



Spring 1 Newsletter – Information for Parents Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
Class 1 TJ

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back to school – we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that the children have recharged their batteries ready for the new term!!

### Class Routines

Children are able to come into class and settle as soon as the door is open at 8.40; our daily routine begins at 8.50. All the nursery children now go straight into the Apple Tree Nursery classroom on arrival. They are looked after by Mrs O’Gorman and Mrs Gulliver where they can self-register and begin their activities. They then join the main classroom with reception and year one later in the morning. Nursery and Reception children continue to receive free milk if they are under five years old. If you wish to pay for your child to have milk, please register to pay online with the ‘cool milk’ scheme ([www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)). All children need a pair of wellies in school plus a water bottle. We are trying to encourage children to take home water bottles each Friday to be washed! Please bring a coat to school each day as we go out in all weathers. Nursery children, please wear old clothes you don’t mind getting dirty. We learn through play which often can be messy!

Our **PE** lessons continue to be on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Depending on the weather and activity, the sessions will take place either in our school hall or outside on the playground / school field. Please ensure that your child has both an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school **which is clearly labelled with their name.**

**Forest school** with Mr Houghton resumes after half term.

Our **topic** work this half term is ‘Whose footprints are these?’ Within this topic the children will be learning about dinosaurs. They will look at fossil evidence and imagine they are palaeontologists! They will try to create a class dinosaur too. As part of our history strand; ‘events beyond living memory’, the children will learn about the first aeroplane flights and who invented the aeroplane. They will look at events in flight history and the Wright brothers.

We are hoping to set the **role play** area up in the classroom as a travel agents. So any discarded travel brochures or books will be gratefully received!

In **Science** our focus is ‘Working like a scientist’. This includes asking simple questions, recognising that they can be answered in different ways, observing closely, using simple equipment and gathering and recording data to help in answering those questions.

Within this, the children will build on their previous work learning about animals. They will look at variation and sort and classify different animals. This also includes investigating things that were once alive, alive, or never alive. They will make observations of animals and explain why some

things occur. This includes looking at under the sea animals. We will also complete The Big Garden Birdwatch later in January.

In **English** the children continue to receive daily phonics work. Phase 5 shows the children the alternative ways of writing (graphemes) the sounds already learnt. For example, the sound ee can be written as ea as in meat, ie as in thief and with a letter in the middle as in theme.

This term the children in Year One will be introduced to plurals, adding s and es to words. They will also learn to add endings to words such as ing, - ed, - and er to verbs. For example; hunting, hunted, hunter, jumping, jumped, jumper. They will also add er and est to verbs such as in quicker, quickest. Digraphs and trigraphs continue to be taught according to phase 5. Spellings are weekly and will be related to phonics and tricky words. There is a continual focus on handwriting with each letter starting on the line so it can be more easily joined. The children will be learning how to correctly form and punctuate sentences within these sessions.

In addition, the children will cover some aspects of poetry, narratives, recounts and instructions, with work linked to the topics of dinosaurs and flight. This will include non-fiction texts.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will continue to develop their phonics work including listening, vocabulary and speaking skills. We have now started Phase 3 of Letters and Sounds with lots of practice at blending and reading CVC and CCVC words, such as in 'cat' or 'frog'. We are trying to encourage those children who are writing to write cursively and start their letters on the line with a 'whoosh' up to the start of the letter. Children are enjoying the new phonics reading books and are making good progress. Again, the texts in reception are linked to our class topic and if children want to bring story or non-fiction books in from home, they are very welcome.

Children in the nursery will join in with the topic carpet sessions in the main classroom but will then carry out their tasks and activities in the Apple Tree nursery room. The focus will be on the prime areas of the EYFS curriculum which are personal and social development, physical development and communication, language and literacy.

In **Maths, Year One** children will cover addition and subtraction within 20, moving onto place value within 50. They will use number lines and tens frames to help them calculate. They will add by counting on, find and make number bonds and subtract but not crossing 10. They will represent numbers to 50, and compare numbers within 50. They will count in 2s and count in 5s.

**EYFS** children have daily counting and number recognition. They use the numicon to order, count and add numbers. They will learn about 2D shapes and make shape pictures. There will continue to be opportunities for maths, from our outdoor environment and continuous provision for all year groups.

In **RE** the children are learning – Why is the word 'God' so important to Christians? They will learn about the story of creation and how we should be taking care of our precious earth.

### Homework

**Reception / Nursery** children will resume bringing their Learning Journeys home on a Friday, as they did before Christmas. Please feel free to add photographs or any drawings and writing etc. There is time each Monday morning for children to share them with friends and teachers. Reception children are currently having their reading books changed twice a week and daily reading at home is encouraged.

**Yr1** – In addition to reading at home, the children will receive weekly spellings to learn each Friday which will be tested the following Friday. They will continue to bring home their news diaries to record key words and drawings. This helps them to write their news on Monday morning. This may change from time to time depending on our topic and other literacy activities that we might be working towards.

## **Reading**

Reception children have lots of opportunities for reading during the day, from when they are playing in the role play area and writing area, to individual and group reading. Once the Reception children are able to blend and segment simple 3 letter words using the phonics taught in school, they bring home a reading book. Some children have read their books to Conker our visiting reading dog! Please continue to sign or initial in their reading record book when they have read to you. Letter sounds are regularly put into their phonics books to show at home. Thank you for your support with this.

Y1 children will be read with 1-1 each week as we have a lovely volunteer reader who comes into school every Monday. They will also participate in two guided reading session per week. The children will have their books changed Monday, Wednesday and Friday if appropriate after practising their book at home. Please continue to read at home and initial once your child has read to you.

## **Sharing Assembly**

Please come and join our sharing assembly every Friday at 3.45 to celebrate the children's achievements. As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss we are always available, please pop in!

Many Thanks,  
Mrs Jackson and the Class One Team 😊