

Dear Parents/Guardians and Class One Children,

We hope you all had a wonderful summer and would like to wish you all a very warm welcome back to school. We are looking forward to what we are sure will be a happy and successful year in Class 1.

Following our exciting first week back, Book Week, we will start our first topic which is entitled "Once upon a time". Further curriculum details including our medium-term plan and knowledge organisers will be sent out next week. Through this theme we aim to enthuse and engage all pupils whilst continuing to enhance positive attitudes to learning and knowledge. Our lessons will respond to the individual children's learning needs, interests and progress and so day-to-day planning will have a degree of flexibility, especially during this first term as we get to know the children and ensure they are used to their new class, teachers and routines.



Class 1 also has a homework menu for the half-term which will come home at the end of this week.

Key dates and information

- The children will need to come each day to school with a waterproof coat, book bag/ school bag, a named water bottle containing just water please, their reading books and reading records. Pencil cases are not needed as the school provide all necessary equipment.
- Our PE lessons this term will be on a **Wednesday** and led by Mr Spencer and a **Friday** with Mr Jones. The children will need to come into school wearing their PE kit for the day.
- The school provides children in KS1 with a playtime snack although if your child would like to bring in a healthy snack from home, they are welcome to do so. This must not however be in a wrapper but in a re-useable container to minimise rubbish in our school grounds.
- On the penultimate day of the half-term, **Monday 12th October**, we will be celebrating our half-term learning with a "Once Upon A Time Fairy-Tale Day". We are therefore inviting children to come to school on this day dressed as their favourite character from their favourite fairy-tale.

Reading

It is vital that children want to read and enjoy books and to ensure that we achieve this every child needs to be reading on a regular basis in school and at home (ideally every day at home for 5 - 10 minutes). We want children to see reading as fun, so in school time, as well as focusing on our phonics and Read Write Inc. (RWI) books we will use a variety of sources including magazines, recipes, poems.

In Class One, the children will bring home **two books** each week. The first of these will be their **RWI reading book**. This will be a book that the children will have already read several times with their group in school so they should know the text well, thus building their confidence and own feeling of success as a reader. In these books, there are sounds to practise at the front to get the children warmed up for reading. There are also 'green speedy' and 'green story words' to practise and 'red tricky words' that the children need to be able to read on sight. Towards the end of the book there are several comprehension questions for you to practise with your child. Finally, there is the 'speedy word challenge' on the final page – how quickly can your child read these words? Can you improve on your

speed each time you practise? The RWI books will be changed by the children's specific phonics teacher. Each time your child reads at home please record it in their reading diaries as for each read, they will receive a classdojo point.

In second book the children will select is a **"Family-share" book** from the book area or library which is to be shared and discussed at home. These free choice books will be changed every Wednesday but will not be at your child's own reading level.

Class Rewards

Class 1 use the ClassDojo system where the children can earn Dojo points throughout the week and once, they have reached a certain number of these, they will be rewarded with a visit to the class treasure chest! As you know, Classdojo allows us to share regular photos and messages directly with parents.

As in all classes, we have our smiley face behaviour chart system where the children can work their way up onto the Diamond for consistently following and demonstrating all of our school Diamond Rules. As you can see from the number of positive rewards systems, our aim is to have consistently high standards of pupil conduct and clear expectations about their behaviour and their work ethos.

I am really looking forward to working with the children this year.

Kind regards,
Mrs Geeves