



Dear Giraffe Class parents, and carers,

Welcome back to the second term of this year. We hope you all enjoyed the half term. It has been a great start to the year, getting to know you all and the children.

The Year 1 Team are looking forward to this busy term ahead.

Our whole school value this term is 'Compassion' and our topic is 'Other people' (Please see our topic web on the school website and Class Dojo for more information).

Chloe



Lee



Silvia will teach Giraffe class on Friday mornings this term.

### Land events and Trips

**Land Event – TBC**

**Nativity Performance 1 – 16.12.24 at 9:30-10:00am and 2:30pm – 3:00pm**

**Nativity Performance 2 – 17.12.24 at 9:30am – 10:00 am**

**Inset day – 20.12.24**

If any of these dates or times change, you will be notified on Class Dojo.

### Drop off and pick up

- Please drop your children off at the classroom door between **8.45am and 8.55am**, **registration starts promptly at 8:55am**. Please collect children at **3:25pm** from our classroom door.

### Class Expectations

- We are continuing to practice our Redfield Way this year, and will always aim to be kind, safe and ready.
- Show and tell will take place every Friday afternoon.
- Please **do not bring in toys** or stationery from home as we have everything the children need, and it can also be upsetting if special possessions are lost or get broken.

## PE

- Our PE days are on a **Monday** and a **Friday**. Please ensure children come to school on those days wearing suitable clothing and footwear (trainers, t-shirt, leggings, joggers or shorts).
- Please ensure your child has a water bottle and suncream when necessary.

## Spelling

- We are implementing spelling practice in the afternoons sometimes linked with handwriting. We complete spelling quizzes on a Friday afternoon. Spellings can be accessed on our class page on the school website and on Class Dojo.
- Each week's list of words will be linked to a particular spelling pattern, phonic sounds and statutory Year 1 spellings.

## Reading

- Reading at home can have a huge impact on children's progress, as well as encouraging them to read for pleasure.
- All children will bring reading books home from school, and they may have books of their own choice from home or the public library that they choose to read.
- Children should read to an adult at least **5 times** a week for 10 minutes.
- If your child mainly reads on their own, it is helpful to talk to them about what they're reading and ask them to summarise what they have read so far.
- Please record in your child's reading record when they have read. This can simply be a signature.

## Further home learning

1. Read **every day** (at least 5x per week) with your child and record the book title, page number and comment in **reading record**.
2. Play on Hit the Button (free app available) and practice number bonds to 10 and 20. Link to website: [Hit the Button - Quick fire maths practise for 6-11 year olds](#)
3. Other games are available for your children to practise their counting skills, adding and subtracting 1. [maths games - Topmarks Search](#)
4. Practice writing number formation and basic adding and subtracting skills. Writing simple stories or a sentence about what children have done over the weekend is a good way to get them to practice their writing skills.

## Communication

- Class Dojo is the easiest way to contact us. We aim to reply to Class Dojo messages within 2 working days.
- **Please do not use Class Dojo for emergency messages as we cannot check them while teaching or in meetings. Continue to call the office for emergency messages.**
- A member of the Year 1 team will be available on the classroom door at 3.25pm every day. We are happy to catch up for an informal chat and can arrange a meeting for longer conversations – we will aim to arrange meetings within a week.
- We will send out all school messages through Class Dojo, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having trouble accessing your account. We will also update Class Dojo with news about our learning in class and photos of the children's work.
- If you haven't done so already, check that you have given consent for pictures to be uploaded to the Class Dojo platform. Images will not be shared; they are for sharing our learning experiences only.
- The school website will be updated termly to share topics maps, spelling lists and any additional resources that can support learning at home.

## Can you help?

- We would like to build a directory of skills or expertise that our families would be willing to volunteer in school.
- Please could you let us know if you would like to support in school and have a particular skill (for example an art technique or drama experience) or area of expertise that you would be willing to talk about (such as a career, religion, or knowledge of a different country or culture).
- We would love to involve as many families as possible in our learning, and year groups across the school may ask to draw on your expertise.
- If you are interested in and able to support on trips or visits this year, we would also love to hear from you.
- Thank you in advance if you are able to contribute!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.  
Kind Regards,  
Lee and the year 1 team.