



Class One Welcome: Autumn 2023

Hello and either a very warm welcome to Class 1 or welcome back!

We hope you have had a fantastic Summer and we are really excited about the year ahead. It has been so lovely this week to see all the children and to see them settle happily into class. A great big well done to all those Foundation children and parents who have joined us this week, it is such a big and emotional milestone to see you child start school! They have had a wonderful few days and have done exceptionally well at settling in.

In our class this year we are lucky enough to once again have Miss Lucy Chesworth again as our Teaching Assistant. In the mornings we will be joined by Miss Tamara D' Silva, who the children will remember from last year, when she joined us as a student. This time she will be back as a member of staff, after spending the Summer term over at Lamerton. We are delighted she is joining us. Ms Cathy Dalton and our wonderful cook Lucie joins us at lunchtimes each day as well.

You will find attached a Curriculum Overview of what we shall be covering this half term. I have also included a list of the 'tricky words' that we will be covering in Years 1 and 2 this term. It is really helpful if you can practise these with your children. As some of you will be aware, we use Class Dojos as our classroom rewards, where children collect points for either good learning behaviours, kindness, being helpful, or trying their best. In Class 1 I also will choose a Star of the Day, and that child can bring something in the next day to show the class and talk about.

Please could we ask that PE kits be brought into school for Years 1 and 2. PE will begin next week. This should consist of a white t shirt, navy/black shorts or jogging bottoms and plimsolls or ideally, trainers. We will do PE outside for as much as we are able to, weather permitting. Could Foundation children come to school wearing their PE kit please each Thursday. We will do more PE sessions throughout the week but they will not need to get changed for these. If Foundation parents could please also bring a pair of wellingtons into school for us to have here at all times, so that the children can enjoy their outdoor



learning whatever the weather! Thank you. Years 1 and 2 we will give you prior warning when we are having forest school!

Spellings homework for Years 1 and 2 will be set weekly and will be in their reading and homework journal. Reading will be our big focus this year. The expectation for reading and it being recorded in their reading journals is a minimum of 3 times a week, and I cannot stress enough what a difference it makes to your child if you can read at home with them frequently. It builds their confidence first and foremost, and then their fluency and ability follows. Foundation parents; we will begin to send reading books home shortly and all will be explained about our phonics and reading scheme before then at our Reading Workshop for new parents (date TBC).

My PPA (preparation, planning and assessment time) will be on a Monday afternoon this term, and so Miss Chesworth and Mrs Tamsin Mammatt (intervention and PPA teacher) will cover the class on those days. On the odd occasions where I am on a course or attending meetings, Miss Chesworth will always be in, so that the children have a familiar face.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. You can email the office or speak to me and I can then arrange a time to have a conversation as it can be difficult first thing or at home time when seeing the children out!

Here's to a busy and happy Autumn term!

Mrs Ashley Dorrington

