

# Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

## Class One

Autumn 2017



### Our Themes:

Autumn Term 1 – Time Detectives

Autumn Term 2 – The Magic Toymaker

**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

### Our Key Values:

Caring    Commitment to Achieve    Co-operation

Independence    Happiness    Respect



Welcome back to Class One! We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for an exciting year ahead ☺ The children have all settled in so well and look very smart in their school uniforms! We are looking forward to working with you all again and having another great year! We are all very excited with the learning we have planned for our Autumn term IPC units and our specific Foundation Stage weekly themes. We are also very much looking forward to welcoming back Mademoiselle Du Pratt for our Friday French lessons! Here is what you need to know about the curriculum, along with specific information for Class One. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are available before school, and Mrs Clayton is available after school by appointment.

### **Our Theme:**

We will begin this term by settling the children into our school routines. As we get to know the children and understand their interests and likes, we will plan lots of exciting, engaging experiences and learning opportunities for them. We believe that children learn best when they take charge of their own learning.

Our class theme to begin with is 'Time Detectives'. The children will do lots of fun and creative activities linked to Dinosaurs, Castles, The Great Fire of London etc. There will also be specific themes for the Reception children throughout the term, including Harvest, Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas!

### **Personal, social and emotional development:**

In this area, we will mainly focus on settling the children into our school routines. For example, putting away belongings in the morning; milk and fruit time; playtimes and lunchtimes; tidying away after each session; and bedtime routines. We will be supporting children to develop positive relationships with both adults and other children. We will explore how we treat others and the consequences when we treat them wrongly. The children will also learn our rewards for good behaviour.

### **Physical development:**

We will be keeping our fingers crossed for good weather so we can enjoy our outdoor area for as long as possible! We have all-weather suits so that the children can explore the outdoor classroom, the rest of the school and the wider environment even in poor weather (you are welcome to send in a named pair of Wellington boots to keep in school for this purpose). We will be teaching the children to use our outdoor equipment in a variety of ways to keep them active and healthy.

The children will receive a weekly PE session with myself and trained coaches in which we will practise the routine of getting changed as quickly as possible, and enjoy a range of exciting lessons involving ball skills and team games. They will also go swimming for the first half term to Market Rasen Church of England Primary School on Tuesday mornings (a letter will be sent home from the office about this).

### **Communication and language:**

This term we will be modelling good speaking and listening skills, especially during carpet time. The children will be taught when it is appropriate to speak and when to listen. We want the children to be confident in expressing their ideas freely in whole class situations, with both adults and their classmates.

### **Literacy:**

We will be reading a range of stories in class, asking children to identify characters and main events in order to be able to retell the story. We would like to use stories as a stimulus for all areas of learning and develop a love of reading in the children. You will find a book in your child's reading bag to enjoy at home. These will be picture books to begin with to allow children to tell stories from pictures. Please comment in the reading record to let us know how their reading is developing at home. Children will also take part in relaxed guided reading sessions from the start of term. They will undertake different activities including reading with a teacher as a small group, phonics activities and reading for pleasure. Some of these activities will be done with another adult, and some will be independent.

We will have a phonics session before lunch every day in which children will begin to learn their letters and sounds. Phonics is very important in children's early reading and writing development as it lays the foundations for children to build upon and develop their independence. We will send home the new phonemes taught so they can be reinforced at home also. After a few weeks, we will start sending home weekly phonics challenges. These are individual challenge sheets that will check the children's understanding on their phonics. Please practice these with your child as often as you can and this will significantly help your child to learn to read and spell.

### **Mathematics:**

We will be mainly focussing on the children's counting skills in a variety of contexts, for example, counting songs, counting children at school, counting out items throughout the day etc. In the classroom and outdoor area, maths activities will be set in a variety of learning experiences where the children can learn creatively.

### **Understanding the world:**

Whilst looking at the class topic of 'Time Detectives' and the EYFS weekly themes, we will be modelling how to ask questions to find out information. We shall be developing our skills in ICT using simple computer programmes and other programmable toys and equipment. We will have the iPads available most days to develop their skills computing skills independently. Children will also enjoy basic Science exploration activities.

### **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 days this year are **Tuesday mornings before half term** (SWIMMING) and **Tuesday afternoons** (PE). 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 and swimming kits on the correct days 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 ☺