



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to China Class!

We hope you have all had a great break and enjoyed all the beautiful sunshine over the summer! At Kedington Primary Academy we consider communication to be key to a strong effective partnership. Therefore, if there is anything you would like to discuss, please speak to us after school, make an appointment for a more convenient time, or send us a message on ClassDojo.

We look forward to working with you!

Mrs Reeder (Class Teacher/EYFS Lead)

Mrs Lawlor, Mrs Hale, Miss Lawes and Mrs Bradnam (LSAs)

Our Curriculum

To provide a rich and varied curriculum with high quality provision and learning experiences, we use a combination of 'Development Matters' (non-statutory curriculum guidance) and the newly adopted CUSP Early Foundations to guide our planning and practice. We also follow the children's interests to make sure they are fully motivated and engaged. We ensure a strong focus on communication, by supporting children to develop their vocabulary, speak in full sentences and develop positive interactions with each other.

Early Writing

During the first term in China Class, your child will be encouraged to develop the pivotal range in their shoulder, increase the fluidity of their elbow and wrist movements and strengthen the dexterity in their fingers, allowing them a successful and comfortable pencil grip for writing.

Using a name card, they will be encouraged to practice forming the letters in their name *correctly*. Following on from this there will be opportunities to begin to form the graphemes (letters) correctly, in the order which they are covered in our Sounds-Write phonics programme. We will provide laminated mats with the graphemes we have covered to practise at home. It is important to remind your child to start on the dot and follow the arrow correctly to embed correct formation right from the beginning and to prevent bad handwriting habits from developing. Every child is unique and it is important we allow children to develop in the prime areas of learning (personal, social and emotional development, communication and language and physical development) before being encouraged to achieve in areas such as writing. Therefore, we will monitor your child closely and when they are ready, we will support them accordingly in this area.

Mathematics

Maths can be found everywhere! We use the Mathematics Mastery programme to plan and develop our curriculum, whilst ensuring that we include children's interests to provide engaging opportunities within the environment. The areas of focus this term are pattern and early number, including deepening pupils' understanding of numbers to 6 through composition, addition and subtraction as well as shape and measure. Pupils will learn what the numerals look like, what one more and one less is, how they are composed (what numbers can be added together to make the amount e.g. 5 can be 3 and 2 or 3 and 1 and 1 etc.) and how to write them correctly. We will also be using shapes to make pictures whilst naming and exploring their properties.

Phonics

A daily Sounds-Write phonics session will take place each morning in China class as well as a brief revision session at the end of the day. This will consist of learning the sounds of the letters in the alphabet (phonemes), which spellings represent these phonemes (sound-spelling correspondences) and then encouraging your child to segment the sounds in words and blend them together to read. These sessions are very 'hands on' and active. As these sessions progress, your child will be given a reading book that matches the sounds they have learnt.

Forest School

On **Friday** afternoons we will have an outdoor session visiting our nature area at the bottom of the school field. The children will have lots of opportunities to increase their knowledge of the environment and world around them, observe and explore the natural world, and learn about some processes and changes such as the seasons and the weather. **Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit on this day, as it is much quicker for them to put their waterproofs overtop rather than change out of their uniform first. Children will wear their PE kit all day so please ensure they have suitable clothing for the weather.**

Discovery Time

Your child will take part in Discovery Time on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. This is a session in our outdoor area where the children can explore and learn through play at lots of different activities on a larger scale – from bikes and trikes to the construction area and from the stage to the sand pit. This learning will comprise of both child-initiated and adult-initiated activities, some of which may be linked to our current topic or theme for the week.

Reading

Until your child is issued with a reading book, please continue to develop a love of reading at home. Can your child recognise any sound-spellings or recognise rhyme and alliteration? What are your favourite stories to share and can you retell any parts of them? Encourage your child to draw a picture of their favourite part of the story or have a go at writing their favourite rhyming words etc. They could also be creative and make some props/characters to help retell the story in a dramatic or imaginative way! Once we begin our Sounds-Write programme, we will send home a reading book that is decodable based on the sound-spelling correspondences we have taught in class. Please make sure you write down when you read each day in their reading journal and we will change books weekly when your child is confident with the text. **Reading is one of the most important things you can do with your child so please ensure you find a time in the day that works for your family and add it to your routine.**

Learning at Home

Book of the Week - Once a week, one of the children will take home a review page and be asked to bring in their favourite book from home. The class will get the opportunity to listen to the story and the child will get the opportunity to share why they enjoy it so much.

Special Box – At the end of the week, one child will be given the Special Box to take home for the weekend. They will be asked to fill it with a few items that are special to them. For example, if your child loves swimming, they might want to bring in a badge, certificate or their favourite goggles. If they have just been to the beach they might want to show a special stone or shell they found. The child will get the opportunity to stand in front of the class and tell their friends about their special possessions.

Showbie – An invitation to join Showbie will be shared with you soon. This is where we will send literacy and maths home learning activities and games for you to do at home. The activities will focus on consolidating learning from the past week. **We have seen much quicker and better progress in children who complete these tasks consistently.** We will always include 'something extra' for you to do if you feel your child would benefit from an additional challenge. Please send us a video or voice note of you doing your homework so we can send you back messages of support! This is a great way for parents and carers to understand how children learn the curriculum and will give you some tips in the language we use in class.

Dojo

This is the main platform for communication between parents and staff. We will check Dojo regularly, but not usually during teaching hours, evenings or weekends.

If your child is going to be absent from school please contact the school office in the first instance.

We use Dojo to share photographs of some of the activities we do each week and to post messages regarding notices, upcoming events or important reminders. Please make sure your device is enabled to **receive notifications** and check these regularly. Dojo is very user friendly but please do contact us if you require any support with it.

PE

PE will take place on a **Thursday afternoon** starting on **Thursday 14th September**. Please come in wearing your PE kit each Thursday from this date. **Children will wear their PE kit all day so please ensure they have suitable clothing for the weather.**

Uniform

Please make sure **all** items of clothing, including PE Kit, shoes, coats, wellies and book bags/back packs are **fully named**. It is very difficult for the children (and staff!) to find mislaid uniform including shoes if they are not named. It is very helpful if clothing is labelled so that it is easy for your child to recognise and read their name. If anything has been misplaced during the day then please go with your child to the lost property (located in the hall) at the end of the day to collect. **We also ask that you provide a spare 'complete' uniform for your child to keep in their box at school (under their peg) in case of any accidents or in the event they get wet (due to weather or water play).**

Please could all children be provided a named pair of wellies to keep in school. To protect your child's school shoes and to keep our classroom floor as clean as possible children will wear wellies during Discovery Time and Forest School. It would be super if your child could bring in their wellies by **Wednesday 13th September**. Thank you.

Water Bottles/Fruit

Please send your child to school each day with a named water bottle. **There is to be only water in these bottles and not squash or juice.** Your child will be encouraged to fill this up and drink regularly throughout the school day. Children are provided with a piece of fruit or veg every morning and a cup of milk. If your child does not like a range of these, please put their favourite fruit or veg in their bag for them to have, so they have another option.

We look forward to a fantastic year ahead!