



Welcome to the first Pear Class newsletter. I'm pleased to tell you that the children have really settled very well into their new class and we are enjoying working and playing together. I hope that you find the information detailed in this letter a useful guide to our day in school. If you haven't already done so, please take time looking at the Swansfield Park website, it is a great way of finding out information. More specifically, if you go on to Pear Class in 'class pages' you will find all the learning that has taken place over the past week. This is where I will share photos and captions of all the wonderful things we have been up to on a weekly basis. Please don't hesitate to pop in for a chat if you require any further clarification.

Read Write Inc

All children in Pear Class began Read Write Inc sessions this week. We begin the exciting journey of learning and using the letter sounds that will unlock the door to reading and writing.

Please support your child as much as you can by asking your child about the letter sounds they have been learning and practising these at home regularly.

You will receive a RWI pack in the coming week which will detail the letter sounds your child is learning. For RWI, Pear children are placed in small groups and your child will be taught by either myself, Mrs Pickard, Mrs Crowe or Mrs Vicky.

Mathematics

In Reception, mathematics will be taught mainly through practical activities and games with lots of opportunity for taking this learning outdoors.

Key aspects that we will focus on this term are:

- Counting and matching objects to correct numerals.
- Counting backwards from 10.
- Counting on from a number.
- One more than
- Repeating patterns
- Measuring quantities and time

Learning Journals

Exciting news!

We are currently developing a brand new online system where you will be able to view your child's learning and development. It will begin from Cherry class all the way through to the end of Reception.

The online journal will include photographs and information of significant moments during their time with us which will link to their different areas of learning.

There will be another letter following this, to give you full guidance on what to expect.

Watch this space!!

During this half term, in everything we do, we will be teaching the essential personal, social and emotional skills needed to keep our classroom a happy and thriving place to spend our days!

Outside Environment

We go outside in all weathers and we have the appropriate suits for the children to wear, although a spare set of clothes is always appreciated (in case they do get wet or muddy). As the weather is beginning to turn cold, could you please ensure that your child has a coat, hat, scarf and preferably a pair of mittens rather than gloves. It is incredibly helpful to us if **all clothing and shoes are named**.

Communication and Language

Discussions about our likes and dislikes, "showing and telling" Autumn treasures and learning harvest rhymes and songs will all be wonderful opportunities for being articulate and learning new vocabulary.

Creative Work

Now that we have learnt most rules and routines in Pear Class and got to know the children through the 'All About Me' topic, we will begin exploring Autumn in our creative work - observational paintings, leaf dances and storytelling together with any Autumnal avenues the children wish to explore. Please bring in Autumn treasures that you may find out and about!

The World

During this half term our main topics will be All About Me, Autumn and harvest.

The All About Me topic will be getting to know the children, especially their interests, it's a good opportunity for myself and Mrs Pickard to understand their likes and dislikes. Alongside this, we really want the children to enjoy coming to school and for them to be happy whilst they settle in to a new environment with new rules and routines.

Moving on from this, we will be exploring harvest, finding out about crops that are gathered in and learning harvest songs. This will lead nicely into a study of Autumn and we will use our senses to discover changes in the natural world around us.

The Physical Stuff

Through P.E every Friday, gardening in our Pear Class garden and dance we will have many opportunities to get our heart rates racing and build upon our gross motor skills. Scissor work, collaging with Autumnal objects, threading activities and model making will help to ensure that our fine motor skills get a bit of a work out too.

Every Friday - Is P.E Day! We have begun our 'P.E' lessons on Friday mornings. It is essential that your child has a named P.E kit in school, at all times. Long hair must be tied back and off the child's face and all earrings **MUST** be removed, as stated in the Uniform Policy, a copy of this is available to you at the School Reception.

Requests & Reminders

Whilst the classroom door is always open in the morning for you to come in and settle your child, please ensure that you allow him/her to complete their morning challenge with a little bit of independence. Remember that for safety reasons, the classroom door must be shut by 8.45am. Please ensure that your child has his/her reading folder in school every day and make sure you are looking in there every night to ensure you don't miss any letters with key information on.

Please remember that only water is allowed in water bottles, your child needs to bring a water bottle every day. Please support your child by completing home learning tasks and by handing them in on time. Home Learning tasks will be set every Friday, and need to be returned by the following Friday.

Recycled Materials

We regularly provide the children the opportunity to do junk modelling and collage making. We'd very much appreciate donations of large and small boxes, kitchen roll tubes, yoghurt pots, Heinz ketchup bottles (squeeze tubes only please) and egg cartons so that we can remain stocked up. Please note we **can't** use toilet roll tubes.

Remember the door is always open if you have any questions or worries, catch me in the morning, end of the day or send me an email: bethany.whitlow@swansfield.northumberland.sch.uk

Beth Whitlow - Pear Class Teacher