

Apple Tree Nursery



Class 1 Newsletter
Autumn Term One 2022



Dear Parents

Welcome back to school – it has been lovely to see everyone after the long summer holiday. What lovely weather we had! A very warm welcome to all our new pupils and parents - we are very much looking forward to working with you. The children have already enjoyed investigating their new classroom layout and outdoor area.

The title of our **Topic** for this half term is '**Ourselves**' and '**Home Sweet Home**'. Within this topic the children will investigate the local area and where they live. They will use Ariel photographs and maps, plus learn how to make their own simple maps and symbols. They will then look at a contrasting non-EU country and make comparisons.

In addition to this, the reception and nursery children will be immersed in language and story-telling through our 'Traditional Tales' topic. There will be lots of opportunities for role play and using the children's interests as a stimulus.

Little Wandle – Phonics / Reading.

Our school has adopted a new systematic, synthetic phonics programme (SSP) called 'Little Wandle' to teach early reading and spelling.

Each Thursday/Friday your child will bring home a new Little Wandle book which they will have previously read at school and will therefore be familiar with the text. Your child should be able to read their book without any help, but if they cannot read a word, please do support them. The books will be collected in on the Monday ready to start a new Little Wandle book. Please can you record in your child's reading record when they have read at home to let us know how they have done. In addition, your child will bring home another reading book for pleasure to share with you.

We have an 'Early Literacy, Little Wandle Evening' for parents planned for later this half term to explain further how our phonics and reading scheme works.

In **English** we will be focusing on our phonics work using our new Little Wandle scheme.

The Year 1 children will start with a thorough re-cap of phase 3 and phase 4 sounds and tricky words, before moving onto phase 5. There is still lots of work to do on our phase 3 sounds and it is very important your child practices these regularly at home. 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.

Alongside their daily Little Wandle phonics sessions, children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will take part in activities and games to develop their listening, vocabulary and speaking skills. This will include listening walks, action songs, learning rhymes and playing games such as I spy. We will then begin learning 'sounds' with lots of blending practise.

Our texts for this half term will include The Colour Monster goes to school, Funny Bones and Pete the Cat. We will then use more topic-based texts as a stimulus for writing.

In **Maths** we will start with lots of number recognition and place value work before moving onto addition later in the half term. There will be opportunities for maths, from our outdoor environment and continuous provision for all year groups.

In **Science** we will be looking at Seasonal Patterns and Change. Children will observe changes across the 4 seasons, as well as observe and describe the weather associated with the seasons and how the day length varies.

In **RE** children will think about what it means to belong to a faith community. They will learn about the ways babies are welcomed into religions and the promises made at weddings. They will think about their own network of belonging and how we all belong to someone. In **PSHE** children will learn about families and friendships and safe relationships.

Our **PE** lessons will 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 is on Thursday afternoon this half term. Children will need Wellies and some old jogging bottoms or similar. Their school jumper on top is fine. They will need a coat.

Homework

Reception / Nursery

At Husthwaite we are continuing to use Evidence Me to capture the children's learning. Photos and information are uploaded and will be regularly sent out to parents. We would like parents to contribute to their child's portfolio with any home learning too. Children will bring home sheets with the sounds they have learnt for that particular week, which they need to practice at home. Reading books will follow for **Reception** children as we progress through the phonics scheme. Please could you sign or initial in their reading record book when they have read to you.

Yr1 – In addition to reading at home, the children will receive weekly spellings to learn each Friday which will then be tested the following Friday. They will also bring home a news diary in which to record their activities and achievements. This could be a simple picture of what they have been doing with some key words or photographs. They can then use this to help them write during their 'Early Bird' session on Monday morning.

Notes - Please can children bring a pair of wellies to school to use in the outdoor area. We go out in all weathers and like to get muddy playing in the new mud kitchen and water area!!! For this reason, children need to bring a **coat** each day.

Sharing Assembly

Please join our sharing assembly every Friday to celebrate the children's achievements. Details of times etc will follow. As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss we are always available, please pop in or message us via Dojo.

Many Thanks, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Carass and Mrs Mulligan. ☐