

## Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new school year and the Foundation Stage/ Year 1 class. We will be known as Class 1.

We hope that you all had a lovely Summer Holiday?

We will continue to support your children to develop all their talents and to make the most of every day in school. If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact me or speak to a member of the Class 1 team.

Mrs Bourn: Class Teacher

Mrs Rumson: Teaching Assistant

Mrs Lake: Teaching Assistant across KS1, Speech and Language Support and Reading Recovery Support

Ms Richards: 1:1 Teaching Assistant

### **Foundation Stage Curriculum**

The children develop their learning through play-based activities, sometimes led by adults, sometimes initiated by them or set up by adults to assess how the children are progressing in all 7 areas of the Curriculum. Children are encouraged to engage in activities both indoors and outdoors, becoming more independent in their learning and self-discovery as they develop the skills and the confidence to do so. The first three Areas are particularly crucial for children to achieve to enable them to learn in the Specific Areas and strive to achieve the Early Learning goals for the 7 areas of the Curriculum at the end of the Foundation Stage year.

### **Year 1**

Year 1 will be following the same curriculum across the two Year 1 classes. In Class 1 the children will be able to access some of their learning through curriculum provision, closely monitored by an adult. I will be liaising closely with Mrs Vickery and we will moderate the children's work on a regular basis to check for consistency in learning throughout Year 1.

Once a week, Year 1 will join together on a Thursday afternoon for a year group session. This will enable the children to interact with their own peer group and cover areas of the curriculum, relevant to Year 1.

### **Class 1 Information (Relevant to both Year Groups)**

Themes for Autumn term:

All about me

Seasonal changes

Bonfire night

Celebrations

Harvest Festival

Christmas

### **Morning Routine**

Mornings are a time for settling in. Many children find this time distressing. For this reason I like to encourage a quick drop off. For the first couple of weeks please let your

child choose an activity on the carpet. (The tables are often set up for the day's activities.)

If your child is finding it difficult to settle, reassure them that you understand they are feeling anxious but you will be back for them at the end of the day. A member of the Class 1 team will then support your child. (Having had three children of my own, I know how distressing parting can be. We will send you a Dojo later in the day, to let you know how your child is getting on.)

If children are feeling anxious during the day and mention that they are missing their adult, I will suggest that they blow their adult a kiss. I explain that their adult will feel a flutter on their cheek and that will let them know that they are being thought of. If your child asks you if you felt a flutter on your cheek, you will now understand what they are talking about.

### Physical Education

P.E. will be on a Monday and Tuesday, but these days may vary due to other curriculum commitments. For this reason, we thank you for your cooperation ensuring that your child has his/her shorts and t-shirt in school for the whole week. Our focus this term will be Gymnastics and dance.

Every morning we will start the day with "Funky Fingers" followed at some point during the morning, by a daily "Exercise" session on the playground, to help develop the fine and gross motor movements needed for writing and letter formation.

### Reading

Just a few minutes reading with your child each day makes a huge difference. We ask all parents to have discussions with your child about the book they are reading/sharing with you.

Please ensure your child has their reading book in school every day and that they have had their Love Reading Diary book signed.

We will use lots of opportunities to read with your child throughout the day. Modelling how important reading is to help us understand the world in which we live.

Combe Martin Library is also fantastic place to encourage readers! It gives your child the opportunity to choose their own books and build up a love of reading. Even better, if they see you getting a book at the same time.

Please do not forget the value of reading a bedtime story to your child. Sharing a book builds a love of reading and lots of happy memories to look back on in years to come.

### The Outdoor Classroom

What might look like a play area, is in actual fact an amazing learning environment which gives children the opportunity to experience the weather, investigate, problem solve, build language skills and realise that learning can take place anywhere. Please respect our outside classroom and discourage siblings from playing in it at pick up time. Your child will be outside everyday and may get messy. Please can you ensure that your child has a named waterproof coat and a pair of wellington boots in school, so that we can use our outdoor classroom?

## Home Learning

Your child will normally get home learning(Relevant to their Year Group) on Fridays to be completed and returned by the following Wednesday. Their home learning will usually consist of some sound or number work. Please support your child with his/her home learning.

## Phonic Information

We send home the phonic focus for the week so that Parents and Carers are able to support children at home. The information sent home may include phonic sheets or games to help the children to recognise letters, linking the letters with the correct sound and to explore objects at home beginning with the particular sound. We will also send home tricky words for your child to learn to read and write. Year 1 children will also have weekly spellings. Information about these will be sent home at a later date. During the year I will organize parent/carer drop in sessions, to enable you to see how the children approach their phonic sessions at Combe Martin School.

## Sea School

Sea School is more than just outdoor education in which children develop social skills, physical skills and learn about nature. They are also starting to demonstrate a deeper understanding of problem solving and becoming inquisitive learners asking questions. The children observe season changes on a weekly basis and can confidently speak about similarities and differences they observe. Thank you for your continuous support.

## Clothing

May I please remind everyone that all clothing needs to be labelled clearly so that if lost, it can be returned easily? Children should be wearing sensible black shoes (not trainers) to school. PE kit consists of a white polo shirt, black or navy shorts or jogging bottoms, plimsoles and trainers. Thank you for your continued support.

## Contact

If your child is unable to come to school or you are running late, please phone and let the office know.

If you or your child has a problem, you can inform me by Class Dojo before school, or arrange a meeting.

I am available to talk to after school or in an emergency, before school. I try to discourage the latter, so time can be given to help your child settle in to their morning routine.

Please make sure you are signed up to Class Dojo and the School Newsletter, this will help keep you up to date with what is going on in and around school. (We try our best to keep it up to date.)

## Trips

Over the year there will be opportunities for the children to go on trips around our local

environment and we are hoping to have a visit to RHS Rosemoor during the second half of the autumn term. We will let you know details a.s.a.p.

### Fund raising

Over the year, we hold several fund raising events, some for school and some supporting other charities. We attempt to give as much notice as possible, so that you can budget accordingly. For example, at Christmas, the children usually make a craft object to sell at Carols in The Playground.

Please do not feel obliged to send in a donation, but every little helps.

### Celebrations

We love to invite parents and carers to help us celebrate. Please look out for information on these events on Class Dojo and in the School Newsletter. Our first will be Harvest Festival, followed by the Christmas play, then Carols in the Playground, Easter at the Church, Sport's Day in the summer term and our School fete.

### PPA

Mrs Harding will be covering me on a Tuesday morning. This will enable me to carry out my planning, preparation and assessment.