

September 2017

CLASS 1 CHRONICLE

Reception and Year 1

Welcome and Welcome Back

We would like to give a warm welcome to all of our Class 1 children and their families. It is great to have our Year 1 children back with us and fantastic to get to know our new Reception children.

This newsletter will be written and handed out at the beginning of each term and is designed 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 both

indoors and outdoors are incredibly valuable and appropriate at this stage of learning .

This term we will be spending our time getting to know all about the our new children and their families. We will explore family, the area where they live, hobbies and interests, 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.

Year One children are beginning to follow the National Curriculum and we have a gentle approach to make the transition a smooth one.

As mathematicians Year 1's will be learning about place value, addition and subtraction and shape. In English we will focus on stories with familiar setting and basic non-fiction writing about animals.

As Scientists we will be working scientifically to understand animals and humans, including naming, drawing and labelling the basic parts of the human body and understanding which part of the body is associated with each sense. We will also look at the seasons and how the weather changes within in each season.

In the second half of the term we will begin to look at Christmas, Christmas in the past and focus our music around our songs for the nativity performance. We will hopefully incorporate a Christmas trip to Beamish during the second half term.

In PE we will be starting to learn some fundamental skills and some basic gymnastics.

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

Issue 1

Dates and times to remember.....

PE	Tuesday and Thursday
Drop in sessions	Monday Mornings



Contact us...

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Website: www.st-godrics.durham.sch.uk
Email: thornleystgodric@durhamlearning.net

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.

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!

Some things to note.....

PE

In Class 1 our PE days are **Tuesday and Thursday**. 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.



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 **26th September 9:15pm**

Meet the teacher (Inc. phonics, reading and homework) **Monday 16th October**

Parents evening Tuesday **14th November**

Christmas Stay and Play **Wednesday 20th December 9:00-10:30**

Nativity Play

Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th December

Drop-in sessions.



We will be holding drop-in sessions on Monday 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



This week we have started 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.

RRSA Article 29 - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

Cool Milk

Milk can be provided for the children by the Cool Milk scheme. The school does not run the scheme so parents need to contact Cool Milk directly if they would like their child to receive milk. However Mrs Starkie has kindly signed each of our new reception children up to the scheme this year as many of the children have shown a great interest in having milk at snack time. Milk is **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. You can do this by visiting the website www.coolmilk.com.

Class Fund

We would really appreciate it if parents would donate 50p per week to go towards 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'. This is a voluntary donation but it makes such a difference to the opportunities we can offer the children. Thank you.

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.

RRSA Article 28 - Every child has the right to an education.

Thank you