

# Kittens' Spring Newsletter

A very warm welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. Thank you again for your generosity at Christmas - my increased girth attests to this. The children are already one-third of the way through their first school year - it flies by! All are now settled and some arrive as if they have been going to school all their life. Over these next two terms, we will work on more academic targets and introduce activities to help toward the children having a smooth transition into Year 1. Below are a couple of clarifications and reminders.

Thank you again for all your support, if you need any help, assistance or want a catch up, please pop in - as they say, the door is always open.

## **Morning / afternoon routines**

Please continue to communicate via the learning log. If your child is being collected by anyone other than yourself please write this in their log. I look at all the learning logs left in the 'yes' box every day.

As you are aware, Year 1 now come out into the Kittens' playground. It would be really helpful if you could stand over toward the shed side to make you easier to find. On the odd occasion the sun comes out, please bear with me as the sun is directly in my eyes. Please wave vigorously!

## **Reading**

It is great to see so many of the children reading at home. Thank you. It is also useful if sometimes they re-read the same book as they will then begin to sight recognise words and become more fluent. I appreciate that some days they are tired after school, so do not force it. On those days, perhaps only read one or two pages - or even share an adult read story book. All promote a love of books. Reading books are changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure their learning log is in the 'yes' box if they need a new book.

## **PE**

Prior to half term, PE will still be on a Tuesday with our PE specialist. Please make sure your child has the correct named clothing and their hair is tied back. If they wear earrings please could you either remove them or tape them up. This needs to be done at home as we are unable to help the children with this.

## **Parent helpers**

Now the children are settled, if any of you have a spare few hours and would like to come in and help, it would be much appreciated. If you fancy a morning or afternoon supporting 30 delightful Kittens then pop in for a chat or write in your child's learning log. It does not necessarily have to be academic - all assistance greatly appreciated,

## **Tapestry**

Parents with older siblings in the school, will be aware that the rest of the school is trialling Class Dojo as a means of communication between parents and the class teacher. In Kittens we will continue to use Tapestry. Each week in the blog I will let you know what the class have been learning and I will also post observations of great learning. Don't forget to log on to have a look. Please 'like' things - it lets me know I am talking to someone. If you have forgotten your password, please pop in and see me.

## **Curriculum**

As your child moves toward Year 1, we will slowly begin to introduce a little more structure and formality into the school day. This is designed to help the children make a smooth transition from Early Years into Key Stage 1. The majority of the time the children will continue to learn through play, with the adults present to scaffold and progress their learning and understanding. Phonics and Maths will be daily. A great deal of our literacy input will be through Talk for Writing. Last term they learnt Santa Hunt, adapted from We're Going on a Bear Hunt. This half term we will be reading The Three Billy Goats Gruff and they will help recreate this with new characters. All things being equal, we will arrange a performance if you would like to attend.