

### **Homework**

We encourage all children to read to you **every day** at home. We cannot stress enough the importance of regular reading at home. It has a huge impact on progress and confidence, providing opportunities for your child to practise the skills they've learned in school. Ten minutes a day makes such a difference! We welcome the positive comments you make in the reading record, or on Tapestry, and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child. A weekly challenge will be posted on Tapestry each Friday for you to complete together at home over that weekend and through the week.

### **Expectations in Year R**

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We welcome mistakes and encourage the children to persevere and be resilient. We encourage teamwork and a respect for all other members of 'Team St Minver'. We remind the children daily of our school motto, 'Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong'.

### **Characteristics of Effective Learning**

The way in which we learn and our motivation is hugely important. In Class R we focus on these characteristics using our 'Lenny Lion's Learning Zoo'. Each characteristic has an animal associated with it and so the children strive to become ... Proud Peacocks, Persevering Parrots, Go for It Gorillas, Creative Chameleons, Choosing Chimps and Slinky Linky Snakes!

### **Class rewards**

House points and stickers are given to individuals as reward for excellent behaviour, attitudes and work. A filled sticker chart means the children choose a small gift from our prize box! Each week a child will be selected to be the star of the week and will be celebrated in our whole school assembly.

### **Our hopes for the children**

At the beginning of the year we set out some of the hopes we have for the children in our class; the things that we hope we can help them to achieve (aside from just the educational things). Throughout this first half term in Class R we will work on these following things and ensure that all the children have the opportunity to refine them. Here are some of the things on our list:

- ◆ Enter school confidently without support from carer
- ◆ Learn the names of the children in their class – make friends and bonds (with adults and children)
- ◆ Be able to sit attentively for a short period of time on the carpet for phonics, maths, stories, songs
- ◆ Be confident in attending whole school wake and shake sessions and assemblies
- ◆ Learn how to use the resources within the continuous provision in the classroom (inside and out)
- ◆ Learn Phase 2 sounds and how to blend and segment
- ◆ Talk about themselves in front of a small group or the whole class (summer holidays news, likes/dislikes, family life)
- ◆ Be confident to give all activities a go
- ◆ Begin to know about and talk about the Characteristics of Effective Learning
- ◆ Know the days of the week and the seasons of the year; talk about the changes we see in autumn
- ◆ Know a range of colours and begin to know the prime colours and how to make them lighter and darker
- ◆ Develop basic skills of drawing a face (self-portrait) and look at other resources that can be used to support this.
- ◆ Develop a LOVE of books!
- ◆ Work as a team and look out for each other; St Minver Class 2022/23!
- ◆ Know what it takes to be a good learner.
- ◆ Use a balance bike confidently

Remember to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns. With very best wishes,

Mrs A Warren



## Cowrie Class

## Autumn Term 1

## Teacher: Mrs A Warren

## Teaching Assistant: Mrs L Hutley



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first half of the autumn term in Cowrie Class! This booklet 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 main topic for this half-term is called 'Nice to Meet You!' 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, making friends, 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 starters as they get used to new routines and expectations, learn new things and settle into life at St Minver School.

### **Literacy and Communication & Language**

Within Literacy we work on a range of skills including; Listening, Vocabulary, Questioning, Sentence and Sentence Building, Story-telling, Non-fiction texts and Phonics. We will share a range of Starting School stories, non-fiction texts on the numerous things we find interesting and learn and recite nursery rhymes and poems. The children will also benefit from:

- \* Individual reading to an adult
- \* Daily phonics lessons
- \* Handwriting practice (initially focusing on the correct posture and pencil grip)
- \* Regular library visits to choose a new library book.
- \* Texts to support all areas and activities within the learning environment
- \* Small group guided reading sessions 3 x per week

### **Mathematics**

In maths the children will be provided with the opportunities to find and match objects which are the same. They learn that collections of objects can be sorted into sets based on attributes such as colour, size, or shape. Sorting enables children to consider what is the same about all the objects in one set and how they are different to other sets. They begin to understand that the same collection of objects can be sorted in different ways and will be encouraged to come up with their own criteria for sorting objects into sets. Once children can confidently sort collections into sets, they learn that these sets can be compared and ordered. They understand that when making comparisons a set can have more items, fewer items or the same amount of items as another set.

