

Welcome to Class One 2021-22!



Our routines

Children enter the school building through the blue door where they will hang up their coats and bags, take their snacks and books out of their bags and go through to the 'middle room'. Children will find their name to complete 'self-registration' and put their snack on the table. Once in the main classroom, children put their Reading Record books and reading books in the basket and go and explore the activities in provision. At 9am we come to sit on the carpet together to begin our 'morning routines' - the register, lunches, our calendar and the weather. If it is someone's birthday we will also use this time to sing to them and wish them a happy birthday! After registration we will start getting busying with our morning lessons; most days we have Maths, Phonics and literacy in the morning, with the exception of Monday when the children are taught Music and RE/PSHEE. We have snack and story time either just before or just after our morning playtime. We aim to get outside in most weather types, so please make sure your child brings a coat to school every day!

Adults in Class One

The children in Class One are very lucky to have lots of adults working with them throughout the week. Ms Perez and Miss Demery will be with the children on a Monday morning for Music, followed by Mrs Cook and Mrs Carruthers for RE/PSHEE (usually done on alternate weeks) then for the rest of Monday, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cook will be teaching. On a Tuesday the children will be with Mrs Phillips and Mrs Cook for most of the day, but will also have some time with Mrs Taylor (who joins Mrs Cook for PE) and Mrs Lewis in the afternoon. On a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Mrs King will be the main teacher in Class One, joined by Mrs Lewis in the mornings and Mrs Carruthers in the afternoons.

Days to remember

Monday is Class One's Forest School day, so children need to come to school in their PE kit. They will also need wellies and waterproofs (these can be kept in school for the half term). Please make sure that all items of children's clothes are named. Tuesday is Class One's PE day so, again, children need to come to school in their PE kit. On Fridays, the children are sent home with a 'sharing book' from our class library. This is for you to keep at home and read to/with your child. Please return library books every Friday so that children can change them.

Our Curriculum

Our topic this term is 'I'm an Achiever! We've already spent time exploring our classroom, getting to know one another and (for the new Reception children) finding our way around the school. There are some lovely photos of our first few days in Class One on Google Classroom so please take a look.

Teaching and learning is thematic based whenever possible, but some subjects such as PE, RE, PSHEE and Music are taught separately (making links to the overall theme wherever we can). We encourage the children to follow their own ideas and interests and plan around this; there are plenty of activities in provision for children to explore their own ideas as well as ones linked to our theme. We also ensure we learn about 'predictable interests' such as Harvest, Autumn, Remembrance Day etc.

For the first half of this term's theme 'I'm an Achiever', we will be learning more about ourselves and our families in History (learning about changes in living memory) and our Science topic is Humans (we will learn about our basic body parts and how they are similar and different to other people's as well as linking them to the senses). We will link all this to our Art and DT work, learning about the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo and using his work as inspiration for making our own food faces! In Computing we will be learning basic skills such as logging on and navigating around simple programmes; the computing work will also be linked to other subject areas.

In Literacy we will be writing lists, labels and captions to begin with (using the story 'The search for the Perfect Child' by Jan Fearnley), moving on to looking at stories by the same author, using 'The Large Family' stories by Jill Murphy. In addition to this, we will look at poems about Autumn. Children have daily Phonics lessons; year 1 will be covering Phase 5 this year and reception children will begin Phase 2 this half term. In Maths, Year 1 children will follow White Rose Maths and cover Place Value (within 10 and then 20), Addition and

Subtraction (within 10) and Shape. Reception children will be learning all about numbers up to 10 as well as exploring basic shapes.

I will keep you updated via Google Classroom by posting pictures and short messages of what we have been doing. I will also post links to websites, songs and other resources we have used in school so that you can support your child's learning at home.

Supporting your child at home...

Reading

Your children have already come home with a reading book and Reading Record book (books with no text initially for Reception children). We will hear children read throughout the week but it's also important that you listen to your own children read every day. Just 5 minutes is enough - don't feel that you need to finish the book. Children can change their books when they have finished them but if they want to reread a book before changing to build fluency and ensure they've understood the story well, that's great too! Talking about the text and pictures is just (if not more) important than decoding. We will also have a weekly 'sharing' library book which children can bring back to school and change every Friday. Reading picture books to your children and talking about them is incredibly important. Above all, we want children to enjoy reading!

Maths

All children need lots and lots of counting practise. In the first term, children in Reception will be getting to grips with everything to do with numbers 0-10 then they will move on to 11-20. In Year 1 the children will be practising counting up to 50 and then 100 forwards and backwards as well as counting on and back in multiples of 2. You really can't do enough counting! Do it when you're walking, count things in picture books, look for numbers in the environment. Pupils have access to Purple Mash in school where there are lots of maths games to enjoy too!

Homework

Over the coming weeks, children in Reception will bring home a phonics book with the new sounds they are learning - please practise these at home. Phonics books need to be brought back into school every day so that new sounds can be added. In Year 1, children will have a homework book with new words to learn to spell and a Maths activity to complete each week. Homework books will go home on a Friday and will need to be back in school the following Thursday. In addition to this we will send home high frequency words and 'tricky words' for all children to practise. Learning these has a high impact on children's progress.

Please check Google Classroom as homework will be posted there every week. We will also post other information such as photos of our week and make request, e.g. for junk modelling materials!

Communication

If you have any questions or need to let me know something please do not hesitate to email me or write a quick message in your child's reading record.

Dates for your diary

I would like to invite the parents of Reception children to a learning morning on Friday 24th September at 9am. I will be talking to you about how we teach Phonics and early reading. Further details will be on the school's weekly newsletter.

We are planning a trip to Williamson's Park on 30th September. The children will take part in an orienteering activity and an Autumn walk. More details will be sent out soon.

Many thanks,

Mrs King and the Class One team!