

Dear Parents

We are pleased to welcome you and your child to Class 1 and look forward to getting to know you. It is hoped that this letter will address many of the questions that you might have.

### **Adults working in Class 1**

Mrs Whitehead works on Monday and Tuesday each week whilst Miss Wilde will be in school Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. We are supported everyday by Mrs Evans and Mrs Case. They also cover Wednesday afternoons and wherever possible, and to ensure continuity, they will also cover the class if either teacher is absent due to a course or meeting.

### **Show and Tell**

Children should not bring in things from home to 'show' the class. We appreciate however that they often have special things that they wish to tell everybody about and this can be done during scrapbook time which will be on Wednesdays.

### **Link Book**

Each child has a Home/School Link book which will be checked each morning. The book is intended for brief messages between school and home, for example for you to notify us of a child being collected early, or for us to inform you we loaned spare clothing or their water bottle was forgotten.

### **Wordless Reading Books**

These are a wonderful introduction to books as the emphasis is not on reading words but instead provides an opportunity to talk about the illustrations, your child can retell the story in their own words, predict what might happen next and of course secure basic book handling skills such as reading the left page and then the right hand page and holding the book the correct way up! Inside the front cover of each book are handy hints on how to use the book with your child. We suggest you keep a wordless book until your child gains confidence with its familiarity and can retell the story fluently. Please let us know via the Link Book when you are ready to change it.

### **Reading Diary**

Each child has a yellow reading record. We encourage 5-10 minutes of daily reading at home for Reception aged children. Please can you use the reading record to record the date the book was read and its title. For wordless books can you also provide a quick note about how your child is coping with the book handling, their use of imagination to tell the story and anything notable that was said or discussed. When your child starts reading books with words in it would be helpful if you could include a brief comment of how they managed it, e.g. John needed a lot of support to sound out the words. He relied on the picture clues. Jane read the book with ease and could answer questions about it. A book with words should only be changed when it can be read fluently, i.e. with speed AND accuracy. **When your child is ready to change the book please put a note in the Link Book.**

**Sound cards**

At the end of 2 or 3 weeks in school, you will find some key sound cards in your child's wallet. These are the sounds they are learning in their phonics lessons at school and it would be appreciated if they could be checked several times during the week, so eventually they can be recalled instantly.

**Key words**

After your child has been in Class 1 for half a term, we start to send home the 100 High Frequency Words. We will let you know of any words that need to be learned and these will be sent home a few at a time on a keyring. We will check progress weekly but would like to reassure you that there is no 'normal' timescale in which we would expect all 100 words to be learned. Ideally this will be by the end of Year 1 so there is plenty of time!

**Home Learning**

We would expect children to read their school reading book daily and practise reading any high frequency words or sounds. Occasionally we will send home activities that we feel will either consolidate something we have learned in school or provide a good foundation for some future learning. Your co-operation with helping your child complete these activities would be appreciated.

**Morning Snack and Water**

In Class 1 we participate in the free fruit and milk scheme so you do not need to send in a morning snack. If your child has an allergy or intolerance to cow's milk or a particular fruit/vegetable, please let us know if you have not already done so. Please also remember to send in your child's filled water bottle each day. This will be kept on their table throughout the day and can be refilled as necessary.

**Outdoor Learning**

Government guidance encourages us to take the children outdoors as much time as possible. Therefore, please send in a cheap pair of wellies and some spare socks that can be kept in school permanently. If they could be held together with a named clothes peg, that would be very helpful.

**PE**

Class 1 will generally have PE on Monday afternoons (Year 1 and 2) and Wednesday afternoons (whole class) but we may have the odd impromptu session. Please send PE kit in on Monday and we will send it home on Friday. It would be useful if you could also pop in a spare pair of pants in case of any 'accidents.'

**Finally**, can you please name everything so that we can ensure lost items are reunited with the correct person!

Kind Regards

Helen Whitehead and Nadine Wilde