



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so excited to welcome you and your children to China Class! It's going to be a fantastic year filled with fun, learning, and lots of new adventures. We can't wait to get to know each and every child and help them grow in confidence, curiosity, and creativity.

Starting a new school year can bring up all kinds of emotions - not just for the children, but for parents too! Please know that we are here to support you every step of the way. If you have any questions or worries, big or small, we encourage you to reach out.

Communication is key, and we'll be using **ClassDojo** to keep you updated on class news, reminders, and to celebrate your child's achievements. If you haven't already connected, please do - it's a great way to stay in the loop!

You're also very welcome to come and speak to me at the end of the day if you'd like a quick chat, or you can arrange a time for a longer conversation if needed. We're always happy to help.

Let's work together to make this a positive and memorable year for your child!

Our Curriculum

To provide a rich and varied curriculum with high quality provision and learning experiences, we use a combination of 'Development Matters' (non-statutory curriculum guidance) and CUSP Early Foundations to guide our planning and practice. We also follow the children's interests to make sure they are fully motivated and engaged. We ensure a strong focus on communication, by supporting children to develop their vocabulary, speak in full sentences and develop positive interactions with each other.

Early Writing

In China class, we're laying the foundations for confident, enthusiastic writers. This month, we wanted to share a little about the importance of early writing. In the early years, writing is much more than just forming letters - it's about expressing thoughts and ideas, developing fine motor skills, and beginning to understand how language works. Every mark, squiggle, and attempt to write letters is a vital step in your child's learning journey.

At this stage, the focus is not on perfect spelling or neat handwriting, but on encouraging children to 'have a go' and feel confident as writers. The more opportunities they have to make marks and talk about their writing, the more they will grow in confidence and ability. We celebrate all efforts, whether it's writing their name, drawing a picture and adding letters, or simply showing an interest in words.

How you can help at home:

Encourage drawing, scribbling, and pretend writing

- Let your child help write birthday cards or shopping lists
- Talk about the marks and letters they make and show interest in their efforts
- Praise their writing - even if it's just one letter!

Together, we can nurture your child's love for writing right from the start.

Mathematics

We are excited to let you know about a new and engaging approach to teaching mathematics in our Early Years setting - the **CUSP** Early Maths curriculum. This carefully designed scheme supports children in developing a strong foundation in mathematical understanding through three key elements: The curriculum outlines exactly what children will know and be able to do as they move through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). It follows a thoughtfully sequenced plan, helping children revisit and build on their learning over time, so that important mathematical knowledge is committed to long-term memory.

Phonics

We are pleased to let you know that we are using

Sounds-Write as our phonics programme in the Early Years.

This highly effective approach helps children develop the essential skills they need to become confident, fluent readers and writers. This will consist of learning the sounds of the letters in the alphabet (phonemes), which spellings represent these phonemes (sound-spelling correspondences) and then encouraging your child to segment the sounds in words and blend them together to read. These sessions are very 'hands on' and active. As these sessions progress, your child will be given a reading book that matches the sounds they have learnt.

Forest School

On **Friday** afternoons we will have an outdoor session visiting our nature area at the bottom of the school field. You should of all received your Forest School letters and an update on ClassDojo. The children will have lots of opportunities to increase their knowledge of the environment and world around them, observe and explore the natural world, and learn about some processes and changes such as the seasons and the weather. **Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit on this day, as it is much quicker for them to put their waterproofs overtop rather than change out of their uniform first. Children will wear their PE kit all day so please ensure they have suitable clothing for the weather.**

Discovery Time

Discovery Time Play is a child-led learning approach that encourages exploration, curiosity, and hands-on experience. It's unstructured play where children choose what interests them - whether it's building with blocks, investigating nature, creating art, or experimenting with water and sand.

This type of play supports holistic development by allowing children to explore ideas and materials at their own pace, without rigid outcomes.

Reading

Reading is more than a school skill - it's a gateway to imagination, empathy, and lifelong learning. When children develop a love for books, they build language skills, creativity, and confidence that benefit them across all areas of life. At our school, daily story times, library visits, and cosy reading corners help children explore stories and discover their favourite books.

Once we begin our Sounds-Write programme, we will send home a reading book that is decodable based on the sound-spelling correspondences we have taught in class. We are currently working across the school on reading fluency, and this will mean that your child remains with the same book or same unit of code until they can read it fluently.

IMPORTANT

To make the most of our reading program, we kindly ask that your child reads at least four times a week at home. Don't forget to record each reading session in the reading log - this helps us keep track and makes it easy to know when it's time to choose new books!

Wider Curriculum

This term our themes are **Marvellous Me** and **Light and Dark**. Over the course of these topics, we will be learning key concepts and foundational knowledge linked to ourselves and our emotions, our families and our wider school community. We will also be learning about what happens when the seasons change (recognising that there are less hours of daylight in winter), nocturnal and diurnal animals as well as how animals survive in the colder months until spring. We also enjoy exploring, sorting and playing with all the conkers, pinecones and acorns that are often collected from your lovely Autumn walks!

Learning at Home

Showbie – An invitation to join Showbie will be shared with you soon. This is where we will post literacy and maths home learning activities and games for you to do at home. The activities will focus on consolidating learning from the past week. **We have seen much quicker and better progress in children who complete these tasks consistently.** Please send us a video or voice note of you doing your homework so we can send you back messages of support! This is a great way for parents and carers to understand how children learn the curriculum and will give you some tips in the language we use in class.

Water Bottles/Fruit - Also, please ensure your child brings a **labelled water bottle filled with water only**. We encourage water as the best way to stay hydrated throughout the day. Your child will be encouraged to fill this up and drink regularly throughout the school day. Children are provided with a piece of fruit or veg every morning and a cup of milk. If your child does not like a range of these, please put their favourite fruit or veg in their bag for them to have, so they have another option.

ClassDojo

This is the main platform for communication between parents and staff. We will check Dojo regularly, but not usually during teaching hours, evenings or weekends. **If your child is going to be absent from school please contact the school office in the first instance.** We use Dojo to share photographs of some of the activities we do each week and to post messages regarding notices, upcoming events or important reminders. Please make sure your device is enabled to **receive notifications** and check these regularly. Dojo is very user friendly but please do contact us if you require any support with it.

PE - will take place on a **Thursday morning** starting on **Thursday 11th September**. Please come in wearing your PE kit each Thursday from this date. **Children will wear their PE kit all day so please ensure they have suitable clothing for the weather.**

Uniform - To help us keep your child's belongings safe and organized, please **label all clothing and personal items** with your child's name. This simple step makes it easier for us to return lost items and ensures nothing gets misplaced. If anything has been misplaced during the day then please go with your child to the lost property at the end of the day to collect. **We also ask that you provide a spare 'complete' uniform for your child to keep in their box at school (under their peg) in case of any accidents or in the event they get wet (due to weather or water play).**

Please could all children be provided a named pair of wellies to keep in school. To protect your child's school shoes and to keep our classroom floor as clean as possible children will wear wellies during Discovery Time and Forest School. It would be super if your child could bring in their wellies by **Friday 12th September**. Thank you