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Building Together

Esh Church of England Primary School

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Class 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to Class 1 for our new Nursery and Reception children.

Our apologies for such a long newsletter but we are trying to put in as much information and detail as we can so please keep this for reference. There is also plenty of information in the Nursery and Reception Brochure which you received before the summer holidays.

**Nursery children** can enter Class 1 from **8:30am** through the usual gate into Class 1. **Reception Children** can take advantage of our free breakfast club until **8:40am.** Please enter through the **Breakfast/Tea Club** door until this time.They can then come into Class 1 either from Breakfast Club or through the usual gate from **8:40am.** Please also remember that children must be in school by **8:50am.** As we have an early lunch at 11:30am we have lots of learning, particularly in Reception, to fit in before lunch. We begin our Phonics/Writing lessons promptly and coming in after 8:50am means they may miss the beginning of the lesson or may interrupt the learning of others.

**Settling in**

Please don’t worry if your child is tearful or begins to become tearful, these are big changes for them. It is a completely different environment from any previous settings they may have attended and for some this is their first major step away from home. There are so many new faces (and bigger children). Rest assured that within a couple of minutes of you leaving they are usually absolutely fine and we would let you know, via a phone call, if they weren’t. If your child is unsettled, we would rather let you know so we can work together to support them in this period of transition.

Often, the children are fine for the first few days but once the reality of longer days and the tiredness creeps in they may become more upset when entering school, particularly after a weekend. This is completely normal and we will continue to create an environment where they feel valued and happy. Staff in Class 1 have seen and managed every type of scenario from those who are confident from day 1 and remain so, those who are confident to begin with then are less so after a weekend or a holiday like Christmas, those who are upset for days, weeks or months at the beginning then settle in well, those who take the full two years to settle in (these children are very, very rare) and everything in between.

**Picking up**

Please let us know if someone different from usual is picking your child up from school and if possible let your child know this. We do not allow children to leave school with any adults unless we have prior notification from parents/carers.

**PE**

We have taken the decision not to do any ‘formal’ PE lessons with Class 1 for this half term. Physical Development in the Early Years incorporates fine and gross motor movement and this can be achieved through lots of physical play in the outdoor area for example digging, climbing, lifting and constructing as well as mark making and using scissors or other tools.

**Naming clothing**

It is **essential** that all items of uniform and coats etc are named so we can reunite them with their owner at the end of the day. If uniform gets misplaced it is more difficult to return if we can’t find a name on it. This includes shoes if possible as children will be using wellies in the outdoor area. School shoes or trainers may be identical but different sizes so reuniting the correct shoes with your child is much easier when they are named.

**TOPICS**

For Nursery children we will follow the children’s own interests in their learning as much as we can. We will set up enhancements in the areas of the classroom linked to some of the topics and themes that Reception children will be engaging in.

The topics/themes until Christmas will be:-

**Autumn 1**

**All about me** – senses, body parts

**Superheroes** – superheroes, people who help us

**Autumn 2**

**Diwali** and **Christmas** – exploring how these Festivals of Light are celebrated.

Reception children will also access teacher-initiated activities. These are detailed below.

**Autumn 1**

**Art: Drawing Portraits -** Recreate their own portraits, beginning to include finer detail on pictures e.g. eyebrows, teeth etc. Artist Frida Kahlo. **Painting (Abstract shapes) -** Use paints, including fabric paints to recreate geometric shapes. Artists James Little, Stanley Whitney, Odili Donald Odita and Sonia Delauney.

**Design Technology: Structure and axels** (Superhero vehicle). Use tools, including a junior hacksaw, safely and correctly.)

**Geography: People who help us – occupations, Story Maps.** Know about different people who help us. Know what a map is. Know the order of places visited in a story.

**History: All about me – personal history.** Talking about how they have changed. Ordering photographs of themselves.

**Music:** Sing as a part of a larger group, keeping in time. Beginning to show some awareness and control in voice when singing.

**Science: Ourselves/All about me** Name some basic body parts and the five senses. Understand similarities between themselves and others.

**RE: God/Creation -** Why is the word ‘God’ so important to Christians?

**Autumn 2**

**Art:** Exploring different art from Diwali (including Rangoli and Mehndi) Printing different materials.

**Design Technology: Textiles** (Sewing hessian leaves) Use wool to create stitches in hessian. **Structure** (Junk model castle Explore different ways to join items e.g. tape, ribbon hole punches etc.

**Geography: Weather and Seasons** Know different types of weather. Identify seasonal changes.

**History: Old and New Teddy Bears** Share their favourite teddy bear. Order teddies from old to new.

**Music:** Express thoughts and feelings of different music and dances/performance art. Perform songs and actions for a Christmas performance.

**Science: Pumpkins Autumn Exploring natural materials** Discuss seasonal changes – Autumn. Talk about similarities and differences between seeds and leaves.