The children will also learn that objects can be compared and ordered according to size. They will be encouraged to use language such as big and little, large and small to describe a range of objects. More specific language such as tall, long and short will also be introduced. The children will compare and order objects by size, use the correct vocabulary and explain what they notice. Children will also copy, continue and create their own simple repeating patterns. They will be provided with patterns that have at least 3 full units of repeat. The children will also be given opportunities to explore AB patterns in a range of contexts including shapes, colours, sizes, actions and sounds. They will build patterns horizontally and vertically.

These are some of the texts that we will use to support our learning:

- ◆ Where's My Teddy? - Jez Alborough
- ◆ Peace at Last - Jill Murphy
- ◆ The Button Box - Margaret S Reid
- ◆ Duck in the Truck—Jex Alborough
- ◆ Dear Zoo—Rod Campbell
- ◆ Mr Big—Ed Vere
- ◆ Naughty Bus—Jan Oke

### **Personal, Social & Emotional Development - Jigsaw**

This term our theme is 'Being Me in My World' and we will be learning about what it feels like to belong and that we are all different and similar. We will start to recognise and manage our feelings and talk about how we can enjoy working with our friends to ensure that school is a good place to be. We will talk about our school rules and why it is important to be good and kind. We will learn to realise that everyone has the right to feel safe, happy and that we are all entitled to play and to learn.

### **Physical Development**

We will work from the children's starting places in terms of their fine motor control and coordination. We will use a variety of different tools to make marks and learn how to sit with a good posture and the correct pencil grip with the view to starting to write.

Each day we complete a 20 minute PE activity and amongst other things this half term we will also focus on different ways of moving our bodies (hopping, skipping, jumping, crawling, slithering, sliding, galloping etc), our spatial awareness (how to find a space and move into one) and how to successfully roll and trap a ball.

### **Understanding the World**

As part of our work on comprehending the world around us we will focus on:

- ◆ Family - The children will share their memory folders and have the opportunity to talk about the people who are important to them.
- ◆ The Past - By sharing our summer holiday memories the children will learn about timelines and be able to understand that these things have happened in the past.
- ◆ Geography - We will explore our new surroundings - we have wonderful school grounds to find our way around!
- ◆ Senses & Seasons - Whilst exploring outside we will encourage the children to describe what they see, hear and feel. The children will begin to understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them - although an Indian Summer would be nice!
- ◆ People - The children will share and record occasions when things have happened in their lives that have made them feel special.
- ◆ Our RE work this half term will focus on Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. We will learn about how families from different religions, and those who do not follow a religious tradition, welcome new babies.

### **Expressive Arts & Design**

As part of our work in this area of development we will focus on:

- ◆ Art and Creativity - The children are always encouraged to explore and develop new skills and materials. We will complete a range of self-portraits using a range of techniques: painting, pastels, collage and the use of loose natural objects. We will also learn how to add white and black to colours to make them lighter and darker. We will also try to 'fill the page' with our wonderful creations. We will explore artwork by Wassily Kandinsky (linked to our maths work) and Andy Goldsworthy (in our outdoor learning).
- ◆ Music - The children (and adults) get so much joy from music - listening to it and creating it! We will join in with our whole school wake and shakes. Our interesting piece of music to listen to and enjoy this half term will be Finlandia by Sibelius.
- ◆ Dance and Performing Arts - The children are immersed in a language-rich environment where during play they are encouraged to talk, express their feelings and respond to a range of stories and music. We will use a range of familiar and new stories within our play and encourage the children to act it out, adapt it and create their own. We will also learn number and nursery rhymes and poems. Each week we will perform one (keep an eye on the school website for uploads).