



Learning &  
Caring Together

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Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new school year in Swinney Class! We hope this letter will provide you with some useful information to help keep you informed about our learning in school and how you can help support your child. In addition, we will send a weekly update via email each Friday providing an overview of what we have been exploring during the week and ways you could practice/continue this at home.

**Things to Bring:**

- Water bottle - every day please (these live in our classroom by the sink so children have easy access all day)
- Reading book and diary (once your child has one) - these go in the box by our classroom door each morning
- Waterproof coat with hood - children will have access to our outdoor learning provision in all weathers so a waterproof coat is essential in the unpredictable British climate
- PE kit - this should stay on your child's peg all week, we will send it home on Fridays. Generally we will do PE on Mondays and Wednesdays but this is not set in stone and we may swap days or do extra sessions on occasion.

**Things to do:**

- Named items - please, please check that everything your child brings to school, especially if they may take it off, is clearly named
- If you would like your child to have milk mid-morning, please check you have signed up/check with the office
- Once your child has a reading book, please listen to them 3 times a week. Please be aware that these books should be easily readable by your child as they will have practised similar texts at school so this should be an opportunity to celebrate how super they are becoming as readers rather than a time to struggle and learn new sounds. Please do share other books your child is interested in even if they are too hard for them to read independently - this is a brilliant way of developing a love of reading. Children will also be able to bring home a 'sharing book' (to swap each Friday) for this purpose from school.

**Learning this term:**

- Our learning is done through a provision-based approach - this means we have a mixture of adult-led activities and child-led learning going on throughout the day. Your child may say that they have 'played' at school...if so, then we have done our job well! Please be assured that this approach to learning is carefully planned to cover the appropriate curriculum for Reception/Year 1 and to extend each child's individual skills, knowledge and understanding from their own start points.
- Our first half term is focused around the topic of 'Marvellous Me' - we will be exploring ourselves and what makes us special, parts of the human body and of other animals, where we live in Masham and how we can make different types of maps of our area. In RE we will also be exploring how and why we should care for our world, and why the name of God is special to Christians.
- After half term our topic will be 'Let's Celebrate' and we will be exploring how and why different communities and religions celebrate around the world, and in particular why Christmas matters to Christians as we also prepare for our grand Christmas Production in the Town Hall. Next half term we will also be having our Forest School sessions for this year - more details regarding those will be sent in due course.

We hope that this helps give you a picture of what your child will be doing at school this term...we know they are often not the most forthcoming about what they have been doing after a hard day at school! If you have any questions about your child's learning, or how you can support them, please do get in touch either by catching us at the beginning/end of the day or by sending a message via the office.

Best wishes

Team Swinney