

Wednesday 13th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome (or welcome back!) to Sheep Class! We hope that you and your child will soon settle in and feel happy and confident in joining or returning to our school. We understand that school can be an overwhelming place for a new Reception child, as well as a Year 1 child returning to school after the Summer holiday, so this letter will hopefully give you as much information as you need to help your child settle in and feel comfortable!

For our children, the first few weeks of Sheep class is all about getting settled into school life; to know our school - both the environment and the people.

We are fortunate to have a large classroom, with excellent indoor and outdoor areas. We have included some photos of the beautiful environment for you to see!



Children's happiness and wellbeing will be a huge focus as we seek to re-establish school routines and excitement for learning after the holiday. We know that some children may well be anxious about a return to school (or starting school), so developing close relationships and providing a secure and safe environment will be paramount in our work over the coming weeks. Do contact us if there are any concerns you may have about this issue - the more we know, the more we can help.

Below is a bit more information about some of the important aspects of life in Sheep Class.

Which adults will be in Sheep class?

Mrs Hunter and Mrs Cairns will teach Sheep class.

	
<p><u>Mrs Hunter</u> Monday, Tuesday (all day), Wednesday (10am-3:15).</p>	<p><u>Mrs Cairns</u> Wednesday (8:45-10am), Thursday and Friday (all day).</p>

Mrs Sparey and Miss Mayes will support the class.

	
<p><u>Mrs Sparey</u> Monday to Thursday (all day), Friday mornings.</p>	<p><u>Miss Mayes</u> Monday, Tuesday and Friday (all day).</p>

Early Reading



In Sheep class, we will be teaching Phonics as part of our daily practice. We plan to hold a parent workshop in the first half term to share with you how we teach Phonics and the best ways you can help at home - more information to follow!

Reception children will begin with wordless books for you to look at and talk about at home. The purpose of these books is to generate 'talk', widen their vocabulary, develop imagination and inspire interest in books. You might like to ask them questions such as:

- I wonder what is happening?
- I wonder who that is?
- I wonder what he or she is doing?
- I wonder how he or she is feeling?
- I wonder if you have ever felt like that?
- I wonder if that has ever happened to you or your family?

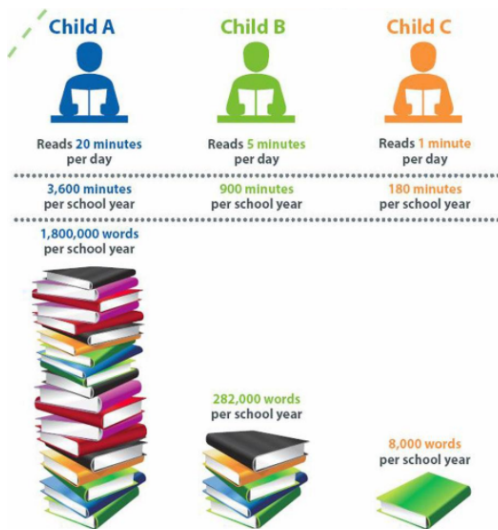
For Year 1s, we will be sending children home with reading books that relate to the sounds they are currently learning. We will be doing some informal reading assessments during the first few days, and will aim to send them home with a reading book very soon.

We cannot over emphasise the importance of reading at home with your child. This does not need to be a long reading session, especially for early readers, but 5-10 minutes daily practice does make all the difference!

We will provide your child with a reading record book which will travel between home and school. Please record a short note in the reading record to let us know which pages they have read.

Please keep this safe in their bag so it comes to school everyday.

We reward 'responsible readers' (who have read at home) in school with a DOJO (see more below!) The children love this!



How do I keep updated?

For **all children** this year, we will use **Tapestry**, an online learning journal, to record day-to-day achievements and progress. Parents and carers are also encouraged to add entries to their child's account to document their child's achievements at home. Details about how to access your account will follow shortly.



Class Dojo

The school will be using the Class Dojo app to communicate with parents with regards to behaviour. By downloading this free app, you will be notified when your child is given house points and it will say what it is for. Parents will be sent an invitation shortly via email or text message to join the class. Please note, teachers **will not** be responding to any messages sent on Class Dojo, so please continue to contact the school office for messages and enquiries.

School Office Text messages and email are sent from the school, please ensure your details are always up-to-date.

What does my child need to bring to school?

