



St Minver School

Head of School: Mrs A Warren

Friday 6th September 2024

Daymer Class

Welcome to the first half of the autumn term in Daymer Class! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and that your children are feeling excited about their return to school. We're looking forward to teaching your children this year and are writing this letter to keep you up to date with what your child will be learning during the autumn term, although we're sure some things will change as we go along! We are looking forward to getting to know the children, and of course in the first few weeks we will focus on settling in and establishing new routines, on building relationships, on ensuring that the children feel happy, settled and confident in their new class, and of course on accessing the many wonderful opportunities our school and its grounds offer for indoor and outdoor learning.

As you are aware, Daymer Class is taught by Lisa Cray every Monday to Thursday and by Lucie Merson each Friday. Our teaching assistants are Lin Luke and Caroline Turner, with some additional support from Tara Bradley.

Our topic this half term is 'Who am I?' Our literacy work will link to our topic, and we will be reading quality texts as a starting point for all of our activities. Through stories we will work on the skills the children need to become literate; listening, vocabulary, questioning, sentence-building, story-telling and phonics. We will use our topic to get to know each other, and then we'll cover some science-based work on naming body parts and the senses. The children will learn that humans are mammals, and we will look at classification, learning the characteristics of each animal group.

In maths, the Year 1 children begin with place value and will progress to a unit on addition and subtraction, building on their prior knowledge. They will learn new calculation strategies and develop an understanding of the relationship between addition and subtraction. The Reception children will be matching, sorting and comparing before moving on to finding, subitising and representing numbers to three.

In PSHE, the children will work on a Jigsaw unit called 'Being Me in my World', working on seeing themselves as valuable individuals, building constructive and respectful relationships, expressing feelings and considering the feelings of others.

Year 1 have PE lessons on Wednesdays and Thursdays and will need their PE kit on these days. The Reception children have a PE lesson alongside the Year 1 children every Thursday, as well as daily physical development sessions – no PE kit required. All the children will also have daily access to our wonderful outdoor learning environment – please ensure that they always have their coat because we do try to get outside whatever the weather! Wellies are a good idea too and we are keen that they have a named pair which they can keep at school.

As mentioned, one of our aims this half term is to establish and embed new routines so that the children feel confident about the structure of their school day. We support this with a visual timetable to encourage the children to be aware of what we are doing now and next and to develop an understanding of our classroom routines. Some of the structured activities which we will embed straight away are phonics sessions, maths lessons, story times, rhyme times, handwriting practise and group reading (3 times weekly), although the reception children will not formally begin group reads for a few weeks as they need to master some phonics first! Alongside these structured, adult-led sessions the children have lots of opportunity to engage in play-based learning, supported by all the adults in our class team.

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St Minver School, Rock Road, St Minver, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6QD

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At the beginning of the year, we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class, things we hope we can help them to achieve alongside the academic things. Here are some of the things on our list:

- Come into school feeling happy and confident each day
- Make strong relationships with friends and adults
- Be able to sit attentively for a period of time to engage successfully in adult-led learning (this of course looks different for Reception and Year 1 children)
- Learn how to use the resources within the continuous provision in the classroom (inside and outside)
- Speak confidently in front of the class or a smaller group
- Be confident in giving new activities a go
- Know and talk about the Characteristics of Effective Learning
- Develop a love of books and stories
- Engage effectively in reading and phonics sessions to develop reading skills
- Develop an understanding of our school motto 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong', thinking about what that means and how we put it into daily practice

We look forward to working with you on these things and more, and we firmly believe that this is a partnership. Our priority is that our children feel safe, confident, and valued so that they can learn, develop and progress. We value your input in achieving this, in terms of supporting your child at home by discussing their school day and feeding back to us if you have any concerns or, equally, things to celebrate! We are always free for a chat, this may be a quick word at drop-off, or an arranged appointment after school if necessary – our door is always open.

Finally, a word on supporting your child at home with reading. We can't stress enough the importance of regular daily practise as the children learn to read. Five or ten minutes spent reading at home with you is invaluable in backing up the hard work we do at school to embed those early reading skills. Please do find the time and make a note of things to celebrate or pick up on in their yellow reading record. The Year 1 children begin their reading sessions next week and this works as it did last year. The reception children begin in a few weeks, and we will write to you again to explain how this works nearer the time.

Here's to a happy and productive half term!

With best wishes,

Lisa Cray and Lucie Merson

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