



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer holiday and managed to get out and about to spend time with your friends and family.

It has been lovely to have the children back this week and getting into the swing of things. We have lots of exciting plans for the year ahead in both Year 1 and 2!

This letter will give you a brief overview of some of the key information for this term, including the trips and events that are coming up.

Start of the Day

We encourage the children to be responsible for their own belongings and organisation and greatly appreciate your support with this. If you need to pass on important messages to your teacher, please see us in the morning or after school. Alternatively, you can call the office and we will get in contact with you as soon as possible or speak to a senior teacher on the school gate.

PE Days

As mentioned on previous school information, the children will come to school in their PE kit on their designated school days. Please ensure that this kit is appropriate for the weather. A light waterproof is a great addition for wet days.

LLO – Wednesday and Thursday
TRG – Wednesday and Thursday
EFI – Monday and Tuesday
DSM – Tuesday and Friday

Forest School

Please send your child into school with waterproofs (or old clothes) and wellies in a named bag for them to change into on Forest School days.

LLO – N/A for Autumn Term
TRG – Thursday
EFI – N/A for Autumn Term
DSM – Friday

Topic and Trips

Year 1 will continue with play projects this term, with a continued focus on collaboration and communication. The children will also dip into our first science topic that will support them to think about the material they are using and their properties. There also will be an emphasis on evaluating projects, explaining what could have been better and what could be done differently next time.

The year 2 enquiry question for this half term is, 'What can we learn from the Ant?'

This is a PSHE and Science enquiry which will enable the children to explore how ants interact with each other and their environment, as well as how they work together. The children will draw out the

key principles of effective team work focusing upon communication, taking on different roles, resilience and trust.

Year 1 and 2 -We will be taking both year groups to the Bear Trail on Wednesday 20th September. The Bear Trail is 'an award-winning mud-fest of an attraction, the Bear Trail is a family-friendly mud run obstacle course set on a 10-acre site with over 30 obstacles'. This trip is a wonderful way to have fun together, build relationships and develop important teamwork skills! If you are able to help with this trip please contact the school office or your class teacher.

Author Visit

We are so excited to tell you about an upcoming reading event. On Monday 25th September, award-winning children's author, Tracey Corderoy will be visiting Years 1 and 2 as part of the annual Appledore Book Festival. More information will be available in the Author visit letter, which will be sent out to all parents shortly.

Library Books

Each class has a weekly library slot where they will have the opportunity to select and exchange library books that they can take home to enjoy.

TRG – Friday

LLO – Friday

DSM – Monday

EFI – Wednesday

It is essential that these books are well cared for; every year we lose many books which costs the school lots of money. Please make sure they are kept safe and are well loved! It is important to make sure the children have a book in school every day as there is usually at least one time in the day where they will have independent reading time. If your child brings a school book home, please ensure that it comes back to school when it is needed.

Home Learning

Reading

It is absolutely crucial for your child's development that reading at home is part of a daily routine. They will be taught phonics on a daily basis and read as part of a group once a week. It is very important that children get the opportunity to practise the daily phonics by reading at home and for you to share a passion and enthusiasm for books and stories. We will also send home tricky word cards on a regular basis. We would appreciate it if you could practise reading these with your child until they are able to read them fluently and recognise them in a book.

Year 1 will continue to use Tapestry to set home learning tasks and to communicate and share information with you.

Year 2 will set their home learning on Google Classroom in the coming weeks. You will be sent information about how to access Google Classrooms shortly. Initially the home learning will be sent home on paper. When we begin to use Google Classroom, the homework will also be available as a paper copy for those children who do not have access to a device or Google Classroom at home. Home learning will be set on a Friday, with an expectation that it is completed by the following Friday.

Meet the Teacher

This year our Meet the Teacher days will be Tuesday 10th October and Wednesday 11th October. These meetings are a chance for you to meet your child's new class teacher and to discuss any important information regarding your child. It is also a chance for teachers to let you know how your child has settled into their new year group and class. Further information about how to book appointments will be sent out in October.

We look forward to working with all of your children in order to help them grow and develop as young learners and people.

Year 1 and 2 Team

Miss Fitzgerald, Mrs Harrison Miss Lloman, Mr Smallwood and Mrs Rowan-Genge