- ☐ A **named** waterproof coat (We access outdoors in all weathers!)
- ☐ A **named** pair of wellies (to keep at school, they will wear these whilst playing outside)
- ☐ Appropriate layers under their uniforms to stay warm when it is cold outside (e.g. vests, thicker tights, thicker socks, and of course gloves and hats).
- ☐ Water bottle

Can my child have a school meal?

Children in Sheep class are entitled to Universal Free School Meals, you need to order your child's lunch using the **Pupil Asset app** -details about how to access this will be sent soon! (Alternatively, please send your child in with a healthy packed lunch [no chocolate bars/ sweets])

When is PE?

We have P.E on **Tuesday afternoon**. We continue to ask that you please make sure your child **comes to school on Tuesday wearing their P.E kit** (with jumpers and tracksuit bottoms in cooler weather). PE kit should adhere to the school uniform policy.

Welly Day

We will have our Welly Day on **Fridays**. For these sessions, please could your child come to school wearing old clothes as listed below. These sessions will run through all weathers and seasons!

- Weather appropriate old clothing. I.e waterproof coat, warm layers, hats and gloves, sun hat. We have waterproof trousers in school for all children.
- Long sleeves and trousers. In all weathers - this is to protect arms and legs.
- Sensible old shoes or wellies.

Term dates:

Start of Autumn 1 term: Wednesday 6th September (Reception will start on Monday 11th September)

Last day of Autumn 1 term: Friday 20th October

Back to school for Autumn 2 term: Monday 30th October

Last day of Autumn 2 term: Wednesday 20th December

Child Wellbeing/Mental Health:

We will always do our best to support you and your child if tricky issues do arise, but do also visit justonenorfolk.nhs.uk for support



We do hope that your child loves being in Sheep Class! Do get in touch with us if you have any queries.

Kind regards

Mrs Hunter and Mrs Cairns

Curriculum information for Sheep Class Autumn 1 2023:

Reading/Writing

We will be using our story based phonics scheme, 'Twinkl - Rhino Readers'. Reception children will be working on recognising and writing their name. Reception will begin to read and write letter sounds.

Year 1 children will be recapping sounds learnt so far, we will be addressing gaps and build on the foundations they built last year.

Mathematics

We will be learning about number.

We will be learning to recognise numbers, representing numbers in different ways and one to one counting. We will embed maths throughout our continuous provision and seek to build number confidence and fluency in our play.

Communication and language

During this settling in time, we will be supporting children to develop relationships with the children and adults in the class.

We will work on developing children's confidence in speaking in front of other children, listening to others and taking turns in conversations. Children will be encouraged to express their thoughts and feelings using full sentences. Providing a rich vocabulary will be a key priority.

Physical Education/PD

Sheep class will be having PE on a Tuesday afternoon. Children will also develop their fine and gross motor skills every day during a range of different activities.

We will also be learning how to use large outdoor equipment safely and having Welly Sessions in our forest school area during the week.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will be supporting your child to settle in and learn the new daily routine. We will be supporting the children to access the resources inside and outside independently, and encouraging them to try new things. We will be having lots of discussions about ourselves, our likes and dislikes and what similarities and differences we have. We will talk about our feelings and how we can express our feelings safely

Story Focus:



Art

We will be introducing the idea that artists can be collectors & explorers as they develop drawing and composition skills.

Design & Technology

Children will be investigating toys and will create their own using simple mechanisms.

Science / understanding the world

Sheep class will be learning to name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part is associated with each sense.

Key vocab: Sight, taste, touch, hearing, smell, sound waves, vibrations, pupil, light, messages, brain, taste buds, plus various body parts.

History / understanding the World

We will be exploring the question: What was my parents' childhood like compared to mine?

Key vocab: change, past, present, old, new, future, timeline, similarities, differences

Music / Expressive Arts and Design

Children learn nursery rhymes with actions. Through this unit we will explore: growing, homes, colour, toys, how I look.

Religious Education

Children will explore:

'Being a Christian'.

We will be exploring what Christians believe and begin to notice and ask questions about differences between people.

Key vocab: Christian, God, Church, Cross, Family, Jesus, Symbol

Computing / understanding the World

Children will be learning how to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private.

We will use technology purposefully to create content and begin to log on to devices and use Apps.

Geography / understanding the World

We will explore the school's grounds - what do they notice?

We will then locate and explore the four countries of the United Kingdom and the surrounding seas.

Key vocab: Key, plan, map, aerial.