



Autumn 2 Newsletter – Information for Parents Date: 1st November 2021

Class 1 TJ

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back to school – we are now on the countdown to Christmas!! We are all looking forward to rehearsing and then performing our Nativity play in December!

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 our new nursery children have settled very well into school, so well done to them! Nursery and Reception children continue to receive free milk if they are under five years old. Once they turn 5 and you wish for your child to have milk, please register online with the 'cool milk' scheme. All children need a pair of wellies in school plus a water bottle. Please bring a coat to school each day as we go out in all weathers.

Our PE lessons are on Tuesday afternoons. Depending on the weather and activity, the sessions will take place either on the school field (preferred option) or if it is VERY wet, in our school hall. Please ensure that your child has both an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school which is clearly labelled with their name. Trainers are preferable to black plimsolls outside as the grass is always wet!! Forest school with Mr Houghton will start after Christmas.

Our topic this half term is 'Land and Sea', (Near, far, wherever you are)! Within this, the children will also learn about animals. In Geography, we will study the seven continents and five oceans. We have set our role play area up as the ship Titanic, where children can go on imaginary journeys, write tickets, make maps and plans etc. In the outdoor provision the children have made a London Bus for their role play! In addition we shall focus on the continent of Africa, plus the animals that live there. There will be lots of opportunities for art and craft linked to the topics.

We are hoping to go on our school trip this term – details following soon!

In Science our focus is Animals. We will identify, describe and compare a variety of common animals including, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals including pets. We shall identify and name animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

In English we will be focusing on our phonics work. The Year 1 children are finishing learning the sounds in Phase 3 and will then begin phase 5 of letters and sounds. They have been given a phonics book to practice these sounds at home as they need to be applying them in their writing when spelling tricky words. Phase 5 sees the introduction of 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. The children will be learning how to correctly form and punctuate sentences within these sessions. We are encouraging year 1 children to try writing cursively once they have correct letter formation.

In addition, the children will cover some aspects of poetry, narratives, recounts and instructions, as well as work linked to Christmas. Texts will be linked to our topic of Land and sea, plus Animals. 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. For nursery this includes listening walks, action songs, learning rhymes and playing games such as I spy. Reception children have started phase 2 of Letters and Sounds and are trying hard to blend and segment sounds learnt so far. They also have a phonics book which new sounds are added to regularly. Once children can read and blend simple 3 letter words, they can begin to bring home a reading book.

Our texts for this half term will include non-fiction texts about the Titanic, Nativity stories, African themed stories such as Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain, Handa's Surprise, Lion Hunt, Mama Panya's Pancakes, A is for Africa, plus non fiction animal books. Topic based texts will be used as a stimulus for writing.

In Maths EYFS children will start with lots of counting, subitising and number recognition before moving onto addition later in the half term if appropriate. Subitising is all about recognising patterns in number. Knowing that there are 3 or 5 items etc without having to count them. They will also cover work on shape. There will be opportunities for maths, from our outdoor environment and continuous provision for all year groups. Year One children's main content this half term will be addition and subtraction using the part whole model as well as place value. This includes missing number problems.

In RE the children are learning – Which times are special and why? They will learn about times that are special in different religions. Festivals focused on in this unit plan are Christmas, Diwali and Sukkot/Sukkoth.

Homework

Reception children will continue to have new sounds added to their phonics books which should be practised regularly. Our Parent Share option on Evidence Me allows you to see observations carried out on your child. Once children are blending and reading simple 3 letter words, reading books will follow.

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 now bring home a weekend diary in which to record their activities and achievements over the weekend. This could be a picture of what they have been doing with some key words or photographs. They can then use this to help them write a sentence about their weekend, each Monday morning as soon as they come into school.

Reading

Once Reception children begin reading, they will be read with 1:1 each week. Please sign or initial in their reading record book when they have read to you.

Y1 children will be read with 1-1 each week. They will also participate in one guided reading session per week. The children will have their books changed twice a week if appropriate after practising their book at home. Please initial once your child has read to you.

In PSHCE, the children will be thinking about the question 'Who is special to us'? This covers people who care for us; groups we belong to; families. The EYFS children will be learning about keeping clean and healthy.

Sharing Assembly

Please come and join our sharing assembly, either in person or via zoom depending on circumstances - every Friday at 2.45pm 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 ☺