



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON
CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Class 1 News

12th January 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, may we wish you all a very happy new year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

A warm welcome to our new starters in Class 1. The children all seem to have settled back in very well and those joining us for the first time are doing ever so well adapting to their new environment and routines. As it has been a slightly shorter week we will save Class 1 Superstar awards for next week but I am so pleased with how well the children have come back into school ready for the new term's learning.

The children certainly seem to have enjoyed the holiday and have been telling each other about what they have been doing and have already had a very busy start to the term.

The Reception children have all used their developing writing skills to write a thank you note. Much of their writing was independent and it was great to see that they remember lots of their phonics and other literacy learning. They are looking forward to taking a walk down to the post office to post their letters, we wonder which will reach it's destination first!

As you know, where possible, we like to plan and provide opportunities that lead on from the children's interests so that we can make the teaching and learning in Class 1 as relevant as possible to the children.

Last term we observed (and heard from you about) a clear on-going love of superheroes for a number of children. We are seizing this enthusiasm and have begun work with the children on their Superhero Headquarters. We are in need for an old phone to enhance the children's role-play so if you happen to have one or two lurking around we'd be keen to take them off your hands!

Our whole class (Nursery and Reception) shared the stories of 'Superkid' by Claire Freedman and 'Eliot: Midnight Superhero' by Anne Cottringer. These proved a great introduction to the idea that we can all do something to be a superhero, even if it's not quite as big as saving the world!

This has linked very well to the whole school launch of our three school rules:

Be respectful. Be safe. Be ready. We have been using this language for behaviours and attitudes across the school. In Class 1 we will still continue with our reference to *kind hands, kind feet and kind words* (this is a helpful way to explain being respectful) and our ready for learning code: *Hands and feet to ourselves, voices away (when someone else is speaking), eyes looking and ears listening.* We have also decided to move away from the little 'prizes' that the children choose when they reach the top of our beanstalk. Instead, we will now be letting the children choose a special postcard which will be sent home so that their achievements can be

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shared with you. They seemed very happy with this change!

Reception children have also enjoyed '*Super Daisy and the peril of Planet Pea*' by Kes Gray. We decided that although many of us really like peas we perhaps wouldn't enjoy them with everything, especially with chocolate cake!

The children were very excited when we discovered a letter from 'The Superhero Agency' asking our class to help protect everyone from the residents of 'Planet Pea' (*because Superkid is currently on holiday*) The children were bursting with interest and got straight to it in their play and learn time. They busily created maps to show how to get to Planet Pea and plans showing how they would stop Planet Pea and designs of the equipment we might need. Some children even started work on making the equipment they thought would be best. We were very relieved when Esme found Barnaby Bear and the children were able to untangle him from the pea-green web he was trapped in.

Our Reception children have been busy using their super number sense to recognise and order numbers, their super sight and listening powers to read hidden words (with the aid of torches) and their superskill of formation to write their names in what they considered their best handwriting. Very busy indeed!

Our Nursery children have been enjoying their newly formed pizza café role-play and have been making choices about their pizza toppings as well as presenting us grown-ups with pizza slices to enjoy whilst going about our playing and learning. Superheroes do need lots of energy!

This week has also been spent reviewing where the children are in their learning journey following the Christmas break. I will continue to work with Reception on a 1:1 basis next week so that, for example, choice of books can be revised where necessary.

Remember, each child is on their own journey and will click with different concepts and skills at different points. We work hard to make sure all of these next steps are identified and provided for, recognising that sometimes the 'next step' may be revisiting and consolidating ideas that have already been covered. If you do have any concerns about where your child is in their Early Years learning or which skills they need to be developing please do speak to a member of our team.

Next week we will recommence weekly home learning opportunities and, over the weeks, these will cover different areas of learning such as Mathematics, Literacy, Understanding the World and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

A reminder (and notice for our new starter parents) that we ask you to please discourage your child from bringing toys into school. It can be difficult for us to allow all children who bring things in to show and tell as we don't like the children to be sat on the carpet for longer than necessary and I need to ensure we have time for focussed teaching times. Furthermore, such items also often go missing and even get broken, causing upset for the children involved. Be aware that the children do already know about '**no toys**' and also know we do our best to find time for them to share things they have written, drawn or made at home or if they have bought in a special souvenir or photo from a new experience they have had. Many thanks from us all for your support in this.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to a busy and fulfilled week ahead.

Best wishes,

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team