



Class 1 Newsletter

Autumn, 2023

Mrs Clark

Welcome to our first term of the school year! We hope you have had a lovely summer break and it has been a joy to meet all the children of Class 1 both new and old!

This half-term our topic is the work of author Julia Donaldson. Next half-term, we will be focusing on the stories of Quentin Blake. Children will be exploring their new classroom environment; the outdoor area is open regularly and children have free-flow access to both areas.

Mrs Clark and the EYFS team!

Notes

1. All children will have access to water and outdoor play, including in our digging area next to the mud kitchen. Therefore, please can all children have a change of clothes and wellies in school each day (they are able to stay in school if this helps, so your child is not bringing lots of bags each day). We do have some spare clothes, however the children are encouraged to use aprons as water and mud can get everywhere!
2. Seesaw, our online learning portfolio platform, is up and running and you should have received your child's QR code; please let me know if you have not received this. We are excited to share with you the great learning that your child is completing and please do share with us any achievements away from school. Seesaw also has a chat facility should you wish to message me directly.
3. PE will be on a Monday for Reception children. Please send your child to school in their PE kit on this day. Nursery children will have an opportunity to develop their gross motor skills with some dedicated time on the main playground and on the trim trail.

Maths

Reception children will be following the White Rose Maths scheme using activities, manipulatives and hands on experiences to learn a range of skills and knowledge in many mathematical areas. This half-term, Reception children will be learning about comparing and matching and making simple patterns. We will explore the composition of number to 5, exploring one less/one more and developing our subitising skills (recognising amounts without the need to count – think dice!).

Nursery children will be exploring colour, size and shape. Matching and sorting activities will be undertaken and all will be taught with the support of stories, songs and familiar rhymes alongside the maths provision based within the classroom.

Finger Gym

Our 'finger gym' allows children to strengthen their fingers using a variety of activities (bead threading, using elastic bands) and are all in preparation for writing. There will also be opportunities for children to practise their mark-making skills through tracing, copying patterns and creating marks with and in a range of materials.

Music

Children will have a weekly music lesson with our visiting teacher Mrs Rooke. Children will get the opportunity to play instruments, sing songs whilst learning about pitch, rhythm and beats. We also have a dedicated music case in the classroom with instruments and books about different dance styles to look through. You will often find nursery rhymes playing in the classroom. These are great introductions to rhyme and repetition; these skills help children to develop their reading skills.

Phonics & Reading

Our phonics sessions have started this week using the whole-school scheme of Read, Write Inc.

Reception children will begin to learn new sounds whilst also recapping sounds already learnt. We will begin to write sounds and develop our oral blending skills. Some children will begin to use these skills to segment for writing and blending for reading. Shortly, your child will be bringing home a phonics home-learning pack. Within this, there will be sound cards applicable to the sounds your child knows and has learnt, along with some phonic activity suggestions and writing paper/pencil. There will also be a phonics workshop for parents in the coming weeks for you to ask any questions that you may have.

Your child will be given reading books as they start the scheme. Initially these may be wordless books and then, as your child develops their blending skills, word books will be provided. It would be beneficial to read these at home with your child as much as possible.

Reading and stories is a key part of our learning environment. We have a book of the week as a focus text and our 'Reading Garden' provides children with a dedicated area for reading. There are also books throughout the different areas of provision for children to peruse at their leisure! The more books children read the better!

