



Spring 1 Newsletter – Information for Parents Date: 5th January 2022

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 may come into class from 8.40 but 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 Warriner and Mrs Turner 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). All children need a pair of wellies in school plus a water bottle. We encourage children to take home water bottles each day 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! However you are more than welcome to purchase a school jumper if you wish.

Our PE lessons continue to be on Tuesday 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 this term and will be on Thursday afternoon. Please bring jogging bottoms and ensure your child has wellies in school. We will provide outer waterproof trousers. Children will need to bring a warm coat too as we are outside all afternoon.

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. We are hoping to set the role play area up in the classroom as a museum.

As part of our history strand; 'events beyond living memory', the children will learn about George Stephenson and the invention of the steam train. They will look at how trains have changed over time.

In Science our focus is 'materials'. We will 'identify and name a variety of everyday materials including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock. We will distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made. We will describe the simple properties of a variety of everyday materials, as well as compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. 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 (for Year One) 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'. Nursery children will have daily Phase 1 phonics games where they will learn to distinguish and say phonemes correctly. Their focus will be on the prime areas of the EYFS curriculum which are personal and social development, physical development and communication, language and literacy. The texts in reception will be linked to our class topic and if children want to bring story or non-fiction books in from home, they are very welcome.

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 with a focus on subitising. They use the numicon and counters 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 – What do Christians believe God is like?

Homework

Reception children are currently having their reading books changed once or twice a week and daily reading at home is encouraged. This term they will take part in group guided reading too. Yr1 – In addition to reading at home, the children will receive weekly spellings to learn each Friday which will be tested the following Friday. Y1 children will be read with 1-1 each week. They will

also participate in two guided reading sessions per week. The children will have their books changed twice a week if appropriate, after practising their book at home. Please continue to read at home and initial once your child has read to you.

Reading

Children should be aiming to read about 3/4 times a week at home, those children who do read at home generally make better reading progress than those who don't. A member of staff will usually acknowledge children have read at home by initialling or writing a comment.

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. 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.

Sharing Assembly

Please come and join our sharing assembly every Friday at 2.45, (either by zoom or in person, depending on the circumstances), 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 ☺