

# Inspiring Curriculum Newsletter

## Class One

Spring 2017



**Our Theme:**

Spring Term 1 – We are what we eat

Spring Term 2 – Buildings

**Our Key Values:**

Caring    Commitment to Achieve    Co-operation

Independence    Happiness    Respect



Welcome back Class One! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for an exciting term ahead. We have an exciting new topic this half term called We Are What We Eat and in the second term we will be studying Buildings. 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 us. We are available before school, and after school by appointment.

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### **Our Theme:**

Due to the mixed-age nature of Class One, Reception will generally follow the same IPC Unit as the KS1 children – Term 1 is We Are What We Eat and Term 2 is Buildings. However, we will also have mini-topics that the continuous provision will link to, such as The Three Little Pigs, Three Billy Goats Gruff, 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, building bricks and sand 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. 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. During the Spring Term the children will be learning dance and cricket. **SWIMMING WILL START AFTER THE EASTER HOLIDAYS.** 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 The Three Little Pigs and The Three Billy Goats Gruff will stimulate creative and information writing in the role-play area. The very nature of our topics What We Eat and Buildings will lend itself well to non-fiction work including labels, lists and captions. Your child will now have books sent home with words in and these may seem challenging at first! 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 (which take place daily) 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 at the start of 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. Please continue to practice the weekly phonics challenges with your child as often as you can and this will significantly help your child to learn to read and spell. There is more information on this below.

### **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 our topics 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 skills of logging on and off 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

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 and are incredibly valuable for our assessments.

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! Children also receive house points and merits for good homework. Please remember to write a comment in the box provided and if you have any problems with the homework, please do not hesitate to see me.

Phonics challenges will be tested on **Thursdays or Fridays** (dependent on timetabling commitments). The children have responded really well to these and receive a merit for each successfully completed challenge (along with a certificate). Please continue to practice these with your child as often as you can, alongside listening to them read every night.

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, silver, gold and platinum certificates will be awarded in Friday celebration assemblies for reading a certain number of books. **We handed out many certificates last term, including golden coins for milestone awards!** *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.*

Our P.E days are: **Wednesdays** - Children will need their indoor/outdoor PE kit when cricket takes place on the playground and dance in the village hall. If your child wears earrings please make sure they are removed before school (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).

We now expect all children in Reception and Key Stage 1 to be independent in coming into school with everything they need, including developing their responsibility for bringing their P.E. kits and homework books on the correct day, and changing 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. Please see me if you think you can help.

As always, we look forward to working with you and your child ☺ If you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Kind Regards

Mrs Clayton and Mrs Watson