



Autumn Term Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parent,

This newsletter is intended to provide you with information about what your child will be learning during this term as well as provide you with some updates about new elements to our teaching this year. The main focus for the term has been settling in all children to their class and new year groups, establishing routines and ensuring basic skills have been recalled after the summer holidays!

Staffing

We are incredibly lucky that our staffing remains very stable so there will only be a few adjustments this term. Some of you may have noticed that Julie Coldwell, one of our TA's, has been absent.

Unfortunately Julie has been seriously ill and whilst she is now out of hospital, we are not expecting her to return to school for a while. We wish her all the best and miss her terribly.

Unfortunately, we are having to say goodbye to Jackie Brear who runs After School Club on Thursdays and Fridays. She is extremely sad to be leaving as she has been a great asset to our team. However, her post is being filled by Jo Beavers, our school cook who started After School Club in the first place so it will be a smooth transition.

Finally, we are in the process of advertising for a highly experienced Foundation Stage Teaching Assistant to further enhance our class one team. This post will begin at Christmas.

Building Extension

For some time now, the Governors and I have been trying to have an extension built onto Class 1 and have additional toilets and cloakroom space. For many reasons, (nearly all political!!) we have met resistance. However, during the last few days plans have been drawn up to enable this to happen so fingers crossed!!

PE

After half a term of trialling wearing PE kit to school we have decided to continue with it as it has been this half term. Thursdays will continue as PE days. The only change to this will be when the children take part in PE festivals and competitions. In this instance, we will text you to let you know that your child will need their PE kit. Here is a list of fixtures up until the end of term:

Wednesday 18th October: Cross Country KS2

(Children taking part are **Jenson, Cian, Dexter, Emily K, Evie, Eirian, Ashley, Ethan, Michael, Emily S, Lucia, Jacob, Matthew, Millie and Coral**)

Tuesday 31st October: Change for life festival: Y3/4

Tuesday 14th November: Indoor Athletics Y5/6

Clubs & Trips

I am really aware that we have not yet organised any after school clubs. Please rest assured that we are in the process of doing this. Similarly the only trip we have organised so far is the Pumpkin Patch. This is because the topics we have taught have not leant themselves to visiting anywhere. We will be looking for opportunities after half term. The children did enjoy the 'Pobble' writing workshop however. We are hoping to publish some of Class 2's harvest poems online this week.

I have organised for us to partake in a live First Aid event on Friday 3rd November. The 20 minute live broadcast will help children understand how to manage situations such as mild burns, cuts and what to do if someone collapses. Not only is it sensible that children understand what to do but it is part of our

curriculum. Later in the year, children in class 2 will be having a first aid workshop which will give them a first aid certificate.

Homework

Thank you for all your efforts in helping your child with their reading homework. It really does make a difference. Mr Wynne and Mrs Gill are delighted by the improvements in Class 2's reading stamina. Please continue to help us with this. Engagement with books remains a focus for the year with both classes enjoying being read to every day and Mrs Gill hosts a book club each month.

| | | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--|---|----------|
| Class 1 | Change reading books | Mon-Wed-Fri | Spellings Spellings/tables alternate weeks | Tuesdays |
| Class 2 | | Every day / collect reading record books Wednesday | | Mondays |

Foundation Stage

Feedback so far is that you are enjoying seeing the pictures we post on 'Tapestry'. From half term however, the number of photos will slightly reduce as our aim is to capture key moments in your child's development. Thank you to everyone who is already contributing as it is an invaluable source of evidence from you, who knows your child best.

Please come along to our 'Play & Stay' session if you are able to on 30th November 9-10.30am. It is a lovely opportunity to spend some time with your child in their class setting.

What is your child learning about during the Autumn Term?

As usual, we asked the children what they would like to learn about and they provided a very comprehensive list! We have used their ideas as well as statutory information to produce this year's topics. We are also trialling an idea from the Finnish education system where children have time to work on their own projects. Therefore, during this week, children will be working independently on their own work with staff around to support and guide. They will then present their work to a friend before evaluating how they got on in preparation for next term.

| Subject Area/ Topic | Class 1 | Class 2 |
|---|--|---|
| Topic: | Co-operation, I am special, Hibernating animals, Bonfire Night, London | Co-operation, Do all animals come from an egg? Harvest, Bullying, A European Country, |
| Science | Animals and humans | Animals and humans |
| Personal Social Health Citizenship Education | I am special, co-operation, Bullying | Co-operation, Bullying |
| Languages | - | French |
| Religious Education | Why does Christmas matter to Christians? | Why does Christmas matter to Christians? |
| PE | Dance, games | Dance, cross country, striking & fielding |
| Literacy | Creative writing, fact file and poetry | Creative writing, Report writing. Harvest Poem |
| Music | Composition | Instruments of the orchestra |
| Design & Technology | Structures, baking | Christmas Cards, baking, Christmas craft |
| ICT | Programming | Word Processing |

We will also be having a Maths day, Children in Need and a Safer Internet day during next half term. If you have any ideas for visitors or trips based on our topics, please let us know.

Thank you.