



Tuesday 7th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to StarfishClass - we hope you had a lovely Summer break! We start the year with the topic '**Me and My Community!**'. Our main focus these first few weeks is on your child's wellbeing and making their transition into school an exciting and positive experience. Through this topic, we will get to know your child and help them settle into school life. Ensuring they: adapt to routines, make and reinforce friendships and are happy and independent in their learning. We will use what we find out about their lives and interests to plan across the year. Please see the Topic Plan '**Me and My Community!**' attached for the activities your child will be engaging in.

Class Information

Your child's teaching team comprises of:

- Your class teacher - **Louise Swift**
- Your full time Teaching Assistant and Early years practitioner - **Sarah Rumson**
- Our teacher training student - **Debbie Harper**
- Our KS1 School Improvement Lead (SIL) - **Dee Seddon**

Settling in Our first week timetable: Tuesday 7th - 9am-11:30am Wed 8th - 9am-1.20pm (inc lunch) Thurs 9th - 9am-1.20pm (incl lunch) Friday 10th - 8.50am-3.15pm	A normal school day Gates open at 8.40 and the school day starts at 8.50am. Please drop off at the gate outside Reception class. Break time is at 10:15am with lunch at 12.00 End of day collection is 3.15pm outside the Reception class gate.
---	---

Our Early Years Curriculum- EY C360



At Combe Martin our Early Years curriculum 360 (EY C360) is built upon four cornerstones:
Character, Community, Excellence and Innovation.

At Combe Martin we aim for every child to be a successful part of a safe, happy, caring community of learners. We want to ensure all individuals regardless of their race, gender or disability acquire the skills and knowledge needed to achieve their full potential in a rapidly changing world. We want children to achieve this while we encourage an enjoyment of life-long learning, promote a healthy lifestyle, through a curriculum which is relevant, stimulating, broad, balanced, innovative and creative.

We are part of the Alumnis Multi Academy Trust, regularly working with a collection of local schools to share outstanding practice and better the outcomes of all local children. See the school website for more information about our vision, values and curriculum.

Phonics and Early Reading



Your child will start by quickly recapping Phase 1 of Letters and Sounds. This concentrates on developing children's speaking and listening skills and lays the foundations for the phonic work which starts in Phase 2. The emphasis during Phase 1 is to get children attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills. Please go to the Letters and Sounds website below for more information and resources -

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1.html>

Once settled in, we will start Phase 2. A home learning pack will be sent home as well as information about how best to develop a love of reading and support your child's reading development.

During the first full week we will be sending home "Home Readers" which are for you to share with your child. You may keep each book until they are confident with the text and you are happy they are ready for a new one. We will also send home a 'Love Reading' exercise book. This is for you to record your child's reading in. The expectation is that you share a book with your child each day and a note of this is recorded in this book. School staff will also record any reading your child does in school and make comments on their progress.

Communication

You will soon receive a link to login to **Class Dojo**. Once you have signed up you will be sent the most up to date news, reminders and stories about your child's learning. It is a great way for us to communicate and share your child's fun throughout the week.

You will also be receiving login information for **Tapestry** which is an online learning journal. We use this platform to upload evidence of your child's learning and track your child's progress.

Trips and Enrichment Experiences



We have a number of trips mapped out for the year but due to Covid restrictions, have been unable to confirm dates with venues. We will update you with more information as soon as we can.

Forest School



Once the children have settled in, we will be using the school environment to explore the outdoors. Please ensure that your child brings in wellies and wet weather gear including a waterproof coat and trousers for these sessions. We will confirm which day this will be in the next couple of weeks.

School Money

You should have all received an email invite to 'School Money'. Here you book your child's school dinners, or record them as a packed lunch (the cut off is 12pm the night before), book morning and after school clubs, and pay for trips and equipment. Please also enter if your child has a home school packed lunch so we don't provide a school dinner. Please contact the office if you have any more questions.

General Information

Full school uniform must be worn, including black shoes. Long hair must be tied back, no hair products please. **PE will begin in the second week of school (day to be confirmed)**. Please ensure your child brings their PE kit into school on this day (or PE kits can be left in school). A spare PE kit should also be left in school in case your child needs a change of clothes. They can get wet and muddy in the Autumn term!

PE kits must include: a school hoodie, hat, gloves, trainers, black tracksuit trousers or leggings, a spare white shirt and socks. A plastic bag kept inside the PE bag is always useful too, for muddy trainers.

Please ensure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat in school every day and that all items are labelled with your child's name!

Due to Covid regulations we won't be receiving funded fruit at the beginning of this year. Please could you send in 2 fruit or vegetable snacks for your child to have at break times. The afternoons are quite long and we want them to have lots of energy to enjoy the day! If your child has a packed lunch, no plastic bags please. We are a plastic free school so reusable containers only, and ensure that they are clearly named.

If you require any further information please refer to the welcome pack or ask myself or Mrs Rumson.

We look forward to working with you and your children.

Mrs Swift, Mrs Rumson and Mrs Harper