



September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term - we hope you had a lovely summer break! The topic for this first half term is '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 also be exploring the idea of power and identity with our 'Kings and Queens' theme later on this half term to accompany the year 1 history topic. Within this we will look at likes and dislikes, things we enjoy doing, and the importance of an agreed set of rules and working cooperatively. In the second half of the term we will be looking at seasonal change, with the topic 'Where do squirrels hide their nuts?' exploring our locality with a woodland walk and studying the weather and climate. We will be having a welcome meeting on **Tuesday 19th September** for any parents and carers who would like to find out more about our learning this year.

Class Information

Your child's teaching team comprises of:

- Your class teacher - **Debbie Harper**
- PPA cover will be **Sammie Perkins** on a Friday morning
- Your full time Teaching Assistant and Early years practitioner - **Sarah Rumson**
- Our Headteacher - **Dee Seddon**

Our 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.

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.

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 be learning phonics through our synthetic phonics programme, Little Wandle.

We will be sending out more information about this exciting programme over the coming weeks. A home learning pack will also 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 a 'Love Reading' book home which is for you to read to and share with your child. You may keep this book for a maximum of 1 week or until your child would like to change it. 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.

English

During the first half term we will be using the story of 'The little red hen' to develop our story telling and instruction following skills, towards the end of the story unit we will be making bread! After this we will continue to build our literacy skills with the story 'Owl Babies'. We will be using the 'Talk for writing' approach for English, which begins with the children retelling the story with actions and text mapping. We will put this onto class dojo so the children can practice retelling the story at home.

Maths

In reception the children will be exploring shape, pattern, and measurement to begin with, moving on to numbers to 5 as the term progresses.

The year 1 children will be looking at place value to 20, and then addition and subtraction up to 20.

You can support your child's math's development by helping them notice that Maths is everywhere and in everything we do. Keep your eyes out for shapes, patterns, size, order, and numbers everywhere in the environment!

Trips and Enrichment Experiences



We have a number of trips mapped out for the year and we will update you with more information as these are confirmed.

We will be having regular 'Book and Biscuit' events, where you will be invited into the classroom at the end of the day (2.45), to share a story (and a biscuit) with your children and explore their daily environment and learning, our first event will be on **Thursday 19th October.**

School Money

You should have all received an email invite to 'School Money'. Here you book your child's school dinners, (the cut off is 12pm the night before), book morning and after school clubs, and pay for trips and equipment. 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 on a Thursday.** 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!

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 Harper, Mrs Rumson and Mrs Seddon