

Dear Families,

Hello everyone and welcome to your first Class One Update. Thank you all for helping to make these first days so positive for the children and a huge thank you for all the supporting messages for the school during this week's OFSTED inspection, it is very much appreciated.

I hope you saw last week's photos on Tapestry and had chance to chat with the children about them. There will not normally be quite so many pictures on Tapestry but there will usually be new photos on the Notice Board outside the Cloakroom every Friday for that week, so you can see what we have been up to and ask the children about them. I haven't done this week's yet but they will be there on Monday for you to look at through next week.

The focus at the moment is on settling in, getting to know each other and feeling happy at school. Some have been a little teary on separation in the mornings, which is normal, but I can assure you they very soon settle. All the children have made an excellent start to school life and I'm sure you are equally as proud of them as I am. As well as all the wonderful exploring inside and in the garden, we have been thinking about how to use different resources and to tidy up carefully when we have finished with them. I will keep introducing our school routines and expectations as the weeks go on.

I have been staying with the children at lunchtime and they are doing great. I've sent the menu for next week home today and thank you returning last week's menu promptly, it saves a lot of time through the week. If you haven't done so already, please remember to register for the free school milk for snack time. Lots of children are asking for it but I only have five on my list for next week.

For your information, we will be doing PE on a Wednesday morning **but will not start wearing PE kits for a couple of weeks yet. I will let you know a week in advance.** Initially I would like the children to come in their PE kit and bring their uniform/shoes 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 and stay in them for the duration of the day. A plain white T-shirt and navy shorts/joggers are suitable for now. They will also need trainers or well-fitting pumps for PE outside.

If you would like to send a Show and Tell next week please do. Each child will be able to do one 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 great. They will be kept safe on my shelf specifically for the Show and Tell session.

I will be completing the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) for each child in the next few weeks. 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.

I apologise for the change of date for the stay and play session, which is now next Wednesday. I know many of you have signed up for the phonics meeting on Monday after school, which is great, but please don't feel you have to do both. Unless the children particularly want you to of course. Thank you for returning the phonics meeting slips or letting me know when you would like to attend, I'm looking forward to seeing you all on either Monday or Thursday.

Finally, I'm sure you all know about Albi leaving the class and it's sad that he and his family are leaving school. I will really miss them. The children made a card for Albi today and we wish him and Asher all the best in their new school.

Please don't hesitate to contact me 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. If it's an admin problem with Teachers to Parents or other general enquiry about school milk, clubs etc. your message would be better directed to Mrs Flowerdew in the school office. If it's a Tapestry question I will be able to help.

Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday.

Kind regards from Mrs Watts.