**Welcome to Year One**

**Deer Class Information**

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to the new term which is just around the corner now.

I am the teacher, Miss Collins, and I very much look forward to welcoming your children into their new class and working alongside you in the coming academic year.

I hope you find the timing and contents of the information in this letter helpful. I am sending it a little earlier than usual as it may be helpful for you to share some of the information with the children as you talk about the new school year. There may also be items you need to buy or prepare for the start of term.

Mrs Bates is our teaching assistant and works each morning and on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. We will all be at the door to welcome the children in from the playground on Day 1. We are not the room next to Badgers class – that’s Year 2. We are the next room along at the end of the block.

I will teach the children all day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and on Thursday and Friday mornings. On Thursday afternoons, Computing is taught by Mrs Wiltshire followed by PE with Mr Pollard. In Term 1, the children will be swimming each Thursday during their PE slot. On Friday afternoons, the children have their second PE lesson with Mr Pollard and a Music lesson with our new Music specialist teacher, Mrs Norton.

Our Year One Team had the pleasure of meeting many of your children during the moving up sessions during Term 6 when they came for a morning visit and for stories at other times. They were given time to ask questions, to explore the room and to see where they will need to enter the new classroom from the playground.

I have also been liaising carefully with Mrs Davies who has transferred some key pieces of information to us about the children - such as friendship, medical and academic considerations. Please feel free to email or make an appointment to meet with myself if you have particular additional information that you would like to share or if anything significant has changed over the summer break.

**The Year One Curriculum**

It is an important transition for the children as they move from the EYFS curriculum to Year One where they begin the National Curriculum which they will follow through Primary School. Starting in September 2022, we chose to enrol on an exciting pilot project which means that the first terms in Year One will be very similar to the experience in EYFS. This is known as Continuous Provision. The learning will be play based and often, child initiated, but in line with National Curriculum objectives rather than those from EYFS.

The children will be taught daily lessons for Phonics, English, Handwriting and Maths as we will prioritise the learning of these skills throughout the day and also for Homework.

The classroom is arranged into learning zones: Number, Shape and Space, Reading, Writing, Role Play, Creative, Enquiry and Science, Story Telling, Loose Parts, Construction and a small outdoor area for Year One is being developed.

Our class mascot is called Jigsaw Jack who helps us to role play and discuss how to work together as a class and to talk about our feelings, emotions and matters that affect our well-being —so if you hear the children talking about Jack, they are referring to our cuddly, orange mascot.

It is age appropriate for the children in Year One to organise and take greater responsibility for their own things and needs more independently. For example, they pack their own bags at the end of the day, find their own jumpers and book bags etc., so please make sure every item is labelled clearly and that the children know where to look for the name. Please show the children their wellies and puddle suits before Day One so they recognise them easily. Please encourage children to be able to fasten their own coats and bags and open their lunch boxes themselves. For children who tend to have the odd toileting accident, please keep spare underwear and wet wipes in their backpacks.

Below is some key information about Deer Class that you may like to keep for future reference:

**What to bring/wear to school:**

**(Go Label crazy please! Name everything that your child brings and wears to school so items can easily be returned if misplaced.)**

Velcro or buckled shoes – no laces please

Velcro or slip on trainers for PE days – no laces please

PE kit to be worn on Thursdays and Fridays - Swimming is on Thursday afternoons

A book bag – each day

A puddle suit – please bring this on Day 1 and hang it on the hooks outside our room

A pair of wellies – please bring this on Day 1 and tuck them under the bench outside our room

A water bottle – each day: sports or flip top. Please avoid screw caps.

Packed lunch if needed

Backpack - optional

A piece of fresh fruit for morning play – unless you have paid in advance for toast

No Toys please

Completed Homework each Wednesday

**Communication**

Either myself or Mrs Bates will welcome the children into class each day and you can relay a quick message if needed. If a longer discussion is required, please wait until all the children have been dismissed at the end of the day or send us an email to arrange a suitable time.

Please continue to read the school Newsletter and emails diligently as they contain many key pieces of information to keep the day to day running of our class and school on track.

**Reading folders**

Please send reading folderto school every day. Keep the 2 reading books, reading diary, homework book and any lists of words in the folder, nothing else please. Water bottles (which often leak) and playtime fruit must not be kept in the folder – these need to be placed on the outside table as you arrive.

We listen to children read, in small groups three times a week. This is called Guided Reading.

1:1 reading happens once a week and relies on the availability of reading volunteers. If you would like to volunteer and can read on a regular basis for an hour or so each week, please pop in to see us as we would be delighted to welcome you into class.

Books will be changed when children can read and talk about the book fluently and confidently.

Please check your emails next week for a letter from Mr Nesbitt about our new reading reward system.

**Toys**

Please do not allow your child to bring toys. We have found that a No Toys rule makes for more harmonious playtimes and better focus in class. We have a super range of creative resources in school and in the playground which can be shared.

**Homework**

The main homework for Term One is Reading and practicing Phonics. More detailed information about Homework will follow but the routine will be to hand completed homework in on Wednesdays. New Homework will be given out on Fridays.

I apologise for bombarding you with information and thank you for your preparations which will help us to have a great start.

Thank you for your support.

Liz Collins