

Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Class One at St Thomas' Church of England Primary School! Your children have just enjoyed their first full week in school. It is fantastic to see them all so ready and eager to learn.

Our topic this half term is OURSELVES.



As part of this topic I am asking the children to bring in a photograph of themselves and a photograph of each member of their family that lives in their house. I realise these photographs will be special to you, so with the aid of modern technology I will copy the photograph and return them to you. Please put your child's name on the back!

OUTDOOR PLAY



Summer has gone!! The weather is getting colder or at least windier and no doubt living under Pendle, we will get plenty of rain over the coming weeks! Part of the Foundation curriculum requires that the children play out, experiencing all weather conditions. If possible, please provide a pair of Wellies and a coat or better still an all in one rain suit for playing outside (don't forget to put your child's name in it!). Your child will be doing plenty of messy activities outside so please do not send a 'best' coat.

CURRICULUM

Communication and Language

Your child will be encouraged to find and write his or her name. In school we use a cursive script, so together we will be doing plenty of pre-writing skills exercises.

Before embarking on a very intense phonic programme, I will be encouraging the children to rhyme, to listen to and identify sounds they hear all around them. We will be sounding words out as

we speak and other pre-reading skills. So I will be building the foundations to help your child to be ready to begin to read and write.

Over the next few weeks I will be introducing the Oxford Reading Tree characters and their names. After this I will be sending home picture books which will give you the opportunity to share a book together and discuss the characters and pictures in more detail. This is an important step in your child's reading journey.

Mathematics

I will be encouraging your child to count to ten and beyond, counting up to ten objects and beginning to recognise the numerals to five and then to ten. I will also do some simple shape, days of the week and measuring activities. You will receive a maths newsletter that will provide more information on Maths in the Foundation Stage.

The other learning areas - Understanding the World, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Expressive Arts and Design will be covered through our topic.

We do PE on a Thursday so please make sure that your child has their PE kit in school and that it is clearly labelled. If you need any further information or you have any concerns, please pop in to see me after school. If you cannot come in after school, please ring to make an appointment.

I am looking forward to teaching your wonderful children!

With Best Wishes

Mrs Lesley Lahey - class teacher
Miss Pickering/Mrs Harper - teaching assistants