

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Class One. We hope you all had a really good summer.

In Year One the children will be following a creative curriculum. The topics will provide an interesting and hands on stimulus through which your child can learn. This half term, following a short introduction topic on Barnaby Bear and his travels, we will begin our Under the Sea topic in Week 3. The final week of this half term will be the first of four 'Nature Detectives' weeks that will take place over the course of the year. After half term, our topics will be 'Celebrations' followed by 'Silent Night'. Most curriculum subjects will be covered within topic sessions, with the exception of Maths, and some of the PE, RE and Music.

We will put a copy of our topic web and timetable on the class blog at the start of each new topic so you can find out more about what your child will be learning.

Reading and Phonics

The teaching of reading is a combined effort between child, teacher, parents and TAs. All children participate in Guided Reading sessions each week and it is hoped that they will be heard individually at least once a week either by a teacher, TA or by our valued parent helpers.

As soon as reading levels have been assessed your child will be given new books each Thursday or Friday. Please encourage your child to read for a few minutes each night at home, daily practice is better than reading a whole book in one go. When you listen to your child read, please comment and sign their reading record as this provides us with the information we need to effectively assess their reading. Please note that we will change books weekly, so if your child has finished their selection of books before Thursday we would encourage them to read their own books or library books to gain wider reading experience. These books can also be recorded and commented on in your child's reading record book.

We will be teaching a focused phonics session in class, 4 times a week. Your child may also be given key words or flashcards to look at with you at home. Please practise with them so that they recognise them (quickly) by sight.

P.E

In term 1, our P.E lessons are timetabled for Mondays and Wednesdays. Please make sure your child has their full P.E kit in school for the whole week as occasionally the timetable may need to change.

Please ensure **ALL** items of school clothing and P.E kit are labelled as this reduces the anxiety the children experience when they mislay a shirt or pair of shorts. P.E sessions may take place outside so your child will require dark coloured tracksuit bottoms/leggings and plimsolls or trainers.

Recorders

We will be beginning our music sessions in week 2. The children will need their recorders for some of these sessions so please make sure you they bring them in by Monday 7th September . For the moment we intend to keep the recorders in school while the children continue to learn the basics, but later on we might start sending them home so that the children can practise. When your child does start bringing their recorder home, please ensure that they bring it back to school in their book bag each day.

Homework

We will be putting an optional topic-related task on the class blog each week. This will allow the children to investigate things that we haven't had chance to cover in class, or extend ideas that we have looked at. It also gives you a chance to discuss your child's topic work with them at home.

Outdoor area

We are currently trying to improve our outdoor area, so if any of you are having a clearout of children's outdoor play equipment/toys any donations would be gratefully received! Any spare kitchen utensils, pots, pans etc would also be appreciated.

We will often be taking the children outside into the outdoor area so please ensure your child has a named sunhat and raincoat in school every day.

If you are able to spare any time, we are always very grateful for any parent help in the classroom so please let us know. Finally, if you would like to discuss anything concerning your child please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see us.

Mrs. K. Lucas, Mrs. A. Marsh & Mrs. C. Hyde