



# Kittens' Class

## Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome to Kittens' Class!**

We hope you have all had a great break over the summer and have been able to enjoy the lovely weather! Thank you for all your support with the transition sessions. These were so successful and gave the children a good introduction to starting school.

At Kedington Primary Academy, we consider communication to be key to a strong and effective partnership between staff and parents. Therefore, if there is anything you would like to discuss please do send Ms Kirby or Mrs Jordan a message via ClassDojo. Ms Kirby will be teaching on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and Mrs Jordan on Thursdays and Fridays. We look forward to working with you!

Mrs Jordan, Ms Kirby, Mrs Bradnam and Mrs Cannon

### **Literacy**

#### **Mark making and Writing**

During the first term in the Kittens' Class we will begin to build the skills which will support your child to become a confident and independent writer. This includes focusing on gross and fine motor skills to support your child to develop a successful and comfortable pencil grip for writing. Using a name card, they will be encouraged to practice forming the letters in their name using the correct sequence of movements. Following on from this there will be opportunities to use an alphabet mat to begin to form the sounds as they are covered in our phonics programme.

#### **Phonics and Reading**

A daily phonics session will take place each morning in the Kittens' class. This will consist of learning the sounds of the letters in the alphabet and enabling your child to sound out words and blend them together to read. Initially we will also focus on rhyming, alliteration and hearing and saying the sounds in words. These sessions are very 'hands on' and active following a play-based ethos.

During the first half of the autumn term, as these sessions progress, we will issue a school reading book.

Reading books will be chosen to suit your child's current reading skills. Please look out for further information about this.

Your child may initially have a book with pictures and no words. Please use these books to support your child to build their first reading skills – such as talking about what they can see in the pictures, predicting what might happen next, talking about the characters and saying the first sound for the things they see in the pictures. Many of our reading books have useful prompts for questions to ask and ideas to talk about.

Your child will bring home a reading log with their first book. Please record any reading you do at home with your child in it. Due to our safer working practices, staff will initially send a message on Dojo rather than write in the reading logs.

Until your child is issued with a reading book, we would love to hear of any progress with rhyming and alliteration, any favourite stories shared or abilities to retell familiar stories using appropriate language. We are sure you do this without even knowing it. For example, sharing rhyming story books with your child is a positive way of supporting their awareness of words that sound the same.

Maybe your child would like to draw a picture of their favourite part of the story or have a go at writing their favourite? Please share this with us via Dojo.

### **Topic**

This term our theme will be All Aboard! Each week we will focus on a different text linked to transport and journeys. All of our Literacy sessions, and lots of our other curriculum areas will be planned around this. All of our texts are exciting and rich in content and vocabulary. We will also have a daily story time where we will read a range of other books with the children.

### **Maths**

Maths can be applied everywhere! We plan from your child's interests and will therefore tie in appropriate areas of numeracy in a way that interests them. All of our activities are 'hands on' and purposeful to support your child to apply their number skills and knowledge in meaningful contexts. The areas of priority this half term include counting to ten and then to twenty out loud in order, counting objects one at a time to find a total, finding one more and one less than numbers from one to ten and learning lots of number songs rhymes.

### **Home Learning**

Your child will bring home a home learning book with a weekly activity to complete at home. We will provide you with all the information when we send this out.

### **Forest Schools**

We are excited to offer the children a Forest School session every Tuesday morning. This will be an outdoor session led by Mrs Dodman. Please see the Forest School's leaflet which has been shared via email and Dojo.

### **PE**

PE will take place on a **Wednesday** afternoon starting on 16th September. We are aware that your child may be fully capable of changing independently and if this is the case, fantastic! However, when changing for PE and we will support your child with any parts of dressing that they need support with. We want your child to feel happy, confident and capable when experiencing new things at school. To begin with we will send your child home in their PE kit and with their uniform in their PE bag. **Please ensure PE kits are back in school on or before the following Wednesday** so that your child can take part in PE.

### **Uniform**

Please make sure all items of clothing, including PE Kit, wellies, and book bags are fully named. **We enjoy learning outside in any weather, so please ensure that your child has a suitable coat and wears sun cream and a sun hat in warmer weather.**

### **Water Bottles**

We have provided your first named water bottle. **Please send this into school with them each day filled with water only.** Your child will be encouraged to drink regularly throughout the school day.

### **Show and Tell**

As things stand currently, we would encourage children not to bring in items from home which are not essential for the school day – for example toys and books. We hope that in time, if school guidelines relating to Covid-19 change, we will be able to start a Show and Tell session each week. We will inform you as and when we are able to do this.

