

Welcome back to school to all those in Y1 and a very warm welcome to our new starters in Reception.

Your teachers in Reception and Y1 are Mrs James who teaches Monday to Thursday and Mrs Wilson who teaches on Thursday afternoon and all day Friday. Our teaching assistants are Miss Hunter who will work in Class 1 every day except a Thursday morning and Miss Young who will work in Class 1 every day.

We welcome Miss Torgersen who will be our Schools Direct student this year. She will work in Class 1 three days a week until half term and will then complete a teaching practice after half term working alongside Mrs James. She will complete another teaching placement in a different school in our cluster before returning to complete a final placement in the Summer term. Esh is part of a cluster of schools who train students throughout the year, affiliated with Sunderland University, to complete their PGCE teaching qualification.

### **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 nursery and so many new faces (and bigger children). Rest assured that within a couple of minutes of you leaving they are absolutely fine and we would let you know if they weren't! Often they 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.

### **Playtimes**

Children have a 15 minute break in the morning from 10:30 - 10:45 and lunchtime is from 12:05 until 1:15. At first it can often be daunting for young children to play in a space where so many bigger children and unfamiliar faces are running round. It can often seem noisy. Mrs James will stay in the yard with other staff members at the beginning of term until the children are settled and familiar with this new environment.

### **PE**

PE will take place as a whole class on a Tuesday morning until half term. Y1 will also have PE on a Monday afternoon. PE will be taught most lessons by Mrs James. After half term one lesson a week will be taught by a sport's coach. Reception children may have some extra fundamental sessions with a teaching assistant. Children will need royal blue shorts and a plain white t-shirt, PE shoes or trainers with everything clearly named. The P.E. Kit can remain on their pegs so it is always in school (feel free to take it for washing whenever you want to, we will send it home every half term). Please try to help us and your child by making sure they can dress and undress independently as quickly as possible. We have a limited amount of time in the sport's hall which we also share with St. Michael's R.C. School so getting ready quickly means more time to be active. Thanks!

As well as PE Kit, all items of uniform and coats etc need to be named so we can reunite them with their owner after PE or the end of the day.

### **TOPICS**

Our main topic for this half term is Traditional Tales.

This incorporates smaller themes about bears and houses and homes. Our Class 1 page of the website will be updated very shortly with our new Long Term Plan for the 2019/2020 academic year as well. It also has lots of useful information including websites that can be used to support your children's learning.

As always we also want to follow the children's interests so new topics or activities are planned for as they arise.

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

### **Learning Journeys**

We are setting up new Learning Journeys for Reception children and continuing them in Y1. Learning journeys give a picture of what your child has achieved at home and school throughout their Reception Year. We will try to organise 'tea and tapestry' evenings every term where you can look at the photographs etc in their files and see what they are learning at school. You are welcome to view them at any time though please give us a little notice so we have them as up to date as possible for you. We would like you to be involved as much as possible so we are sending some sheets home, which you can fill in when you want and send to school to put in the Learning Journeys. They are as much about the things you do at home as at school and it should be a partnership between the two.

### **Boxes**

Please could you send some boxes or tubes with your child each week for our creative table as the children love to build!

### **Water**

Please provide your children with a named drinks bottle so they have access to fresh water each day.

### **Tuck shop**

We run a Fairtrade tuck shop each Wednesday. Items cost 50p and there are a variety of cereal bars and apple or orange juice cartons. Children can spend a maximum of £1 for a cereal bar and carton, or 50p for a cereal bar or a carton. Children are unable to purchase two cereal bars at a time.

### **Fruit and Milk**

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, raisins and sometimes strawberries in the summer. You are welcome to bring in your own piece of fruit or raisins but please no nuts or other snacks. Children in Reception are entitled to a free carton of milk daily until the week of their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. After that, if you wish, you can purchase milk from [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

### **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**

We are available before and after school to see us. If you have a concern and wish to see us in a more private setting please phone school and we can arrange an appointment. Parents Evenings will be held in the last week of term, dates to be confirmed. Written reports are given in February and July. We try and update the school website with photos as often as possible. Please also check out our Learning Wall above the coat pegs which shows photographs of activities the children have completed in class or English and Maths work they are working on. We aim to change these at least twice a half term. We also have a Twitter feed which we try to post on frequently - @eshceprimary.

### **Sponsored Walk and Classroom resources**

A huge thank-you to all of you who sponsored the children before the summer to raise money for the World Wide Fund for Nature and Class 1. The children will receive their certificates soon from WWF. We raised over £400 which is an incredible amount and every penny left over from sponsoring the Amur Leopard will go to buy resources for the children. As you may have already noticed we have been transforming the classroom into a much calmer environment with lots of vintage, real items. We have acknowledged that the use of plastic in our toys is not good for the environment. Plastic, moulded items are often made for one particular purpose, for example, from a TV show or film and take all the imagination out of their play. They can only be used for that purpose. We have been steadily replacing these toys with items made from wood or other materials which can have many purposes. For example, instead of using a plastic garage we now encourage the children to build their own using wooden blocks. We have plain wooden peg people who can be anything the children imagine and more. This year we have recycled our plastic food and tea sets and bought vintage china tea sets. We are hoping that this teaches the children to treat the resources with greater care. Plastic is virtually indestructible and the children soon learn that they can throw them, jump on them etc and they don't break and therefore will do so. The introduction of real items will hopefully make them feel more grown up and they become calmer in their exploratory play. We have also replaced superhero/princess costumes with real clothes, shoes, bags and hats.

We would love people to have a rummage at the back of their cupboards for any pots, pans, china tea sets, utensils, ornaments, hats, shoes, handbags and any curious items that you know longer need. Please ask Class 1 staff for any ideas - we have loads!

### **And the rest...**

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 as small as possible. We are trying out a mobile trolley this year to cut down on all the coats blocking our classroom entrance and becoming a trip hazard.

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

Many Thanks,

Mrs James, Mrs Wilson, Miss Hunter and Miss Young.