

September 2016

# CLASS 1 CHRONICLE

## Reception

### All about Me

Issue 1

We would like to give a warm welcome to all of the Class 1 children and their families. All of the children are settling in well and it is fantastic to get to know everyone.

This newsletter will be written and handed out at the beginning of each half term and is designed to share with families some of the things the children will be learning about.

The children in Reception learn through cross-curricular themes that are designed to follow the children's interests and challenge each child to progress onto their next steps.

Play is the cornerstone of our Foundation Stage curriculum. Through supervised play children are encouraged to explore, develop, imagine and investigate their surroundings in order to start to understand the world around them. Practical experiences are incredibly valuable and appropriate at this stage of learning. Play provides important opportunities for learning in many ways; observation, exploration, discovery and communication. These opportunities are developed through both indoor and outdoor

activities. This half term we will be spending our time getting to know all about the children and their families. We will explore family, where they live, hobbies and interests, parts of the body and how special and unique they are. We will be looking at 'ourselves' through our art and will be creating self portraits using different materials and techniques. We will also be looking at ways we can be healthy and will be exploring healthy foods and healthy lifestyles.

If you have any questions about this topic please do not hesitate to contact the school.

### Dates and times to remember.....

PE	Tuesday mornings
Storysacks	Monday Mornings 8.45 - 9.00 am
Drop in sessions	Tuesday Mornings 8.45 - 9.15 am



### Some things to note....

#### PE

In Class 1 our PE day is **Tuesday**. Each child should have a PE kit of black shorts, a white T-shirt and black gym shoes. We encourage children to leave their PE

kits in school for the whole half term. They will be sent home at the end of half term to be washed. Please could you make sure each item in your child's PE is clearly labeled with their name. PE kits are stored on pegs

in the cloak room so ideally the PE bag should be small as there is limited space.



#### Junk

Save space in your recycling bin! Please send in your (clean) small plastic bottles, small cardboard boxes (smaller than a cereal box, kitchen roll tubes and yoghurt pots for our workshop area. The children will turn your junk into creative works of art!

#### Golden Assembly

We will soon be starting Golden assemblies. This is where we celebrate the achievement of the children across the whole school. One child is chosen from each class and on Friday mornings they will be presented with a golden cushion by Mrs Lewin. They will keep this cushion for the whole week to sit on in class. They will also receive a certificate to take home.

### Contact us...

St. Godric's RCVA Primary, Thornley, Thornley Road, Wheatley Hill, Durham.

Tel: 01429 820333  
Fax: 01429 820333

Website: [www.st-godrics.durham.sch.uk](http://www.st-godrics.durham.sch.uk)

### Wellies

Please could you send in a pair of wellies for your child to keep in school on their peg. A lot of our learning is outdoors and as the weather changes we want to continue using outdoors as much as possible.

Please can you make sure all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. Jumpers and cardigans are often removed and it is a struggle to find their owners without a name tag.



## Important Dates

*Welcome Liturgy* **27th September 2.30pm**

*Curriculum meeting* (inc phonics and homework) **Tuesday 18th October 2.15pm and 5.30pm**

*Parents evening* **Tuesday 15th November**

*Christmas Stay and Play* **Tuesday 6th December 9:00-10:15**

*Christmas Play* **Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December at 2:00pm**

## Drop-in sessions.



We will be holding drop-in sessions on Tuesday mornings from 8.45 until 9.15 am. These sessions allow parents and carers to come into the classroom to have a look at what the children have been learning, talk to the teacher or key person for their child or just interact with their child in the classroom setting. In the past parents have been enthusiastic about having the opportunity to chat to the teacher, asking any questions that they may have, discussing children's progress or just having a look around the setting. The children also enjoy showing their parents around their classroom. These sessions are informal and do not require an appointment, just 'drop-in'!

The sessions will close at 9.15 so that the children can continue with their school day.

### Star of The Day



Next week we will start giving out our 'Star of the day award'. One child will be chosen at the end of each day to be the class star of the day. The award will be given for good behaviour and hard work. That child will receive a special sticker and be given special privileges the following day. They will go at the front of the line, be first for lunch, give out the snack to the rest of the children. The children are highly motivated to get this reward.



### Cool Milk

Just a reminder. If you would like your child to receive free milk in school please fill in the Cool Milk form and send it off. The school does not run the milk scheme so parents need to contact Cool Milk directly if they would like their child to receive milk. Many of the children in reception have shown a great interest in having milk at snack time and it's free until the child's 5th birthday! Once a child turns 5 the milk has to be paid for by parents if they want to carry on with the scheme. Visit the website [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com) to sign up.

### Class Fund

Thank you for your voluntary 50p contributions to our class fund. This helps to fund cooking activities, playdough ingredients, craft activities, and any extra treats. Please could you send this in an envelope labelled with 'class 1 fund'. There will be a money box to drop your donation into on a Tuesday morning.

### Reading books

To help your child progress further in reading we send out a home reading book. We encourage parents to read with their child as much as possible and record when you have read with them in their reading record. A reading guide will be sent out with their book. This book will be changed on a weekly basis so please make sure their book and reading record are always kept in their book bag. It is usual to start with books without words. These books give children the confidence to share and talk about stories with others. They will then progress to books with words. Helping your child to read will be one of the topics covered in the parents curriculum meeting - see dates above.

And remember.....If you have any questions or queries about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate in contacting the school

### How YOU can help!

Many parents ask what they can do at home to help reinforce the learning that takes place in school. The impact of reinforcing the skills developed in school at home is huge. The following list is just a small selection of ideas.



As the children in Class 1 are young, we recommend keeping 'homework' sessions short, around 10 mins. This means the children are able to concentrate well and have more enthusiasm and enjoyment for the tasks.

- sharing school reading books (please can you record when you have read with your child in their reading record, thanks)
- encouraging your child to dress and undress independently (this will help them when they have to get changed for PE)
- talk with your child about current topics or learning.
- Support children in writing their name.
- Help your child to complete any homework set for them.

Thank you