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*“Unlocking our potential for life-long learning”*

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Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back! I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break. Your children have spent the week settling into Class 1 and getting used to their new surroundings. All of the adults in Class 1 have been extremely impressed with how well your children have adapted to their move up the school. We have been having lots of fun already! Our termly newsletter will keep you updated on what we will be getting up to during each term. This year, Class 1 will be taught by Mrs Stuart on Mondays and by myself for the rest of the week. Miss Hayward and Mrs Bryant will be working alongside us in the class throughout the week.

**Topic:** Our class topic for this Term is 'Ourselves'. We will be focussing on the things we have in common and the things that make us unique. There will be an emphasis on our memories and how they shape us. The topic will culminate in the children creating a 'memory box' to keep. More information on this will be included in the homework pick n mix next week. In the meantime, it would be great if you could encourage your children to discuss memories and begin thinking about photos or objects which could support this. For more information on our topic, please see the attached curriculum overview.

**Homework:** Your children will be issued their homework books today. The first set of pick 'n' mix homework will be sent out later in the week. In the meantime, the first task will be for each child to decorate their homework book to show off their personality. Please make sure this includes their name so we know who it belongs to! Any completed homework will be shared with the class and collected at the end of term.

**PE:** PE lessons will take place on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon. Monday's session will be outside and will be based on simple ball skills and games. On a Tuesday, the children will be in the hall doing dance. Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in class each week for these sessions. Jewellery will need to be removed for PE so please ensure your child is able to remove and reinsert earrings if their ears are pierced.

**Reading:** It is crucial that your children keep up reading outside of school. They will bring home reading books in their book bag, so this is a good place to start. However, it is important to stress that children should be encouraged to read anything that captures their imagination! This can include; magazines, comics or books from home. I know a few of you have already expressed an interest in helping the class as a reading assistant. More information on this will follow next week. We are always looking for more volunteers, so please do let us know if you are interested!

**Outdoor Learning:** On a Wednesday afternoon, Class 1 will be taking part in Outdoor Learning alongside Reception and Class 2. Please provide either waterproof clothing/ overalls, or clothing that you don't mind the children getting muddy as the wet weather begins, and named wellies. The clothing/ overalls can stay in school and will be returned termly unless they are particularly dirty. Please label all belongings which can be kept in a bag or on pegs.

**Independence:** I'm sure your children will have grown hugely in independence during their first year at school! In Class 1, we will continue to build upon this progress. You can help with this by encouraging your children to arrive in class independently and pass on information to us (for example, going home with a friend).

**Weekends:** The children have a class bear called Ted. Each child will have the opportunity to take Ted home for a weekend this year. Ted will come accompanied with a diary which we ask to be filled out telling us about your weekend activities. Even better if you can include photographs or pictures telling us about Ted's adventures! Please return Ted and his diary on a Monday morning, ready for your child to share with the class.

**Important Dates:** On the following Fridays you are invited into the classroom for “Stay and Play” from 8:40-9:10 a.m. to find out more about our learning so far: 28<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> October. On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September there will be a ‘meet the teacher’ evening running from 3:30-3:50pm.

If you would like to discuss any of the information here in further detail, or have any questions, please do come and speak to me after school. I look forward to meeting you all soon.

Best Wishes,

Alice Gulliford, Kate Stuart, Mary Hayward & Lynn Bryant.