



11th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to everyone and a very Happy New Year to you all. We hope that you have had a relaxing, peaceful Christmas break and are all safe and well.

This half term we will start our new topic of 'People Who Help Us/ Superheroes.' There will be an overview of our planning for this topic on the school website. We will introduce the children to lots of books and stories, both fiction and non-fiction, to enrich their language and communication skills. If you have any books related to the topic then please share them at home with your child and encourage your child to bring them into school to share with us. If you know of anyone currently working for any emergency service that may have time to come into school to talk to the children about their job role, then please do let us know. We have a police officer, a veterinary nurse and hopefully a volunteer from the Penrith Mountain Rescue team coming in to visit and talk to the children about their job occupations and how they keep people safe. Unfortunately, there may be restrictions due to Covid however we will continue with our plans and risk assess prior to any visitors coming into school.

P.E. will take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Carlisle United will continue Wednesday afternoons to teach Class 1 and 2 children various games skills. Your child can still come into school wearing their P.E clothes for these days however do ensure that your child is wearing the expected school P.E. clothing which is: a school sweatshirt, a plain t-shirt in their school team colour or a plain white, navy or black t-shirt, navy or black shorts (or leggings/joggers) and a pair of trainers with velcro fastenings which are more secure on your child's feet. Although the weather can be unpredictable in January and February, we do still aim to get outside as much as we can. As with all other school uniform, **P.E. kits must be clearly named**. We have noticed that some of the children's clothing is unnamed, and this can be quite stressful for your child when they are unable to find their own belongings.

Please can you ensure that your child has a waterproof coat and a pair of Wellington boots in school. These can be left on their pegs so the children can use them when needed. We do have access to outdoor play daily and this is an essential part of the Foundation Stage Curriculum.

Reading and Homework

Your child participates in a phonics programme daily. Please continue to practise the letter sounds and other 'tricky' words we send home with your child's reading books. Reading books will be changed twice a week. Please bring reading books into school each day. Re-reading of some books should be encouraged to help develop familiarity and confidence. Please feel free to comment on your child's progress and their interest in the books they have read in the blue reading record book.

The Nursery children will continue to choose their own library book to share at home and reception children are also able to select a library book. Please read other story books at home to your child to develop their understanding of language and to extend their vocabulary and the meaning of new words – and of course to develop their love of books and reading!

Covid Precautions

As a school we will continue to maintain good practices such as regular handwashing, table cleaning, staff testing and well-ventilated classrooms. Your child will need to wear layers under school jumpers as the door and windows will be opened to ensure adequate ventilation. It will be a bit chilly!

Class Organisation

Class 1 will continue to be retained as a separate class for both Nursery and Reception children. The small cohort of children will enable us to join with class 2 at times. We anticipate that this will be for two to three afternoon sessions a week. This will ensure that the children receive a good balance of group teaching and social interactions with their peers. They will also join during assembly times, for P.E. and story times during the week. Mrs Grayson will be working in class 1 all day on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning. Miss Raymode will be working on Wednesday afternoon and all-day Thursday and Friday. Julie will be working in class 1 from Monday to Friday.

The best way to contact us is via email kathryn.grayson@castlecarrock.cumbria.sch.uk jess.raymode@castlecarrock.cumbria.sch.uk or by phoning the school office and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We will always see you in the mornings and after school at the school gate if you need to discuss anything with us.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Grayson (Class 1 Teacher/Assistant Headteacher) and Miss Raymode (Class 1 Teacher)