**RE: Diwali and Incarnation** Why do many Christians perform Nativity Plays at Christmas?

**Homework**

A separate letter regarding homework for Reception Children will be sent out in addition to this newsletter.

**Floppy’s Phonics**

We use Floppy’s Phonics from Oxford Owl as our Phonics and Reading Scheme. If you are unfamiliar with how to support your child at home with phonics and reading and are unable to attend the Meet the Teacher evening on Monday 8th September please see Mrs James. On our school website under the Learning tab at the top there is a section on phonics and reading which has short videos you can watch that explain about phonics and reading. The main thing to remind you is we don’t use letter names in phonics, so no capital letters and we don’t pronounce the ‘uh’ on the end of sounds. For example:-

s is sssssss not suh and m is mmmm not muh.

For Reception children we will start at Level 1+ and learn initial sounds. They will begin learning the first four sounds from Monday 8th September.

**Learning Journeys**

We are in the process of setting up new Learning Journeys for Nursery and Reception children. Learning journeys give a picture of what your child has achieved at home and school throughout their Nursery and Reception Year. We use an online package called Tapestry. Parents are able to view some of the activities that your child accesses in Class 1 as teaching staff upload observations they make or ‘work’ your child completes to Tapestry. Parents are welcome to upload any activities/trips/events etc that your child completes at home. You will be sent an email to access for this shortly which will come from Tapestry. It will prompt you to set a password. You will be notified when new content has been uploaded.

**Boxes**

The children in Class 1 love building with ‘junk materials’ so any boxes or tubes, clean bottle tops etc you can send in for use in our Creative Area will be gratefully received.

**Water**

Please provide your children with a named drinks bottle so they have access to fresh water each day. Please do not send juice in the drinks bottle.

**Snacks, Milk and school lunches**

Children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day. Depending on the season one choice is sent per day from the following:- apples, pears, tomatoes, easy peels, bananas, carrots, sugar snap peas, mini cucumbers, mini peppers raisins and sometimes strawberries in the summer. We have snack time in the morning when the children can have their free fruit/vegetables. In the afternoon we offer raisins. You are welcome to bring in your own piece of fruit, raisins, plain popcorn but please no nuts or other snacks for both sessions. Children in Reception are entitled to a free carton of milk daily until the week of their 5th birthday. After that, if you wish, you can purchase milk from [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) Children from Reception to Y2 are entitled to free school lunches. If your child does bring a packed lunch please do not send in any nuts or nut products (e.g. peanut butter or Nutella) as there are children in school with food intolerances. Many thanks.

An optional Tuck shop will take place every Wednesday. Items cost 50p each. Children can buy an individual item, either a kit-kat, raisins or a drink (orange or apple juice) or buy a kit-kat or raisins and a drink for £1. Children are ***not*** allowed to buy two of the same item for example two kit-kats. This can be paid for via Compass.

**Key rings**

If you haven’t already done so it is helpful to put some sort of key ring or tag onto your child’s book bag so that it is instantly recognisable to them at the end of the school day. As most look the same it saves time hunting for names on them.

**Keeping in touch**

If you have a concern and wish to speak to us, please phone school and we can arrange an appointment. You can also catch us at the school gate on a morning or afternoon.

We hold Parent’s Evenings in the Autumn term and the Spring Term when we will discuss your child’s learning. Details of these will follow.

We also have an Instagram and Facebook feed which we try to post on frequently.

**Real items**

As you know we love to use real, authentic items in the classroom. If you, older siblings or anyone you know has any pots, pans, utensils, hats, adult shoes (e.g. high heeled shoes or men’s shoes), handbags, party dresses or party outfits that children have grown out of or accessories for example bangles/bracelets, beaded necklaces, scarves (not the woolly variety) for dressing up that you no longer require, the staff in Class 1 would be happy to use them. Please just catch one of us to see if they are suitable.

**And the rest**...

Children may have accidents where they ‘wet themselves’. We are very used to this in Class 1 and know that this is **not** as a result of them not being toilet trained. Often a change in environment, being engrossed in their play and not making it in time or being on the playground on a lunchtime is the cause. It may be advisable to have a spare change of clothes in their bag for this although we do have some spare in school. Similarly, if they are outside, a spare set of clothes is useful if they are wet from using the sand and water.

We do provide wellies and rain suits though children are welcome to bring their own. We do try to get wellies and waterproof suits on the children but often they are straight in the sand and water and get wet and sandy before we get a chance to support them changing their shoes. There may be times when they come home with wet shoes and socks and although we try to avoid this wherever possible with two staff members it does take a while to get them changed.

We provide all pencils etc in school so there is no need for your child to bring in their own pencil cases. Storage is an issue in school and we simply don’t have the space for everyone to bring their own in. Please keep the size of bags/backpacks as small as possible.

As always if you have any questions please catch us. We look forward to a wonderful term.

Many Thanks,

Mrs James, Miss Hunter and Miss Young.