

# Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

## Class One

Autumn 2016



### Our Themes:

Autumn Term 1 – The Stories People Tell

Autumn Term 2 – Let's Celebrate

**CLASS TEACHER:** Mrs Stephanie Clayton

**TEACHER (MONDAY-THURSDAY):** Mrs Samantha Watson

**TEACHER (FRIDAY):** Mrs Katie Priestley

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Mrs Nadine Crump

### Our Key Values:

Caring   Commitment to Achieve   Co-operation

Independence   Happiness   Respect



Welcome to Class One! I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for an exciting term ahead. The children have all settled in so well and look very smart in their school uniforms! Thank you for your warm welcome as your child's new teacher; I am looking forward to working with you all and meeting you again during our informal Meet The Teacher hour on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 3pm-4pm. 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 Madam Westerby 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 me. I am available before school, and 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 'The Stories People Tell'. The children will do lots of fun and creative activities linked to fairy tales, myths and legends. 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 hometime 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 this 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 7 different activities including reading with me 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 that the children will be tested on at school near the end of each week. These are individual challenge sheets that will check the children's understanding on their phonics. As each challenge is completed, a merit and certificate is awarded and the next challenge set. 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 topic of 'The Stories People Tell' 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 computers available every day to develop their skills of logging on and off independently. Children will also enjoy basic Science 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**

We are continually assessing the children by observing them in their play. These notes and photographs build up in their profile as a record of their 'Wow Moments'. Please send in information about any achievements you have seen your child make independently at home. This could be in the form of a photograph, a note on a post-it, a piece of independent work etc. This will help build up a bigger picture of your child.

Our weekly homework will be set on Thursdays and returned on Mondays. The activities set will be relevant to our current learning, and will be creative and fun! Please write in the space provided about how your child got on with their homework, and anything they particularly enjoyed or disliked as this will help us form a picture of what your child needs. If you have any problems with the homework, please do not hesitate to see me.

Our P.E days this year are **Tuesdays** (SWIMMING) and **Wednesdays** (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 kit and that earrings are not worn on these days (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 have their reading book changed as often as they want (by an adult). Remember, every time your child finishes a book and has their reading diary signed, they will get a tick on their reading reward chart. After 10 books they will be given a merit. Bronze (50), gold (100) and platinum (150) certificates will be awarded in Friday celebration assemblies for reading a certain number of books. There will be no silver (75) award this year. Children who achieve their Bronze, Gold or Platinum awards (every 50 books) will attend the prestigious Golden Coin Party at the end of term! *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, I 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. 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. I will bring your child out to you at 3:00pm. Please let me 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.

If we are blessed with an Indian summer this term (!) please send your child to school with a named sunhat and named sun cream (which the children will be expected to apply themselves). As the weather turns colder and wetter, children will need to have a warm and waterproof coat (named hats, gloves and scarves etc.) as I 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 me. I look forward to working with you again, as well as your child.

Kind regards

Mrs Clayton and Mrs Watson 😊