



12th September 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Autumn Term at Ipplepen School! We hope this letter will be a useful guide to the early days in Year One. The children have settled quickly and are working really well on our early 'getting to know you' and assessment activities.

This year the Year One team is Mrs Herbert (Monday and Tuesday) and Mrs Holden (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). We are joined each day by Miss Collins (Learning Support Assistant). Please feel free to speak to either of us as we are in constant communication.

Our International Primary Curriculum topic this term is called 'Time Travellers'.

This exciting theme involves children in learning about timelines and key historical events locally and nationally. We will be learning about the history of our village and contrasting past and present. We will also focus on seasonal celebrations around Autumn, Harvest and Christmas.

Home work

Reading

Mrs Herbert will give children two reading books on a Monday. It is important that children are encouraged to read their books at home and return them the following Monday. Some books will have been worked on as a guided reading activity, others will be books at an appropriate level that children have selected themselves. Children will also be involved in daily reading activities including structured guided reading sessions with their teacher and may also read to other adults in the room. It is important that blue reading diaries are in school **every day**.

Spelling

Whilst spelling is an integral part of our phonic teaching it will be a while before spelling homework is set for Year 1. Once children are ready, weekly spellings will be sent home.

Outdoor Education

We have had a fantastic offer of help from Beki Baker, a qualified teacher and Forest school expert. We are taking advantage of her expertise on Tuesday mornings. Children will need old clothes and boots for these sessions. We will go out whatever the weather so please ensure your child has boots and a warm coat. Children will need school uniform to change into before lunch. We will let you know dates for these session as soon as possible.

PE

Our PE sessions are Monday and Thursday afternoons. Children need PE kit and trainers for these sessions as we are outside as much as possible. Please ensure all kit is named and is always in school.

Morning Routine

We are keen that children develop independence and encourage all children to come into school independently as soon as possible. We have lots of staff available to help and most of Year 1 are coping really well with the morning routine. Obviously if you need to see us please pop in.

Snack

Free fruit is available every morning. Children are welcome to bring their own fruit if they prefer. Plain water in a clearly named bottle is essential daily and is kept in the class room.

Belongings

Many thanks to all those parents who have named belongings clearly. We do try to return things to you, but can only do so if we can see a name!

Please discourage children from bringing toys to school unless they are part of our topic work. Children get very upset when toys are lost or damaged and resolving these issues can waste learning time.

Collecting Children

It is important for you to inform us of any changes in terms of who will be collecting your child.

We also need to have up-to-date contact details including mobile numbers. If you are held up at the end of the day please do call school, so that we can ensure your child is aware of the situation and remains with us.

I am aware that by encouraging increasing independence by the children at the beginning of the day, parents tend not to be in the classroom each morning. Please do feel that you are always welcome, your child may wish to show you their work on the wall at the end of a day. We look forward to working as partners with you in your child's education and value any comments you wish to share with us about their learning.

Communication

You are very welcome to see us if you have any concerns about your child. .As the classroom is a very busy place in the morning, it is seldom easy to have an in-depth discussion before school. We are always available for a brief chat before or after school, but if you would prefer a lengthier or more confidential discussion please do make an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Each family will be offered an individual appointment at our parent and teacher meeting.

Here's to an excellent term.

Yours sincerely

Julia Herbert and Kate Holden