

## Class 1 Newsletter – Autumn 2023

Hello to you all and welcome to our Class One newsletter for the new school year. The children have all settled so well into the class routines and are doing brilliantly. This newsletter is to give you some idea of the kinds of things that are happening in our class this term and how you can help at home.



### Communication and Language and Literacy - Reading and Writing

Oracy is at the heart of everything we do in Class 1. We will be playing alongside your child, getting to know them and modelling how to communicate effectively. We will extend your child's vocabulary by introducing new words and phrases as well as asking them to explain their thinking and ideas.

We also have daily phonics sessions, where the children begin to listen to sounds in words and will begin to decode to start reading simple words. During this time, we work through our Bug Club systematic phonics programme to develop the children's understanding of Letters and Sounds.

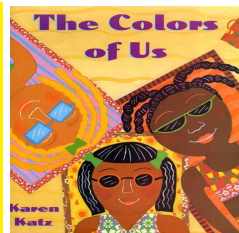
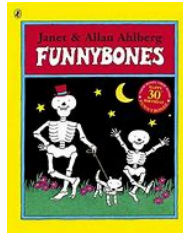
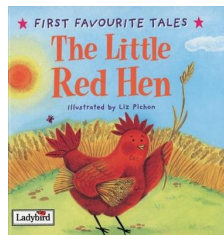
Every Monday we have a 'news' session in class. During this time we will talk about things your child has done at the weekend and share pictures. This could be a picture of a special family event, such as a birthday or Christening, or something simple like enjoying time with their family, playing with pets, riding their bike/ other sports or spending time outside exploring nature. We ask that you upload these to your child's Tapestry account, send to my email below or bring in copies of printed pictures so they can share these with the class. This will help develop oracy skills in speaking and listening, building relationships and understanding the world around them.

Throughout the week we will also focus on a story or poem and work on a series of engaging activities based around this. This term our stories are mainly based around our topic theme of 'Ourselves', before half term, and 'People who help us', after half term. We will also learn simple rhymes during our daily rhyme time. We read books several times during the day from a wide range within school. We are very keen to foster a real love of books and reading both at school and at home!

**Invite to a Stay and play Session:** We will send a separate letter with an invite for you to a 'Stay and Play' Session, so you can see a phonics session in action and begin to understand how to support your child with learning to read.

**Library Van :** We hope to start this on 28th September (and then fortnightly). To make this possible we will be asking for parents to help (Thursday 11.15-12.00pm) . Please let us know in your child's planner if you are able to help with this. Grandparents are also welcome.

Here are a just few of the books we will be sharing in class:



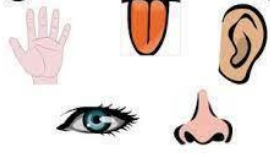
### Mathematical Development:

In Maths this term we are learning all about 'number'. For our new Reception children, this will involve lots of work in the areas of the classroom, practically using numbers and counting equipment in their play. We follow the maths mastery approach so look deeply into numbers in order to develop a deeper understanding. This approach helps the children to begin to understand the composition of a number- so for example - '3': I know that is 3 as I can see 2 and 1 more. We will be asking the children to subitise - automatically tell us what they see. The 1 minute maths app is a great resource to use at home to help your child with this.

<https://whitroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>



## Our Five Senses



### Understanding the World (Science focus)

As part of our topic this term, we will be learning all about 'Ourselves'. This will involve work on the 5 senses and activities based around these as well as how we stay fit and healthy. We will also explore the outside world at Forest Schools where we will further develop our understanding of nature.

**If you can please send a copy of photos of your child as a baby, as a toddler and one with their family so we can use these for discussion when talking about how they have changed and who is in our family. You can either print copies of these or send to my email below or via Tapestry.**



### PSED

This area focuses on developing personal, social and emotional skills. It is a prime area of our curriculum in Reception and is all about developing relationships with others, building resilience and helping your child to be able to regulate their emotions. As a school, as well as helping your child throughout the day to develop these skills, we also follow a scheme of lessons to further assist in developing these areas. This term our particular focus for our main sessions is 'Self Regulation - managing feelings' and 'Building Relationships', although there are many different aspects of our week which will also focus on developing personal, social and emotional skills.

### Understanding the World (History/ Geography Focus)

We will begin by talking about where we live and how we get to school. After half term, we will be learning about people who help us and making comparisons with nurses today and nurses from the past. We will be learning about the life of Florence Nightingale and the work that she did.



### Expressive Arts and Design (Art and Design / Music focus)

In art work this term, we will be looking at our faces using mirrors and talking about how they are all different and unique. We will look at the shapes and features of our eyes, noses and mouth and sketch these using pencils. We will look at lots of examples of self portraits and experiment with different media to create our own.

In Music we will be exploring our musical instruments and understanding how they make sounds as well as how to play them. We will be singing and learning lots of familiar and new songs.

### Computing

We are very lucky to have access to lots of iPads and laptops at school. This term, we will be looking at how to use these, including switching them on, logging on and completing a short activity. Mr Moss will be leading this area.



### Understanding the World (RE focus)

Our RE work will involve work on 'Being special - and where do we belong'. We will find out about God and look at some of the stories of the Bible. Towards Christmas, we will share the Christmas story.

**Physical Development** Physical development as another prime area is incorporated in all of our daily activities in the classroom. We will be outside free-flowing playing throughout the day to enable the children to develop both their fine and gross motor skills through a range of activities.

**PE** : Our PE session will take place on a **Monday**. We have a PE specialist who will lead this session.

**Forest School**: Forest School sessions: **Thursday PM** - Please leave wellies and waterproofs at school and leave these at school. On hot days your child will still need to have their legs and arms covered. We will send them home at half term for washing!

### **SUPPORTING YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME**

**We will be gradually sending reading packs home with the Reception children. These may initially not have books in them as we are trying to encourage the development of learning the sounds first, before pushing books onto you! Please continue to read books to your child before bedtime.**

**Please could we ask that you complete your child's planner daily to let us know how they will be getting home (ie Collected; After school club; Askham Bryan bus; Bilbrough bus)**

As always, please do get in touch via email or phone and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

My email is [j.boast@stmarysprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:j.boast@stmarysprimaryschool.co.uk)

