



Key Stage 1 Autumn Term Newsletter 2018

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year at Chudleigh Primary School. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. Everyone in the Key Stage 1 team is very much looking forward to sharing a busy and exciting year with you and your children.

The Year 1/2 Team

The teachers working with your children this year will be: Ms Kate Einzig (KS1 team leader), Miss Sandra Gill, Mrs Suzi Heilbrunn, Miss Sarah Jenks, Mrs Charlotte McGibben (Mon, Tues, Weds) and Mrs Walters (Weds, Thurs, Fri). In addition to your child's class teacher, Mrs Jane Lanigan and Mrs Lisa Price will be covering PPA on a Wednesday afternoon. We are also lucky to be supported by a wonderful team of dedicated teaching assistants.

Our new school curriculum – Enquiries

We are very excited in the Key Stage 1 team to be launching the new enquiry-based curriculum. We are going to kick-start the year with our first enquiry – **What could my classroom be made of?** This is a science and technology themed enquiry looking at materials, their uses and their properties. The children will be investigating different materials in the environment around them, looking at what buildings are made of in and around Chudleigh, building dens and thinking about how materials can be changed. They will then use the skills and knowledge learnt to design and make a model of an outdoor classroom, thinking

about the materials they have used and why they are the most suitable.

Help needed! We would be very grateful if any parents have any contacts in the building trade or know of any architects who might be willing to come into school to talk to the children about their job. We are also looking for donations of den building materials such as pipes, tubes, tarpaulin, sheets, bamboo canes, rope etc. If you have anything lying around or taking up valuable shed space that you would like to donate, please bring it into school and give to your child's class teacher anytime soon.

Later on in the term our enquiries will be **How do we live a healthy lifestyle?** and **How can we help?**

PE

We are very lucky to have PE teachers from South Dartmoor Community College (as part of the School Sports Partnership) working with us on a Wednesday afternoon. Ms Einzig's class and Miss Jenks' class will do indoor PE on Wednesday and outdoor PE on Monday. Mrs McGibben/Mrs Walters' class, Mrs Heilbrunn's class and Miss Gill's class will do outdoor PE on Wednesday and indoor PE on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday respectively. Please can you ensure that all kit is named and that your child has their full kit in school all week, every week, just in case there are any last minute changes. Please make sure the P.E. kit includes trainers for the outdoor P.E. session and, as the weather becomes cooler, a tracksuit is also a good idea.

Think and Link Books

Homework will be given out with the weekly class newsletter on **Fridays**. Both will be stuck into your child's '**Think and Link**' book and will need to be handed in on **Wednesdays** so that it can be marked. Homework will predominantly, either be a phonics task linked to work done in our phonics sessions or will have a maths focus, consolidating work we have carried out in maths lessons. Wherever possible, we will provide examples of what is expected regarding homework tasks and we will explain the tasks to the children. However, please don't hesitate to come and talk to one of us if you are unsure about something or encourage your child to come and ask for clarification.

In the back of your child's think and link book you will find a list of the Year 1/ Year 2 'Common Exception Words' or a list of high frequency words. We will obviously be focusing on these as part of our phonics work in school, but it would be a great help to us if you could work on learning these spellings with your children at home as well. In addition to the spellings, Year 2 children will have copies of the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables. The children are expected to know these by the end of Year 2 and again, working on these at home with your children will be greatly beneficial towards their learning in school.

Reading Books

Your child should already have been given a reading book to bring home, along with their blue reading record book. Please read with your child regularly (ideally at least 5 times a week but we do appreciate this isn't always possible) and fill in the Reading Record each time you

read with your child. This is a valuable link between home and school and we really do appreciate your support in this area.

If your child needs to change their reading book, they should put their book bag into the book box at the start of the day and we will endeavour to change it ready for the end of the day.

Healthy Snacks and Drinks

Free Key Stage 1 fruit/veg will continue to be available at school every day during the morning playtime. However, we would like to remind you that if you send a snack in with your child, in line with school policy, playtime snacks are to be fruit or vegetables on Mondays to Thursdays with a free choice on Fridays.

We actively encourage named water bottles to be brought into class everyday and children can drink from them at appropriate times during the school day. Again, in line with school policy, we ask that you only send in water, not juice or squash.

Classroom help

If you are able to come in to help in the class at any time, we would be delighted to see you. We always really appreciate offers of help with reading and with groups, especially if we have practical activities planned. If you would like to support us in the classroom we would be most grateful. Just pop into the office and ask for details of the necessary DBS checks and see anyone in the team to let us know what you can do.

Need a word?

We are always happy to discuss any matters with you and if it is a quick message, by all means catch us in the mornings or afternoons outside the classroom. However, if you feel you might need more than a minute or two, please feel free to make an appointment to see us at a mutually convenient time.

On a final note, a date for the diary: We will be holding a 'Meet the Team' meeting on Wednesday 19th September at 3pm. The purpose of the meeting is to allow us introduce ourselves and to give you a little more information about how things will work in the Key Stage 1 classes this year,

Yours sincerely,

The Key Stage 1 Team

the curriculum and assessment and to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible.

Thank-you in anticipation of your support and cooperation this year. We are all looking forward to working with you and your children.