Cotswold Class

Checklist of things needed each day

- ☐ Diary and books
- ☐ Named drink bottle and snack
- ☐ Named coat
- ☐ Indoor and outdoor shoes

Don't forget PE days are Monday and Wednesday so children come to school in their PE kit and school hoodies.

Please make sure everything is named so it doesn't get lost.



Welcome to Cotswold Class!



Mrs Mitchell, Mrs Pratt and Miss Liggett.

Key Stage 1: Year 1 and 2



We would like to welcome you to Cotswold Class for the next academic year. It is nice to welcome some children back into the class again as Year 2's and to welcome all of the Year 1 children who have moved from Portland this year.

We will be working hard with your children over the next year and encouraging them to achieve the best they possibly can both in terms of the curriculum and in their personal development.

Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Pratt will be the class teachers, Mrs Mitchell works on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Mrs Pratt works on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Miss Ligget is our full time Teaching Assistant.

We have put this little booklet together to hopefully provide much of the information that you will need. Let us know if you find it useful and please come and see us if you have any questions or things we have missed out!

Finally, we would just like to say again that we are looking forward to teaching your child this year. We really do want the children to be happy and to achieve the best they possibly can.

If you have any concerns, please write us a note in their diaries, drop us a message of Seesaw, speak to us at the end of the day or make an appointment if it is something that requires a little more time.

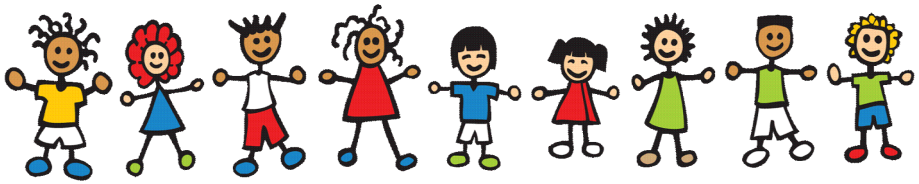
We're looking forward to a fabulous year ahead!

The Cotswold Team

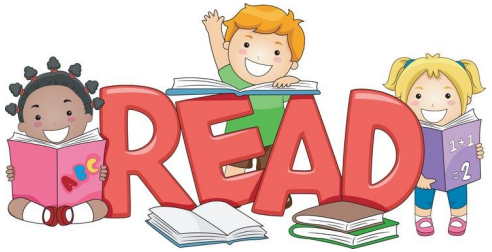


get on with on their tables.

* Ensure they are on time to school! Lateness can be stressful for children and can have a negative effect on their learning in the day. We will be at the gate at 8:50am to welcome the children in each day.
* Remind them whether they are having sandwiches or hot dinners, so they can let us know when we do the register
* **Clearly label all of their clothes, shoes, drinks bottles etc with their name.** It makes it easier for them (and us)!
* Ensure your child always has 2 pairs of shoes at school. School shoes for inside and trainers for playtime and PE. On PE days they can either wear their school shoes inside or have a pair of clean 'indoor' trainers. This is especially important to keep our carpets clean! Outdoor shoes can be put on the shoe rack in the cloakroom. Please bear in mind that Velcro trainers are a must unless your child can tie their own laces, we just don't have time to be able to tie everyone's shoes. It leads to the children becoming frustrated and all of us missing precious break and lunchtime.



Reading



Reading is key to succeeding as they say! Some children will pick it up quickly, others will take more time. Our aim is to foster a love of reading with all children, whatever their ability or interests. We will endeavour to hear your child read in school at least once a week, this can be in a group or individually and will not always be recorded in diaries. We keep a record of when children read and who to, so we will try to ensure they are heard as often as possible. During a reading session, we listen to the children read and discuss features of the text and ask them questions about their book. It is not just fluency, but understanding of the text that we look at. We may look at phonics and punctuation in the text too.

We all have our own likes and dislikes, so if you find your child is stuck with a really long book that they are not enjoying, please let us know via their diary and we will get them to swap it.

Please bear with us during these first weeks as we get to know the appropriate reading level for each child. Also, please do not compare your child to another child in class. Let them progress at their own rate! It is not a race to get through the different reading levels and this can sometimes have a negative effect on their learning and enjoyment of reading.



Children are responsible for changing their

books once they have read them and an adult has written in their diaries at home. They can change their books as soon as they've finished them—they just need to place their diary and books into the tray in class, where a teacher will check they have been read and ask the children to go and choose new books.

How you can help at home:

* Hear your child read as often as possible at home. We reward children who have read at least four times a week at home. **Please ensure that you let us know in their diaries.** This can include things they've been reading at home and doesn't always have to be their school reading book.
* Don't restrict them to just reading stories! Let them choose from a variety of genres including non-fiction and poetry. Comics and magazines are great for reluctant readers.
* Let them see you reading! Recipes, instruction books, newspapers, signposts, menus etc. Ask them to help you.
* Share a book. Children of all ages enjoy being read to. Make it a regular part of your routine. It's also a great way for children to access books that may be a bit too tricky to read on their own and gives them an opportunity to see how you read, using punctuation, expression and enthusiasm!



