



MARTON-CUM-GRAFTON CE VA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome to Class 1 and the Nursery Year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see the familiar faces of those who were in our class last year and we are delighted to welcome a number of new faces too.

We have been ever so pleased with how all of the children are settling in, both for the first time and after the summer break, and we are enjoying getting to know our new starters who are also settling in brilliantly.

We know that it can feel very frustrating when you ask your child what they have been doing all day, only to be told 'nothing'. I therefore hope Class 1's weekly newsletter will go some way to giving you an insight into your child's experiences and time in school. We will also be displaying examples of some of the learning that has been taking place on our 'Learning Journey' board which is just outside the Class 1 entrance.

I appreciate this week's is a rather long newsletter but hope that the information and explanations will be of use to you!

Our learning

Our days in Nursery will involve some time spent together as a focussed group with the adult as well a lot of child initiated access of our provision areas. The Nursery and Reception children are all part of Class 1 and so there will also of course be great opportunity for sharing play and learn times with the Reception children both indoors and outdoors. We share 'learning together' times on the carpet as a whole class during the day too.

The opportunities we plan aim to cover the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

- **Personal. Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**
- **Physical Development (PD)**
- **Communication and Language (C & L)**
- Literacy (Lit)
- Mathematics (Ma)
- Expressive Art and Design (EAD)
- Understanding the World (UW)

These first weeks will inevitably focus on the three 'Prime Areas', which have been shown

ASPIRE • BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

in bold, helping us to learn more about each child so that we can plan the next steps of their learning journey in ways that will capture their interest.

We aim to create a warm and caring atmosphere in a stimulating environment. In order to achieve this behaviour expectations will be made clear to the children in these first days and weeks and then reinforced through circle time discussions as the year progresses. In this busy environment we do expect children to do as they are asked and hope that you will support and reinforce this at home. We teach the rules of 'Kind hands, Kind feet, Kind words' as a means of keeping a safe and happy place to be and this forms a significant part of our focus on PSED.

We will ensure that all of our Nursery new starters are assigned a Key Worker within the next week or two and will inform you about this. The Key Worker role in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a valuable element ensuring that children and parents have a named member of staff with whom they can share achievements and concerns and who will be responsible for ensuring children's profiles are regularly updated. Mrs Williams has overall responsibility for monitoring the progress and development of each child in Class 1 but please know that you may, of course, approach any of us to share questions, concerns and information.

Do look out for the blank 'a note from home' slips (in the wallet on our cloakroom notice board), please take these and fill them in with your child's interests, experiences and achievements before returning them to us in school to contribute to your child's Learning Journey. These can be as full or as brief as you like.

Practicalities

Staffing in Class 1

Mrs Williams is the class teacher for all of Class 1 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings. **Mrs White** is the class teacher on Fridays and is joined by **Mrs Taylor** who teaches PE in the morning. As well as supporting the class Monday to Thursday, **Mrs Naish** leads the class with a music session and a creative focus on Thursday afternoons.

We are very lucky to have highly experienced, passionate and well-qualified staff in our team. Supporting our class are **Miss Wilkinson** (Teaching Assistant), **Mrs Snowden** (Nursery Assistant), **Mrs Garcia** (Teaching Assistant) and **Mr Walkington** (Teaching Assistant). We also welcome **Miss Gilby** into our team this half term as she embarks on her teacher training at Marton cum Grafton.

Start of the day

The Class 1 cloakroom entrance will be opened at 8.40am each morning when Reception children will start to enter their classroom. Nursery children are welcome into the cloakroom area ready for Nursery opening at 8.50am ready to start the day at 9am, but should not enter our nursery base whilst it is still in use by the Before School Club (BAFTA). Please stay with your child until a member of the Early Years staff is in the Nursery room. Once our Reception learners are registered the main Class 1 doors will be closed but the white wooden door will remain open for Nursery children until just after 9am. If you arrive and both doors have been locked please go round to the office so that you can sign your child in.

After hanging up coats and putting away bags we are encouraging children to self-register, they can then begin to explore the areas and activities until they come together for a short whole group time.

All children should have outdoor trainers or wellies, otherwise they will have to stay on the playground rather than enjoy the whole of the outdoor area.

Snacktime

All of the children are offered a drink of milk and a fruit or vegetable snack as part of their session.

We encourage the children to keep hydrated throughout the day, please send a bottle of water in with your child each day.

Hometime

After our end of day story time and school prayer all of the Class 1 children sit together with a member of the Early Years Team. We obviously need to be sure that all children get to their adult safely and so a member of staff will always be on door duty. This member of staff will call children from the carpet individually, where they will be sharing stories, singing songs, watching a short episode of a favourite TV show or listening to music with another member of our team while they wait for their turn. We appreciate this can sometimes be a long process and do thank you for your patience and understanding with this.

If, at the end of the day, you ever wish to speak to Mrs Williams, or another member of the team, about any concern, achievement, issue or anecdote concerning your child then please do wait until all children have been dismissed so that we can concentrate fully on the conversation.

Reminder

Please could we ask that you check that all of your child's belongings are clearly named. This includes coats and shoes as well as all items of school uniform. We have already had confusion over school shoes of the same style and size and over cardigans. It's a real help to us and your children if their things are named. Thank you.

Please do let us know if you have any concerns. If you are unable to come into school to see us then please send a note or email, or ring the office and leave a message so we can get back to you.

We look forward to getting to know you and sharing your child's achievements with you and hope that your child will enjoy their time in Nursery.

Many thanks for your support in this first week of term, we wish you a happy weekend.

Best wishes

Mrs Williams and The Early Years Team