

Welcome to your first Update.

I have been very impressed by how well all the children have settled. Thank you all so much for helping to make these first days so positive. I have put a collection of photos from the week on the Noticeboard outside the Cloakroom (as I will every Thursday evening from now on). I hope you got chance to see them when you collected the children today. The idea is that these pictures will help you understand what the children have been doing in school and that this will facilitate conversations with them about their play/learning. So, when the children say they haven't done anything you will know better! I hope you find them useful. When the photos are taken off the board they are added to our Memories Books, which the children enjoy looking at through the year. Over the weekend I will also upload some photos to the children's Tapestry accounts. If you haven't received your Tapestry activation email yet please let me know.

We have had lots of fun this week. Our focus at the moment is on settling in and feel happy at school. They have all made an excellent start to school life and I'm sure you are equally as proud of them as I am. As we continue getting to know each other I will keep introducing our school routines and expectations. One of the routines we have already begun to establish is coming together to have snack and drink during the morning, which is a great opportunity to listen to some music or have a quiet conversation with friends. You are welcome to supplement the free school snack with fruit from home, if you haven't already been doing this. If you haven't already please remember to register for the free school milk if your child would like some at snack time. This week I have been able to let anyone who wanted it have some because we had spare milk from Monday, however, this will not usually be the case. I have also introduced the colour/team group (house group system) we use in school and the children all have their coloured badges to keep in their ties. Next week I will explain to them how they can earn tam point for their groups and how the system works.

Today we joined the older children in the dinner hall and the playground after dinner. This was a huge success. I stayed with the children throughout and we also had some siblings and other children to help. I was very pleased at how sensible Class One were. I have sent the menu for next week home already with a letter about school lunches. Again, if you haven't already done so please let us have their choices for next week on Monday morning. I will send the menu choices for w.b. 16th September on Thursday or Friday next week.

As well as all the wonderful exploring inside and in the garden, we have started sitting together as a class to have a chat and a short story each day. We have been thinking about how to use different resources and to tidy up carefully when we have finished with them. If you haven't already done so, please fill in the 'All About Me' section of Tapestry, as this will help one of the 'getting to know each other' activities I have planned for next week.

Everyone is in full time now so please drop off at the garden gate/classroom door between 8.40 and 8.50am. Collection is at 3.15pm from the Class One cloakroom door, as it was today. Can I please request that, if the weather continues being as sunny as it has this afternoon, you apply sun cream in the morning and send some with the children for re-application before lunch time. Sun hats would also be advisable.

We will be doing PE on a Wednesday morning but will not start wearing PE kits for a couple of weeks yet. **I have planned to start changing after PE on Wednesday 10th October.** I would like the children

to come in their PE kit and bring their uniform with them in a kit bag so they can change after our lesson. We will do this for as long as necessary but once I know they can all change independently, they will be able to come in their kits on a Wednesday and stay in them for the duration of the day. A plain white T-shirt and navy shorts are suitable for the immediate future, as I know the PE uniform kit is sometimes too large for four and five year olds. They will also need trainers or well-fitting pumps.

If you would like to send a show and tell next week please do. Each child will be able to do one Show and Tell per week and these will be done on a first come first served basis instead of having a set day. It should be uploaded onto Tapestry please but supporting artefacts are very welcome. They will be kept safe on my shelf specifically for the show and tell session.

I will be inviting you to an information meeting in the near future, the purpose of which will be to provide you with information about how we teach phonics (reading and writing) in school and how you can support your child at home. I'm offering two dates at different times so hopefully everyone who intends to support the children with their homework (this includes Grandparents) will be able to attend one of them. **The dates are Thursday 26th September at 6pm and Friday 27th September at 3.20.** If you would like your child to go to the Sunset Club (after school care) on the Friday it will be FOC for the duration of the meeting. Older siblings from school may also attend for free, but we will not be able to look after younger siblings. There will be an option to book this on the meeting invitation, which I will get out to you next week.

As well as me getting to know the children better over the next couple of weeks, once they are settled, I will also be completing the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) for each child. The process is very painless and just means I will be spending some individual time with each of them working through some little activities. If you would like to know more about the process please just ask.

Mr Ratcliffe will be explaining in his newsletter that the 'weekly' update is now changing to one every two weeks but I will continue to put the photos on display weekly. I will also let you know about any changes to plans or important message by email. Don't hesitate to contact me however, if you have any questions, problems or worries at all - no matter how small you think they might be. If it's important to your child (or to you) it's important to me too.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday.

Kind regards from Mrs Watts.