



Class 1 Autumn Term Newsletter

We are so pleased with how well the children are settling in to life at Kingsmoor and they have already started learning so much!



Our Day

As you know, we are following the Planning in the Moment Approach to learning this year, which is going really well and has really aided the children to settle in so quickly.

As well as our fantastic opportunities to get immersed in our play, we have whole class teaching sessions 3 times a day, phonics before lunch, maths after lunch and storytelling/circle times at the end of the day.

The children are now beginning to learn the letters of the alphabet, following our phonics scheme Read Write Inc. We learn a new letter each day including the letter name, sound and Makaton symbol, but really focus in on the letter sound and how to write it. **The children will bring a sheet for each letter home in a folder at the end of the week to practise saying the sound and writing it. We practise writing the letters in school in a variety of ways (paper, sand, chalk etc), but the more practise your child can have the better!**

At the end of each set (usually 5 letters), we have a big focus on blending the sounds together to make words in our word time sessions. These are called **green words** and will also come home in the phonics folder for the children to practise at home. Alongside this there will be **tricky words**, these are words that cannot be sounded out and therefore are taught by sight and we use the letter names to spell out the words.

As with the reading books we will send these home on a Friday and collect them in on a Tuesday please.



Lunchtimes

The children are enjoying their lunches, but are finding using a knife and fork quite tricky. We were wondering if a bit of practise at home would give them a boost, this could be through play with maybe a playdough sausage or as well as at meal times.



Reading

We can see that the children are really enjoying bringing home the books to read with you. As part of the whole school reading challenge, you may notice that for **every 4 reads with you the children will be awarded a raffle ticket** and entered into a draw. This does not have to be just their book from school, please comment against any book that you read with your child at home. There is also a competition across the classes for the highest number of reads in a week. We are awaiting some brand new reading books which will closely match the daily phonics teaching and guided reading at school which will allow the children to wow you with their ability to blend to read words! We will also continue with the current books for you to read together at home.

Writing

The children are really impressing us by wanting to practise their letters and write messages and names on their pictures. We are encouraging the children to try and grasp their pencil or pen in the following way:

Good Pencil Grip



This will become easier as they strengthen the muscles in their hand (fine motor control) and with practise. Activities that use squeezing or a pincer grip such as pegs, playdough, buttons and zips, handling beads or small foods will all help.



Forest school

After half term on a Thursday, Class 1 will be meeting Mrs Clarke for weekly forest school sessions. On these days the children can come in dressed for the outdoors, not in their uniform for the day.



Tapestry

We hope that you are all enjoying Tapestry, and as you can hopefully see we use it a lot to send messages, reminders and information about what we are learning, as well as capturing the children's learning through play.

You may notice these symbols appearing against observations.



This indicates a focus week observation or series of observations.



This indicates a Wow moment, something significant that your child has done for the first time.

Please could you try and log in to Tapestry regularly, we know sometimes the notifications can end up in your email trash folders unless you save the address to your contacts.

It would be really great if you could show us that you have read a Tapestry post by liking and responding underneath.

We also have circle time sessions with the children where we use tapestry as a stimulus to talk about what we have been learning and to offer them the opportunity to share news from home.

Spare clothes

We are running quite low on our school supply of spare clothes so please could we ask that each child has at least one set of spare clothes in school, including underwear. It would be really helpful to have a few pairs of socks each too, as they seem to really enjoy those muddy puddles!



Also please could you wash and return any borrowed items to us?



Dropping off

The children have been doing such a fantastic job of saying goodbye to you at the beginning of the day and walking around to the rainbow gate and classroom with us at 8.50. Please could we remind you that only school staff should go beyond the rainbow gate and parents should definitely not enter the cloakroom.

Could you pass this on to any other family members who may not know where to go?



PE Days and Daps

Thank you for your patience whilst we ironed out the teething problems with this with the change in weather!

We think the easiest decision is that whatever the weather, when the children are playing outside they will change into their wellies.

Therefore on **PE days (Tuesday and Friday)** they will be fine to wear in their whole PE kit, including daps/trainers, as these will only be worn inside and during PE. If your child is wearing trainers for PE, could we please ask that you avoid laces where possible when choosing them as these can be very time consuming to repeatedly do up multiple pairs for the children, especially if they fiddle with them!

Finally....

Thank you to you all for your patience and support so far this term, we are really so proud of how well the children have adjusted and are progressing.

After half term we will be choosing 3 focus children a week and will be in touch with you all the week before it is your child's turn, and will end the week with a zoom meeting with you to feedback.

We know that the children are all getting very tired after such a busy term and wish you all a happy and healthy half term.