PE Our PE days this year will be on Monday and Wednesday.



Children should come to school in their PE kits on those days with their Sheepy hoodies. Please ensure that your child still has 2 pairs of shoes in school on PE days.

Snacks and Drinks



* It is essential that children have a drinks bottle each day. All that learning and having fun can be thirsty work!
* There is free fruit for Key Stage 1 children still, but we have no control over what fruit we get! Some children need a little more than a small piece of fruit to keep them going, so you may want to send them a snack for morning break. As we promote healthy eating, we prefer it to be a healthy snack. No sweets please, but a biscuit or similar is acceptable.



A few other things to remember!

- Encourage the children to come into the classroom on their own in the morning where they can hang their things on their pegs, put their drinks bottle into the tray and put their diary into the reading tray if they need to change their books. There will then be an activity for them to

er mastery and understanding of concepts and ideas. In fact, this is now the case with all areas of the curriculum.

How you can help at home:

* Number bonds! Practise number bonds with your child (up to 10 and up to 20). Quick recall of these numbers, eg 5+9 =14, rather than having to count on to find the answer, helps children significantly. A great way to pass a few minutes of a car journey! Let them test you too!
* Encourage your child to help pay for small items at a shop to give them practical experience of using money.
* Help them with learning to tell the time on an analogue clock.
* Don't sit with a load of maths books and make them frightened of numbers! Get them doing practical stuff which is all mathematical such as measuring, weighing etc. They'll have much more fun and learn much more.
- We will have mental maths tests every week. Help your child practise for this



* A trip to the library is great as you can see which type of books they are drawn to.
* A list of things you can ask your child about their book is stuck to the back of their diary. Discussing the book is just as important as hearing them read.
* Lastly, but most important of all, make sure they don't see reading as a chore, but as something enjoyable.

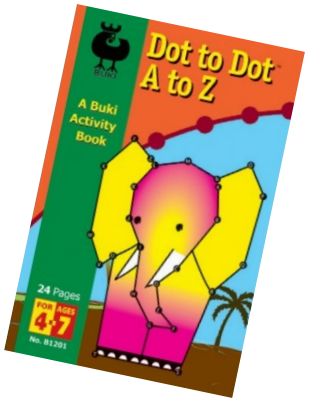
Writing



Our literacy lessons combine reading, writing and speaking and listening. Your child will be given handwriting lessons to develop correct letter formation. As they become more confident in Year 2 they will progress onto earning a joined handwriting style.

When we talk about their writing however, we are not just talking about their handwriting style! The children will be taught a variety of skills which will improve all aspects of writing from content, text structure, spelling, punctuation and grammar. The children will be taught the correct terminology for different word classes, so for example, we might say a 'describing word', but they will also be taught that it is called an adjective and so on. The new curriculum puts more emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

Over the course of the year, we will be looking at a range of texts and the children will have regular writing sessions, including a longer writing session where they apply the skills they have learnt into some independent writing.



How you can help at home:

* Encourage children to hold their pencil correctly.
* If your child struggles with handwriting, practise some fine motor skills in a fun way such as dot to dots.
* Let them type onto a computer or an iPad. Sometimes a child who finds handwriting difficult produces amazing pieces of writing like this.
* Ask them to write your shopping list or a note.



Phonics / Spelling

Probably one of the things that we get asked about most at Parents' Evening is spellings! This year, the Year 2 children will have SPaG sessions which will be a consolidation of Phase 5 phonics and then progress onto Phase 6 and will also include punctuation and grammar.

We may test them weekly or half termly and then send home the spellings that your child needs to learn. We will also let you know which sounds or spelling patterns they have been looking at each week.

How you can help at home:

* A list of phonics sounds is stuck into your child's diary. This is useful to help with sounding out words.
* If you're desperate to do spellings at home, the first 100 and then next 200 high frequency words are a useful starting point and can be easily found online.



* Use games such as Phonics Play and Teach Your Monster to Read on the computer or apps on tablets.
* <u>Don't expect every word to be spelt correctly!</u>

Maths

We will have a daily maths lesson and the curriculum gives us a much greater focus on developing basic number skills. It is not about using the biggest numbers, but about having a sound grasp of those basic number skills. Our daily maths lessons will include mental maths and we aim to make maths as practical and as fun as we can. We will be helping your child with the recording of their maths too.



If your child is achieving well, rather than moving on to the following year group's work we will encourage more in-depth and investigative work to allow a great-