

January 2017

CLASS 1 CHRONICLE

Reception

Issue 2

Happy New Year to all of our children and their families. We would like to say a huge thank you for all the very generous gifts we received, they are much appreciated. We hope you all had a restful holiday. The Christmas Stay and Play was very successful. Lots of families came and the children really enjoyed spending time in school with them. We raised £65 for our class fund which will go towards lots of exciting activities for the children. We are planning to do another Stay and Play at Easter and hope to see as many parents as we did for the Christmas event.



Weekend Homework Books

- All of the children in Class will be getting a weekend Homework Book which is sent home on Friday afternoons. Some weeks we will stick a sheet in the books for the children to complete but most weeks we would like the children to tell us what they have been doing, in words and pictures, during the weekend. They could include photographs, flyers or tickets of places they have visited. These books will be collected in on a Wednesday morning. We would appreciate it if parents could support their child when recording in this book in the following ways:
- Letter formation
- Sounding out words
- Giving ideas about what could be drawn
- Finger spaces (if sentences are being written)
- Capital letters (for names and at the beginning of sentences/captions)
- Writing on the lines
- Making letters a consistent size

We DO NOT expect the children in reception to be able to write captions/sentences at this stage. Some children may be able to write short captions with support but a picture and key word would be great. If you feel like your child is capable of writing a short sentence, please support them where necessary and give plenty of praise and encouragement. Thank you.

Over the next few months we will be following the children's interest in learning. Recently groups of children have explored baking, smoothie making, volcanoes and perfume making. This is all based on interests that the children have brought to us and we have continued and extended. If your child is particularly interested in something at home please let us know and we can follow it up in class. Other topics we will be covering over the next few months are winter, bird watching and Chinese New Year.



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.

Important Dates

Half Term: Week beginning 20th February 2017- return to school on Monday 27th February 2017

Sponsored Pancake Flip 28th February 2017

World Book Day: Thursday 2nd March 2017

Class 1 assembly on The Hindu festival of Holi - parents invited (more details to follow)

Monday 13th March

Easter Stay and Play: Tuesday 4th April 2017

Parents Evening: Tuesday 7th March 2017

Dates and times to remember.....

PE	Tuesday Mornings
Welly Wednesday	Wednesday afternoons
Drop in sessions	Tuesday Mornings 8.45 - 9.05 am

PE kits

A number of PE kits have yet to be returned to school after the holidays. Please can you send them in with your child as soon as possible. Thanks

Milk

Just a reminder when your child turns 5 they no longer receive free milk. If you would like them to continue to have milk at snack time with their friends you will need to contact Cool Milk to pay for it.

www.coolmilk.com

Warm Clothes

The weather is beginning to get very cold so please could you make sure that your child comes to school wrapped up. We tend to spend quite a bit of time outside so hats and gloves are really important so that the children can enjoy learning outdoors. Wellies are also useful to have in school to keep on their pegs.



Thank you



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.

Thank you very much for your support.

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
Email: thornleystgodric@durhamlearning.net

'Tricky Word' cards

The children in class are taught to read using many strategies, including a government scheme based around phonics. The majority of words that the children will come across can be 'sounded out' phonetically but there are a number of words in the English language which need to be learned by sight recognition. We call these words 'tricky' words. We are giving each child a pack of these 'tricky' words to take home to help them to learn to read them, and eventually write them. We would love it if parents could play games using these words, for example, hiding them around the room and getting children to find them, recognising and reading the word. The children could also be encouraged to find examples of these words in the books they are reading. The word cards are designed to stay at home and be used for short activities (no longer than 10 mins). If the children can learn to read these key words, their reading will improve greatly and become much more fluent. We have also included a number of small, common words into the sets to help with reading fluency.

Thank you.