



St Minver School

Head of School: Mrs A Warren

Friday 12th September 2025

Daymer Class

Welcome to the first half of the autumn term in Daymer Class. This letter will provide some information about what we will be learning about during this coming half term (although I am sure some things will change as we go along). Our topic for this half-term is 'Home Is Where the Heart Is'. Through our topic work we will be taking opportunities to get to know your children, focusing on what 'home' means to us and who is part of our family. We'll be learning about the wider community and our beautiful local area, and we will consider what it is that makes Cornwall so special.

We are looking forward to getting to know all of the children in our new reception class and of course the focus for the first weeks at school will be settling in, being with our friends and getting along, finding out where things are and how we can access the wonderful activities inside and outside of our classroom. As we get to know your children we will be learning about their likes and dislikes and the things they are interested in. It will be a hugely busy time for our new reception class children as they get used to new routines and expectations, learn new things and settle into life in Daymer Class.

As you are aware, the class is taught by Lisa Cray every Monday to Thursday and by Melanie Borrott each Friday. Our teaching assistants are Lin Luke, Rachel Davis and Jack Rickard.

Our literacy work will link to our topic, and we will be reading quality texts as a starting point for all of our activities. Through stories we will work on literacy skills such as listening, vocabulary, questioning, sentence-building, storytelling and phonics.

In maths, the children will be subitising, matching, sorting and comparing before moving on to finding and representing numbers to three.

In PSHE, the children will work on a Jigsaw unit called 'Being Me in my World', working on seeing themselves as valuable individuals, building constructive and respectful relationships, expressing feelings and considering the feelings of others.

The children will have a PE lesson with Mr Rickard every Thursday afternoon, as well as additional weekly physical development sessions – no PE kit required. The children also have daily access to our wonderful outdoor learning environment – please ensure that they always have their coat because we do try to get outside whatever the weather! Wellies are essential too, and we are keen that they have a named pair which they can keep at school.

As mentioned, one of our aims this half term is to establish and embed new routines so that the children feel confident about the structure of their school day. We support this with a visual timetable to encourage the children to be aware of what we are doing now and next and to develop an understanding of our classroom routines. Some of the structured activities which we will embed straight away are phonics sessions, maths lessons, story times and rhyme times, with handwriting practise and group reading (3 times weekly) to follow. As well as these structured, adult-led sessions the children have lots of opportunity to engage in play-based learning, supported by all the adults in our class team.

At the beginning of the year, we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class, things we hope we can help them to achieve alongside the academic things. Here are some of the things on our list:

- Come into school feeling happy and confident each day.

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St Minver School, Rock Road, St Minver, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6QD

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- Make strong relationships with friends and adults.
- Be able to sit attentively for a period of time to engage successfully in adult-led learning.
- Learn how to use the resources within the continuous provision in the classroom (inside and outside).
- Speak confidently in front of the class or a smaller group.
- Be confident in giving new activities a go.
- Know and talk about the Characteristics of Effective Learning.
- Develop a love of books and stories.
- Engage effectively in reading and phonics sessions to develop reading skills.
- Develop an understanding of our school motto 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong', thinking about what that means and how we put it into daily practice.

We look forward to working with you on these things and more, and we firmly believe that this is a partnership. Our priority is that our children feel safe, confident, and valued so that they can learn, develop and progress. We value your input in achieving this, in terms of supporting your child at home by discussing their school day and feeding back to us if you have any concerns or, equally, things to celebrate! We are always free for a chat, this may be a quick word at drop-off, or an arranged appointment after school if necessary – our door is always open.

Finally, a word on supporting your child at home with reading. Once we have mastered some basic phonics skills, the children will begin to bring home a weekly reading book. More information on the teaching of reading will be shared in our reading meeting on Tuesday 16th September. We can't stress enough the importance of regular daily practise as the children learn to read. Five or ten minutes spent reading at home with you is invaluable in backing up the hard work we do at school to embed those early reading skills. Please do find the time and make a note of things to celebrate or pick up on in their yellow reading record. And of course, as last year, the children will be bringing home a 'book to share' from our class library, which they can swap as often as they wish. No need to record anything regarding these books – simply share and enjoy them and send them back in when you've finished!

Here's to a happy and productive half term!

With best wishes,

Lisa Cray and Melanie Borrott

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