

Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

Class One

Spring 2018



Our Themes:

Spring Term 1 – All Dressed Up

Spring Term 2 – The Circus Is Coming To Town

CLASS TEACHER: Mrs Stephanie Clayton

TEACHER (TUESDAY-THURSDAY MORNINGS): Mrs Samantha Watson

TEACHER (MONDAY MORNING & FRIDAY ALL DAY): Mrs Katie Priestley

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Mrs Nadine Crump

1:1 TEACHING ASSISTANT: Mrs Debbie Suddaby

Our Key Values:

Caring Commitment to Achieve Co-operation

Independence Happiness Respect



Welcome back Class One! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for an exciting term ahead. We are all looking forward to the learning we have planned for our specific Foundation Stage weekly themes and our Spring term units about Clothes and the Circus which will take us through to the Easter holidays. Here is what you need to know about the curriculum, along with some specific information for Class One. If you have any questions, as always please don't hesitate to contact me. I am available before school, and after school by appointment.

Our Theme:

Due to the mixed-age nature of Class One, Reception will generally follow the same IPC Unit at the KS1 children (All Dressed Up, and The Circus Is Coming To Town). However, we will also have mini-topics that the continuous provision will link to, such as Superheroes, Pancake Day, Chinese New Year and any other topics that interest the children!

Personal, social and emotional development:

The children are now very familiar with our routines, rewards and expectations of behaviour so this term we will focus on developing their ability to make friends, settle disagreements and find compromises. We will model this behaviour to the children, as well as discuss it during carpet time.

Physical development:

The children loved accessing the outdoor equipment last term so we are hoping for good weather so they can continue using the skipping ropes, trikes and building bricks etc. We have a supply of all-weather suits at school but if you can provide a pair of named wellington boots to be left in school that would be very helpful (thank you to those parents that already have). We like the children to learn outside as much as possible as there is more space for their creative ideas!

The children will continue to receive weekly PE sessions with trained coaches and enjoy a range of exciting lessons, such as evasion skills, gymnastics, multi-skills and netball skills. Swimming will not recommence until the Summer term. The children are now much quicker and more independent in getting changed for PE so thank you for supporting this at home!

Communication and language:

We will continue to develop the children's listening and speaking skills through carpet time activities, but we will also allow the children to apply these skills through their play. We will not automatically intervene to settle disputes but support the children in solving problems with their friends independently (also developing their personal, social and emotional education). In addition to this, we will encourage the children to join in more with repeated patterned language from familiar stories, and ask and answer questions with more confidence.

Literacy:

We will continue to read a range of stories in class, asking children to identify characters and main events in order to be able to retell the story, and use these as a stimulus for all areas of learning. Fairy tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Little Red Riding Hood will stimulate creative and information writing in the role-play area. The very nature of our topics 'All Dressed Up' and 'The Circus Is Coming To Town' will lend themselves well to non-fiction work including labels, lists and captions. Your child will now be used to having books sent home with words in, and these can seem challenging sometimes! However, whilst there may be the occasional tricky word or phoneme that your child may be unfamiliar with, with support and encouragement your child should be able to read the books they have had assigned to them. I listen to your child read once a week in guided reading sessions and I use my assessments to inform me of the reading stage your child should be on. All the Reception children are coming on very well with their decoding and blending skills so please keep up the reading at home!

We will continue to have a phonics session every day in which children will learn their letters and sounds. This term we will be covering Phase 4: there will be no new phonemes (sounds) taught so please do not expect new additions to your child's phoneme booklet this term. Instead, we will concentrate on reading and spelling words and captions that contain the phonemes and graphemes the children have previously been taught. There are also no new phonics challenges for Phase 4.

Mathematics:

We will be moving on from basic counting and focus on calculations this term, with simple addition and subtraction. We will also consolidate our previous learning such as shape, space and measure. In the classroom and outdoor area, maths activities will continue to be set in a variety of learning experiences where the children can learn creatively and independently.

