

Dear Families,

It was lovely to see so many people at the phonics meetings and the 'come and play' on Wednesday last week, it was a shame it started raining. I sent a message and letter about the bun sale responsibility for Class One Parents last week. No one has contacted me otherwise so I have made a list of the seven dates that need covering by two parents each. Here is the link to the document, which you can add your name to –

[bun sale dates sign up sheet.docx](#)

I neglected to mention in my previous message that Carolina had also asked about a class rep, to pass on info from the PTA via WhatsApp. At the moment, Dom's mum has volunteered to do the job but already does it for Class Four, so it might be nice for someone to take it off her hands – I will leave it with you!

As well as continuing to settle in, get to know each other and our routines, we have joined the whole school in Collective Worships over the past couple of weeks. We have also been doing some learning together on the carpet for maths and phonics, which as you will know, started this week, covering the GPC 's', 'a', 't' and 'p'. Thank you for your support and please make sure you ask if you have any questions. The Home and School folders went home last Thursday and these now should be in school every day for important letters, and homework books. The children will be getting team points each day when they have completed the homework from the day before. Book bags are by far the best way of transporting them and keeping everything safe and tidy. The children have brought home their first mini reading book with the GPC for this week and the menu for next week.

The White Rose Maths focus has been Block 1 'Match, sort and compare' and we have been matching objects, sorting by different criteria and identifying sets. There has also been lots of counting and numeral identification going on in provision through games and general 'play'. We always start the day with our Big Picture, which outlines the day's events and we talk about the day, date and month. In addition to that, we have been sequencing stories and events, including the story of the Little Red Hen for our Harvest performance in the Harvest Service next Friday. I hope you can join us. We will also be doing some baking to celebrate harvest next week.

We will start wearing PE kits next Wednesday 30th. Please send the children in their kits with their uniform/shoes with them in a kit bag, so they can change after our lesson. We will do this for a couple of weeks 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.

Mrs Jarvis has given me the following information about her mic lessons: *I have had a lovely time in Class 1 over the last few weeks, getting to know your wonderful children. I will be teaching them music every Tuesday afternoon. We have played some music games so that I could learn everyone's names – I think I'm nearly there! We sang some songs, practised marching to the beat and kept busy with lots of actions. Then, this week we have been thinking about pulse and rhythm and using movement to investigate the difference. We have been singing nursery rhymes, some the children know and some new ones. The children marched to the pulse of The Grand Old Duke of York. We changed the speed of*

the singing and realised that this meant we need to change the speed of our marching too. We thought about how an elephant would move and then walked like an elephant to some different rhythms. We then even tried to dance like an elephant and stick to the rhythms in the song, The Funky Elephant Walk. We finished off our lesson by thinking about how many different sounds there were in our names and the children all clapped their names in a circle.

On Tuesday 13th October we will be visiting Harewood Estate for our Autumn environmental morning. We don't usually have parent volunteers for this visit, as numbers are limited (we have to fit in a trailer for transportation down into the woods). However, I have already had one request from a parent who wants to come and can offer two more places, if anyone would like to come. We will be leaving school at about 9.20 and returning for twelve. Please email me and I will allocate them on a first come first served basis. Please email me asap if you want to join us (d.watts@harewood.leeds.sch.uk). Don't panic if you miss this opportunity because there will be another one later this year when we go on our Christmas Harewood House visit. The date for that is the last day of the Autumn term, Friday 18th December (I've booked early!) and you are all welcome to come along for free!

Finally, there are a couple of housekeeping messages – firstly, can I please ask that if you send grapes for the children's snack they need to be cut at least length ways or in quarters if they are large. Although we always sit together for snack and the children are supervised, they do pose a potential choking hazard and we have been cutting the whole ones. Secondly, I have a couple of jumpers, which have been in the cloakroom for a little while. One definitely had a label on at one time but it has fallen off. Please check if they belong to you. Thank you!

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.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards from Mrs Watts.