



St Minver School

Head of School: Mrs A Warren

Friday 8th November 2024

Daymer Class

Welcome back to school, we hope you have all had a good half-term break. The children have had a great first week, settling back into old routines quickly and taking on a few new routines besides! For little ones, this is no mean feat after a week off; well done to them all, I expect many will be shattered this weekend!

We're looking forward to a busy half term and we're writing this letter to keep you up to date with what your child will be learning during the weeks ahead, although we're sure some things will change as we go along ...

Our primary intention this half term is to build upon some of the skills for learning that the children have already acquired, and to introduce some new ones alongside. Our main topic for the coming weeks is, 'How do we celebrate?' We will explore a variety of celebrations as part of this topic, starting with the children's own experiences. We will ask the children to remember how they have celebrated things at home, and we will be making comparisons between our celebrations and how and what other people celebrate. This feeds into learning about the diversity of people, faiths and cultures around the world. As part of this topic, we will be starting to construct a timeline of events that have happened in the past to develop the children's sense of history.

Learning continues to be supported by and structured around quality texts. Through stories we will continue to work on the skills the children need to become literate; listening, vocabulary, questioning, sentence-building, storytelling and phonics. Phonics and reading are at the heart of the curriculum for children in Reception and Year 1. The children will continue to have daily phonics lessons and will have group reading sessions three times each week. New reading books will be sent home every Thursday.

In maths, the Year 1 children have started with a unit on 3d shapes and have been working on naming shapes and describing their properties. Afterwards they will work on an addition and subtraction unit to consolidate the skills they learned last half term. The Reception children have also been working on geometry looking at 2d shapes, in particular at circles and triangles. After this unit they will work on numbers to 5, learning to recognise and represent these numbers and then working on one more and one less. They will then go back to work on shapes, looking at shapes with four sides.

In PSHE, the children will complete a Jigsaw unit called 'Celebrating Differences', working on recognising how we are the same as and how we are different from our friends.

Year 1 continue to 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.

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

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As mentioned, the children will continue to bring home their new reading book each Thursday. We encourage all children to read to you **every day** at home. We cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading at home. It has a huge impact on progress and confidence, providing opportunities for your child to practise the skills they've learned in school. Ten minutes a day makes such a difference! We welcome the positive comments you make in the reading record, or on Tapestry, and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child.

Children throughout the school are always encouraged to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We welcome mistakes and encourage the children to persevere and be resilient. We encourage teamwork and a respect for all other members of 'Team St Minver'. We remind the children daily of our school motto, 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong'.

The way in which we learn, and our motivation is important, and over the coming half term in Daymer class we will focus on the characteristics of effective learning using a resource called 'Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo'. Each characteristic has an animal associated with it and so the children strive to become ... Proud Peacocks, Persevering Parrots, Go for It Gorillas, Creative Chameleons, Choosing Chimps and Slinky Linky Snakes! Please take some time to ask your child about these characters – hopefully they will be able to talk to you about what it means to persevere or to be resilient.

At the beginning of the year, we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class; the things that we hope we can help them to achieve (aside from just the educational things). Throughout this second half term in Daymer class we will work on some new things and ensure that all the children have the opportunity to refine them. Here are some of the things on our list:

- Take part confidently in our Christmas production; be able to perform in front of an audience
- Join the rest of the class on a trip outside the school grounds - walk in the local area to deliver a Christmas card to the post-box
- Learn to put on and zip up their own coat without support
- Enjoy St Minver school traditions such as: secret room, Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper Days
- Name and talk about at least 3 characters from Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo
- Learn a traditional Christmas Carol
- Think about others who are less fortunate than ourselves and be able to understand why we take part in initiatives such as The Cornwall Christmas Box Appeal.
- Be able to talk about a famous artist and recognise their work

Here's to a happy and productive half term!

With best wishes,

Lisa Cray and Lucie Merson

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