


Welcome to Autumn Term 1

in Class One!



A BIG welcome (and welcome back) to Class One! We hope you had a lovely summer break and you are looking forward to the year ahead!

We begin the new term with the induction of our new reception starters. This year we have 11 lovely new faces joining our school. We are sure that all the children will settle and be happy in their new school. Our new starters will be attending half days for the first full week back and then will be joining us for full days the following week.



Class Dojo

We use Class Dojo to keep parents up to date with what is going on in school. General messages or announcements specific to Class One will be posted on our Class Page. Whole school news can be found on the School Page. Children's individual observations can be found in their portfolio.

Dojo can be downloaded as an app on a tablet or phone and should be checked on a regular basis.

Parents are more than welcome and actively encouraged to share photos and children's experiences outside school with us on Dojo throughout the year. These can be uploaded via the dojo app and will be added to your child's portfolio by a member of staff. I will post a video detailing how to upload photos and videos within the next week or so.

Baseline Assessments

Year One children will complete school-based informal Literacy and Mathematics assessments within the first 2 weeks back at school. This enables us to generate their starting point for the year and to set next steps targets in learning.

Within the first six weeks at school **Reception children** will complete the statutory government Baseline Assessment. Tasks and activities are centred around Communication, Language and Understanding, Literacy and Mathematics. Although this is a statutory assessment, we try to keep the activities as informal and hands-on as possible. The Baseline Assessment helps to inform us of the children's starting point and allows us to plan learning activities to meet their next step targets. We will share your child's government generated report with you once assessments are completed.

Homework Activities

Once the children have settled into school and baseline assessments are complete, we will send home a pack of homework resources in your child's book bags. This will take a little while to set up so please bear with us!

The pack usually consists of a name card, reading book, words to practise on keyrings, a sound book, spellings and number cards. All activities will be modelled to the children in school.

Please record comments of activities completed in your child's Reading diary.

Book bags should be brought into school **every day** as we use certain homework resources in school also. I will send further information about homework with their pack in due course.

Topics and Themes

Our topics for this year are as follows.

Autumn 1



Autumn 2



Spring 1



Spring 2

Summer 1



Summer 2



Show and Tell

We usually hold Show and Tell sessions on a Friday. It is a super speaking and listening opportunity for the children and encourages them to ask questions and develop good conversational skills. If your child has something that they are proud of or an interesting object that they would like to share, they are welcome to bring it in on that day. This could include photos on Class Dojo, work done at home, a souvenir from a day out; we have even had a live harvest mice and caterpillars brought in! We try to ask toys sent in for Show and Tell are kept to a minimum.

This year, we are going to change our routine slightly in order to ensure that all children get a chance to share something within the time frame we have for the session. We will ask a specific group of children to bring in any items and we will let parents know this via Class Dojo in advance. If it is not your child's group's turn then please don't send anything in that day. We will begin our Show and Tell sessions on **Friday 22nd September** and I will let you know who's turn it is plenty in advance.

Useful Dates

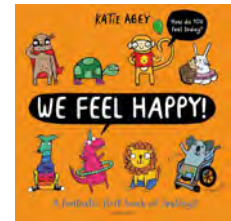
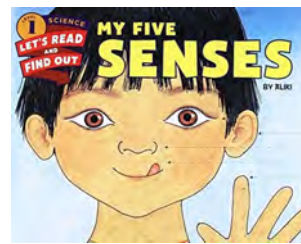
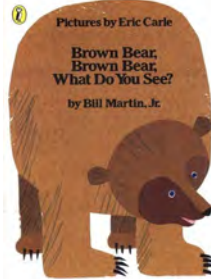
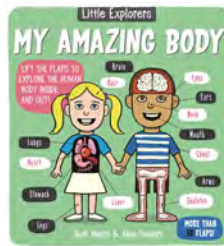
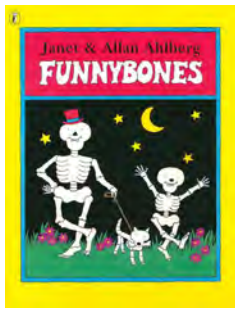
Reception children optional full days in school from **Monday 18th September**

Harvest Service in Church- **Thursday 28th September**

Class 1 Forest School – **Friday 29th September** and **Friday 20th October**

Nasal Flu Immunisations- **Tuesday 17th October**

Autumn 1 Topic



Our core texts are:

Once Baseline Assessments are completed we will move onto our topic work. We usually plan our learning experiences around half termly topics. Our work is inspired and planned around core texts. We will be learning all about ourselves, our bodies, the senses and emotions through a balance of adult led and self-chosen activities. We will also be celebrating Harvest this half term which usually involves a service in church. The provisional date for our Harvest Service is **28th September** and you are most welcome to attend.

Alongside our topic work, we actively encourage the children to follow their own interests. We try to capture any "wow moments" on Dojo and provide any resources needed to extend their interest-led learning in both the indoor and outdoor classroom.

Secret Reader!



Last year, we had lots of fun inviting parents into school to be a "Secret Reader" and would love to continue this. For those who are unsure what this entails, the idea is that you bring a favourite story book from home or choose one from our school library to read to the children. We will let them know that we have a mystery guest coming to read to them and they have to guess who it will be. The best part is seeing how excited the children are when they realise it's their Mummy or Daddy!

Our Secret Reader session will take place in the last week of school before a holiday and I will put a message on Dojo each half term with a date. If you are available on the given date and would like to be a Secret Reader please send me a message via Dojo. It would be wonderful to fill as many of the 6 slots throughout the year with parents or even grandparents. I know it may feel rather daunting but it is so powerful for the children to see different adults enjoying reading. Your help with this is hugely appreciated!

Parents Curriculum Information Events

All children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (years 1 and 2) will be taught to read and write following the Read, Write, Inc. Programme. Class One have been following this approach for the last 4 years and it continues into Year 2 and beyond if required.

I will be hosting a curriculum evening to which all parents are invited. Please do come along and find out further information about the RWI programme and other aspects of the curriculum. I will be in touch with a date as soon as the children are settled back into school and assessments are completed.

Things to bring!

Book Bags- Please send book bags into school **daily** which will be stored and fit nicely in the children's tray. Please try not to send rucksacks as they are too large and bulky to fit into the trays.

Wellies- These are usually brought in and left in school. Throughout the course of the year, please remember to check that your child's wellies still fit. Wellies can be found under the cover in our outdoor area and you are welcome to access them at the end of the school day.

PE kits- These are kept on your child's peg and will be sent home to wash at the end of each half term.

Forest School Kit- We will let you know in advance when it is Class One's Forest School session. On the day, please send in suitable clothing.

Please make sure that all items are clearly named! ☺

I hope that you find this newsletter helpful. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are happy to help. School has changed such a lot since we were all there and as a parent myself, I understand that it can be very overwhelming! M.Lawden