

Avon Class Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Avon Class! We have had a lovely first week back getting to know your children and they have been busy making friends and getting to know their new routines. The children have all settled well and have been having fun exploring both our indoor and outdoor learning environment. The Year One children have been super role models for the Reception children in Avon class; keep it up!

This half term our topic will be 'Toys' and we will be exploring stories, rhymes, maths and much more through this topic. On the reverse of this letter you will find a topic web which gives you more information about what your child will be learning during this half term and how you can help at home. This topic is both for Avon and Malvern classes ensuring that Year One children have consistency regardless of class. Avon Year One children will have the majority of their lessons in Avon class but will also have some lessons with the Malvern Year One children such as GPS and Science.

We will begin our P.E sessions this week. We will have PE every Tuesday and will be a mixture of indoor and outdoor sessions. We will be encouraging children to get changed independently and your support with this independence at home would be greatly appreciated. The children will need their P.E kit in school all the time, we will send it home again at half term. On Friday afternoons we will be visiting Forest School. We will start this at the end of September and will continue throughout the year. Within school we have waterproof tops and trousers for the children to wear in forest school but please also ensure your child has their wellies (named) in school to wear as well.

Due to our ever changing British weather children are asked to bring a coat to school every day as we like to go out for playtimes whenever possible and don't want a little drizzle to stop them being able to get some fresh air.

Important dates to look out for this term include a Phonics/ Reading meeting for Reception parents/ carers on Wednesday 20th September at 2.45pm. This will end at 3.15pm so you can collect your children as normal. Please sign up via the office so that we know how many people will be attending. Later on this half term there will be parents evening which will be on Tuesday 10th October and Wednesday 11th October. Letters will be sent out nearer the date regarding available time slots. You will be kept up to date with further dates and events on our web page as well as on the weekly whole school newsletter.

A new way to get involved in Avon Class life is by becoming a 'mystery reader'. Being a mystery reader means signing up to read a story to the class during story time on Mondays or Tuesdays (3- 3.15pm). The identity of the mystery reader remains secret until you are in class when all the children open their eyes to reveal who is reading to them that day. We welcome parents, grandparents and childminders to do this. Please sign up for a slot via the office and don't forget to keep it a secret from your child. This will begin after half term but you can sign up from now.

As the term progresses we will keep you informed with our current topics as well as letting you know about all the fun we have been having in class on our class web page. Please remember if you have any concerns/questions please do not hesitate to come and speak to one of us. We are all looking forward to an exciting first term with your children.

Best wishes, Miss Aucock and Mrs Roden

Avon Class Toys Topic

Maths

At the beginning of the year we will be developing and securing the children's number knowledge and understanding. We will start with numbers up to 10, then to 20 and beyond. During their first time we will also explore shapes and measuring. We will aim to be practical and hands on with our maths activities because children learn best when they are doing - they often don't realise that when they are playing they are learning!

English

We are beginning this term with the story of Pinocchio which will give us lots of opportunities for re-telling the story, discussing the characters and even talking about what would happen if one of their own toys came to life. Reception children will begin their phonics sessions and will bring home a book each week with phonic sounds in, your support at home to learn and revise these on a regular basis is greatly appreciated. Year One children will have GPS sessions and weekly spellings to learn.

"All we do is play!"

Yes, it is true we do a lot of playing in Avon Class however this playing is a very important building block in children's development. The activities that children access on a daily or weekly basis are designed to develop a range of skills from across the curriculum. For example, they may enjoy building with the Lego blocks but this activity can help deepen knowledge such as number and shape and later on multiplication. Your child may have played in the sand however while being in the sand, they are learning to share and co-operate with their peers, they are using maths language such as full / empty / more / less or they may be finding objects and sorting them in to groups. Play is a good thing!

Knowledge of the world

Our toys topic will give us lots of opportunities to learn about the world in which we live. We will look at toys of now and the past. We will also look at toys that children play with around the world and how they are the same / different. The children will begin to develop their knowledge of ICT within school.

Expressive Arts & Design

Oh what fun we will have drawing, designing and making our own toys! We will be making puppets from Pinocchio which will support their cutting and fine motor skills. They will be using their imaginations in the toy workshop and when re-telling stories as a whole class.

PSED & RE

During this first term it is important that the children form strong relationships with both adults and children at school. We will spend time getting to know the children and them getting to know us. In R.E children will be discussing "Who is a Christian and what do they believe?"

Physical development

Toys will be the basis for our dance sessions in PE this term. We will be encouraging the children to move safely around the space and move in different ways linked to the music. We hope children will be getting changed independently by the end of this first half term.