relevant learning areas for them to learn through play. Mrs Brydon and myself are their Key Workers and at points through the week we will sit and do adult directed activities with them to ensure age appropriate progression and development. They will sometimes join the Stay and Play session for the first 15 –20minutes each Wednesday. The Nursery children also require a PE kit, wellies and water bottles in school, all named please.

We feel really positive about the year ahead and to try and write down all we will be doing would be almost impossible. As ever, if you have any questions about your child please do not hesitate to contact us at the end of the day or via Mrs Cockburn, the School Secretary. In addition to this my morning yard duty day is Tuesday, so I will be out on the yard at 8.50am

### **Key Dates:**

**Week Beginning 9th November - Parents' Evening (appointments to follow)**

**Friday 11th December pm - Nativity performance**