Understanding the world:

Whilst looking at the topics of 'All Dressed Up' and 'The Circus Is Coming To Town' we will be modelling how to ask questions to find out information. We will also be using our investigation and problem-solving skills through scientific activities. We shall be developing our skills in ICT using simple computer programmes and other programmable toys and equipment. We will have the iPads available every day to develop their navigation skills independently.

Expressive arts and design:

The children will access a range of creative activities on a daily basis including art and design provision, music equipment and different role play scenarios. We will encourage children to use their imagination in their learning.

Important Information

Our weekly homework will continue to be **set on Thursdays** and **returned on Mondays**. Children get house points for each piece of homework they complete to a good standard and we often award merits for super effort, so please encourage your child to complete their homework on time. We set homework that links to our current learning in class, and should mostly be able to be completed independently without the need for lots of adult support (other than reading the task to them). Please ensure your child completes their homework and hands it in on time; we cannot always mark late homework.

There will not be weekly spelling tests this year. Common exception word (CEW) lists have been sent home in KS1 homework books this week for regular practice at home throughout the year.

Our P.E day this term is **Tuesday afternoon**. Children will need their indoor AND outdoor PE kit for this term so that they are prepared for lessons both outside and in the village hall. Please make sure your child has their PE kit on the correct day and that earrings are not worn (or can be removed by the child themselves on these days). A small container to keep them inside would be helpful, as adults will not be held responsible for lost earrings. PE IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM, HOWEVER, CHILDREN CANNOT TAKE PART IF THEY DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL WITH THEIR COMPLETE KIT INCLUDING SUITABLE FOOTWEAR (PLIMSOLLS OR TRAINERS). Please consult the school's uniform policy for the correct PE kit.

Children will be able to change their own reading book daily. THIS YEAR WE WILL NOT BE MONITORING HOW MANY BOOKS THE CHILDREN READ ON A PERSONAL BOOKMARK. It will be the responsibility of the children and parents to keep count at home (number of books read, not number of times). **A golden coin will only be awarded for 100 books read this year.** *Please understand that the children's reading stage will be changed when they have demonstrated over a period of time that they have improved their fluency and comprehension on that stage. There are a number of varied books for each reading stage and it is important that the children read a breadth of different genres. Before making the decision to move the children up a level, we always consult their National Curriculum reading level first.*

We encourage the children to be as independent as possible in Reception and Key Stage 1, including being responsible for bringing their P.E. kits and homework books on the correct day, and reminding them to change their reading books when they need to (books will not be changed at the end of the day if children have forgotten to do this in the morning). We ask for your support with this.

Whilst your child will always read to an adult once a week in guided reading (and additional times if there are available adults), we are always looking for parents willing to come into school to listen to the children read. If you can help with this it would be greatly appreciated. We will also always need additional adults to accompany us on school trips throughout the year. Please see me if you think you can help.

The children are welcome to come into the classroom from 8:30am where there will be an adult waiting, and another at the gate. The children are encouraged to come in by themselves and put away their belongings. This encourages independence through routine. Mrs Clayton will bring your child out to you at 3:00pm. Please let us or the office know if you have arranged for somebody else to collect your child at the end of the day as we will be unable to send them home without this information.

Children need a named water bottle in school every day as we are unable to provide cups for them to use. We are now a WATER ONLY school. Bottles containing anything other than juice will be replaced with water.

As the weather turns colder and wetter this term, children will need to have a warm and waterproof coat (named hats, gloves and scarves etc.) as we take the children outside for lessons as well as playtimes whatever the weather! Wellington boots and a spare set of socks that can stay in school would be desirable if at all possible. COATS SHOULD BE IN SCHOOL EVERYDAY IN CASE THE WEATHER TURNS SUDDENLY.

As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to approach us both in the morning, or Mrs Clayton in the afternoons. We look forward to working with you again, as well as your child.

Kind regards

Mrs Clayton and Mrs Watson 😊