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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 come to the end of their first week back at school and all of the adults in Class 1 have been extremely impressed with how well they have settled into their new surroundings. 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 term, Class 1 will be taught by Mrs Margea on Thursdays and Miss Weir for the rest of the week. Miss Welsh will be working alongside us and Class 2 throughout the week.

**Topic:** Our class topic for this term is ‘What makes us special?’ We will be focussing on the things we have in common and the things that make us unique. It would be lovely if you could have discussions with your children about what it means to be unique and why the things that make us different are so fantastic! For more information on our topic, please see the attached curriculum overview.

**Homework:** The first set of ‘Pick ‘n’ Mix’ homework will be sent out next week in their homework books. The children are free to decorate their homework books however they would like (just please keep their name sticker visible). The homework tasks are optional and can be completed at any time throughout the term. Any completed homework will be collected at the end of the term and, if they wish, shared with the class.

**Home Learning Folders:** Starting next week, your children will be given a home learning folder that will include their reading books, reading records and fluency fish. More information about all of these will be included inside the folder.

**Show and Tell:** Starting next week, we will be doing show and tell on Fridays, which is a great way for children to build their confidence and speaking skills. Your child does not have to bring anything in but if they would like to, the first week’s theme is ‘Their Hobbies’. Therefore, if they have something that links to a hobby they do outside of school we would love to hear all about it. The theme will change each week and I will let them know what the next one is going to be on a Friday.

**PE:** PE lessons will take place on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Wednesday’s session will be an inside gymnastics lesson run by our brilliant Forever Sport coaches. On a Thursday, the children will be outside developing their cognitive skills. Please make sure your child has a full PE kit in class each week for these sessions. Jewellery will need to be removed or covered for PE, so if your child’s ears are pierced please ensure they are either able to remove them themselves or have surgical tape to cover them up.

**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 ‘The Everywhere Bear’. Each child will have the opportunity to take him home for a weekend this year. The Everywhere Bear 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 his adventures! Please return The Everywhere Bear and his diary on a Monday morning, ready for your child to share with the class. If there is any particular weekend that you would like your child to take home, The Everywhere Bear please let me know.

**Important Dates:** On Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September, you are invited to come and look around the classroom and to ask me any questions you may have. This will run from 3.20 – 3.45pm. In addition, on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October you are invited to come and watch your child perform their singing square in front of the school. This will begin at 9.45 and will last about 30-40 minutes.

Finally, as always we are looking for volunteers to come and listen to the children read in the afternoons. We are extremely grateful for those who are able to help as it makes a big difference in the children's progression as readers. If this is something you are interested in, please come and see me for more information.

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,

Holly Weir, Sarah Margea and Abi Welsh