

### **Homework**

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. A weekly challenge will be posted on Tapestry each Friday for you to complete together at home over that weekend and through the week.

### **Expectations in Year R**

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times 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 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'.

### **Characteristics of Effective Learning**

The way in which we learn and our motivation to do so remains hugely important. In Class R we focus on these characteristics using our '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!

### **Class rewards**

House points and stickers are given to individuals as reward for excellent behaviour, attitudes and work. A filled sticker chart means the children choose a small gift from our prize box! Each week a child will be selected to be the star of the week.

### **Our hopes for the children**

At the beginning of the year we think about 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 last half term in Class R we will continue to work on these things and ensure that all the children have the opportunity to refine them. Here are some of the things on our list:

- ◆ Ride a balance bike confidently and attempt cycling a 2-wheeled bike
- ◆ Put their ideas into creating a class 'Wake and Shake'
- ◆ Retell a story that they know and write it down in their own words
- ◆ Create something - plan it, find the resources, make it
- ◆ LOVE books
- ◆ Be proud of themselves - be able to say what they do well
- ◆ Talk about what they have already learnt about school and be excited for what is coming next
- ◆ Work as a team and look out for each other!
- ◆ Know what it takes to be a good learner.

Remember to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.

With very best wishes,

Mrs A Warren



# Cowrie Class - Reception

## Summer Term 2

### Teacher: Mrs A Warren

### PPA Teacher: Mrs R Davis



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the second half of the summer term in Class R! This booklet will provide some information about what we will be learning about during this coming half term. Our main topic for this half-term is called 'In a land far away...' which links to our literacy texts involving mythical giants! We all really enjoyed our topic on minibeasts last half term and found out so many interesting facts. We would like to build on this learning by staying outside and moving on to investigating plants and how plants grow. This will link nicely to finding out about how big plants can get, finding out about giant species (including fictional giants) and learning about our growth too. Thinking about how big we are getting to will lead us nicely towards thinking about moving on to Year 1 (I can't quite believe it is almost that time already). As always in Class R we are also led by things we find interesting and this topic will easily lend itself to huge creatures past and present.

### **Literacy and Communication & Language**

Within Literacy we work on a range of skills including; Listening, Vocabulary, Questioning, Sentence and Sentence Building, Story-telling, Non-fiction texts and Phonics. I have selected a range of interesting texts for us to use this half term to support us with new vocabulary, our understanding and stories that will motivate us to write. Re-writing stories we know well and then creating our own versions will be achievable for all children. This will help them to increase the amount of writing they are able to complete in preparation for Year 1. We will also have access to many non-fiction books to support our learning and the children will also benefit from:

- \* Individual reading to an adult, at least twice weekly.
- \* Daily phonics lessons
- \* Handwriting practice
- \* Regular library visits to choose a new library book.

### **Mathematics**

In maths we will be finding patterns within numbers by exploring doubles, sharing and odd and even numbers. The children will have time and opportunities to engage in extended problem solving and develop their critical thinking skills. The mathematical problems will be linked to familiar stories and come from the children's suggestions or real problems that arise as they play. The children will be encouraged to review and discuss their strategies; which were the most successful, which didn't work and why? We will use the following texts to support our learning:

- ◆ This is the Story of Alison Hubble - Allan Ahlberg
- ◆ Double Dave - Sue Hendra
- ◆ The Gingerbread Man - Traditional
- ◆ Pete the Cat and the Missing Cupcakes - K & J Dean
- ◆ Me on the Map - Joan Sweeney
- ◆ Who sank the Boat? - Pamela Allen

### **Personal, Social & Emotional Development - Jigsaw**

This term our theme is 'Changing Me' and we will be talking about how animals and people change as they grow older/grow up. We will work on naming parts of the body and recap our previous work on keeping healthy; what we can do and the food we can eat to be the best possible versions of ourselves. The children will learn about how we grow from babies to adults and think about what we can do now that we couldn't do when we were babies. We will also talk about transition to Year 1 and give the children plenty of time to express how they feel about moving to Year 1. We will talk about any worries they may have and also about the things they are looking forward to. We will also share our memories of the best bits of this year in Reception - I have many!

### **Physical Development**

We will continue to work on fine motor skills, control and coordination including using the correct pencil grip and letter formation. We will also ensure that the children are confident and competent when using scissors.

Each day we complete a 20 minute PE activity. This half term we will continue to develop the skills that we have been working on throughout the year. We will use what we know to prepare for Sports Day... watch out for further details on our teddy bear race! We will also continue to complete our Active Mile every Friday. Keeping a healthy mind remains hugely important to us. The children will continue to learn about ways in which we can look after our feelings and emotions.

### **Understanding the World**

As part of our work on comprehending the world around us we will focus on:

- ◆ Family - Sharing photos of ourselves as babies and of our families when they were young. We will share memories and talk about how we have changed over the years.
- ◆ The Past - Our own past (baby to now) and millions of years ago (dinosaurs); the children are aware that things that have happened are in the past and they will be able to place events within a simple timeline - a long time ago, a few years ago, yesterday. We will also prepare for the future by completing lots of transition activities so that we are ready for Year 1.
- ◆ Geography - We will explore the natural world around us and flowers and plants. We will investigate huge plants, what plants need in order to survive, plant seeds and discover incredible plant facts. We will also investigate what plants grow locally.
- ◆ Senses & Seasons - Whilst exploring outside we will continue to encourage the children to describe what they see, hear and feel. The children will begin to understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.
- ◆ People - Which stories are special and why? Which stories are special to us and which stories are special to people of different religions?
- ◆ Science - Investigating plants and plant lifecycle. This half term we will plant giant sunflower seeds, provide the right conditions for them to grow and watch what happens!
- ◆ Our RE work this half term will focus on special stories - which stories are our favourites and which stories are special to other people and within different cultures?

### **Expressive Arts & Design**

As part of our work in this area of development we will focus on:

- ◆ Art and Creativity - The children are always encouraged to explore and develop new skills and materials. We will complete observational drawings of flowers and plants and learn about the skill of sketching. We look back at all of the artists and artwork that we have discovered this year and learn about the work of Georgia O'Keeffe.
- ◆ Music - The children (and adults) get so much joy from music - listening to it and creating it! We have all really loved getting involved in our whole school wake and shakes throughout the year and this term the children will have the opportunity to refine these and create their own. We will also use a variety of percussion instruments and develop symbols and signs to respond to.
- ◆ Dance and Performing Arts - The children are immersed in a language rich environment where during play they are encouraged to talk, express their feelings and respond to a range of stories and music. This half term we will prepare a short assembly for the rest of school and for our families. It's amazing that we are confident enough to do this; we've got so much to celebrate!