

Wagtail Class Curriculum News: 2017-18 Autumn Term 1

Welcome back to Wagtail Class!

I hope you have all had a restful and enjoyable summer and are ready for another exciting year in Wagtails. The Year 1 children are already showing increased independence and maturity as well as renewed eagerness and readiness to learn. They are being very supportive and welcoming to our newest and slightly smaller Wagtails. Well Done Year 1.

Due to the change in class structure and the children's move into Key-stage 1 there may be some changes to organisation and structure of Wagtails. Year 1 are already taking this in their stride but do please ask if you are unsure.

Our first whole school theme this year is **People and Places**; in Wagtail Class with the help of The Jolly Postman we shall be exploring our new world of "big" school and our local area. The children are asked what they would like to learn and a lot of the activities are based around what they would like to find out. This encourages their love of learning and curiosity, but some of our Super Starters to spark their ideas are outlined on the attached mind map.

A Week in Wagtails

Monday- Cooking. Weekly cooking will recommence after the October half term and further details will follow.

Tuesday and Thursday- PE. Please ensure long hair is tied back and ear-rings are removed. **PE will be indoors so children will work barefoot.**

Thursday- Welly Walking. Please make sure that your child has wellies, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat in school as we will walk in all but the most severe weather. **It would be helpful if these could be left in school during the week so the children can maximise the use of our outside area in all weathers.**

Friday- Wagtail's Star Bear- Wagtail's star of the week will be allowed to take home a class bear, along with the bears' scrap book for the weekend. It would be really lovely if you could work with your child, on their turn, to complete a page of the scrap book about what your child and the bear have done that weekend. This could include pictures, writing or anything your child wishes to include. They will then have the opportunity to share this work and their adventure with the bear the following week.

Home Learning

Literacy- We expect 5 minutes daily practice of phonemes (letters and sounds), sight vocabulary/spelling based on phonics and word recognition and 5 minutes reading of reading book daily. No new letter sounds will be sent home this term but please continue to consolidate this learning at home. New tricky words will continue to be sent home and it would be hugely beneficial for the children to begin being able to spell (write) these as well as read them.

Maths- Weekly Maths game/activity or practice of basic Maths skills.

Learning Log- a fortnightly learning log task, an imaginative and individual record of learning linked to a weekly learning challenge.

All home learning experiences to be recorded in blue Home-School book.

Blue Home-School Books- Please note how your child approaches their letters and sounds/reading/Maths games and what they achieve and/or any other information you wish to share with myself in their blue home school books. These books are checked daily.

Please can book bags and their contents be brought to and from school every day.

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Reminders:

- Please can I remind you to ensure all gates around school are securely closed and fastened behind you, this ensures the safety of all our children.
- It is very helpful if all items of clothing (including coats and wellies etc) are clearly labelled this will not only help your child begin to take responsibility for their own belongings but help us return them more swiftly should they become lost.
- We actively discourage children from bringing in toys from home due to the distress it causes should they get lost or broken.

End of the School Day- To assist with the ease of dismissing children at the end of the school day from Wagtails mobile please can I ask that parents/carers observe the following procedure. Once the gate to our outside area has been opened by staff please can parents/carers of Year 1 children walk through and wait on the grass area next to Pre-Schools window. Staff will dismiss Year 1 children to parents/carers out of the front door to the mobile at the top of the ramp.

(Please may I ask no younger (or older) siblings play with any of the outside activities whilst they wait as these have already been tidied by the children ready for another day, Thank you.)

I hope you find this information useful, do please regularly check on our class page of the website for what has been happening in the classroom.

If you have any questions or wish to come into the school to help in the classroom, please do not hesitate to come in and see me or write a note in the blue home-school book.

Yours sincerely

Miss K. O'Connor
Wagtail's Class Teacher