

Cowrie Class - Autumn 2



Reading and Phonics

At St Minver, we are committed to nurturing your child's love of reading from the moment they join us. This half term, your child will bring home a small blue reading record along with a book they have chosen from our class library.

Inside the front cover of the reading record, you'll find handy tips for sharing the book at home. After you've enjoyed the book together, please write a short comment or sign the record. We'll then make sure your child chooses a new book the next time they are in school.

This half term, our book selection includes the much-loved "That's Not My..." series and a range of festive Christmas stories to spark excitement!

In addition, our daily phonics sessions will begin for our 2026 school starters. The sounds we'll focus on are:

s, a, t, p, i, n

Our Topic: "It Starts with Me"

This half term, we'll be exploring how each of us is unique and special. We'll take part in lots of exciting activities, including noticing how we have changed over time.

To help with this, please send in a baby photo of your child by the end of the week. We'll enjoy looking at these together and guessing who is who!

We'll also talk about all the amazing things we can do now—walking, running, talking, drawing—and the things we love most.

Through this topic, we'll learn to listen to each other and appreciate both our differences and the things we share.

Book Bags

We believe it's important for every child to have a book bag for school. A book bag provides:

- A safe place for letters and documentation
- A secure way to transport reading books between home and school
- A sense of belonging for your child

If you need a book bag, please let us know—our wonderful PTA kindly provides them for all new starters. We are currently waiting for our first batch to arrive, and as soon as they do, we'll send one home with your child.

Thank you for your support!



Weekly Updates

Weekly updates will continue to be sent home each week. These updates give you an opportunity to help prepare your child for the learning ahead.

If you have any queries or questions, please feel free to pop in and see me—I'm always happy to help!

Christmas Cowrie Celebration



We would love to invite you to join us on Tuesday 9th December, 9:00-10:00am for a special Christmas Cowrie Celebration. The children will sing a couple of festive songs for you, and then you'll have the chance to:

- Complete a Christmas craft with your child
 - Decorate a Christmas biscuit together
- Even if your child does not usually attend preschool on a Tuesday, you are very welcome to come along and enjoy this Christmassy session with them. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Wet Weather Gear



If you can provide some waterproofs and wellies for your child to keep in school, that would be brilliant! We go outside every day in all weathers, so being prepared helps keep the children cleaner and drier.

Please name all items and pop them in a named plastic bag so we can store them on their pegs.

If you're unable to provide these, please don't worry—we have some spare wet weather gear that children can borrow. We also plan to fundraise in the new year for additional items if needed.

Thank you for your support!

Tapestry

Hopefully, you are all set up to use Tapestry. We use this platform to keep you updated on how your child is getting on during the day and to give you a little insight into the activities they enjoy.

Please feel free to 'like' or comment on the photos we share—it's lovely to see your feedback! You can also add photos from home, such as weekend activities or special moments. Sharing these helps us celebrate your child's experiences and gives them confidence when talking about what they've been doing.