

Welcome to Doves Class

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Doves Class! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the new school year as much as we are. We are excited to begin our journey together and would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and share some important information about the year ahead.

We have all enjoyed our summer holidays and have plenty of stories to share with the children. Mrs McMahon had a lovely family holiday in Cornwall and even met a mermaid! Mrs Hudson enjoyed spending lots of time in her garden and visited an outdoor theatre production, while Mrs Chase challenged herself by climbing a mountain and enjoyed a family holiday in Croatia.



Meet the Team

The adults working with Doves Class this year are:

- **Mrs Hudson** - Class teacher on Mondays and Tuesdays
- **Mrs McMahon** - Class teacher on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays
- **Mrs Chase** - Teaching Assistant supporting the class each morning
- **Mrs Waterfield** - Teaching Assistant supporting the class each afternoon

As part of teachers' PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time:

- Mrs Chase will teach the class for an hour and dismiss the children on Mondays.
- Mrs Hearson will teach the class for an hour and dismiss the children on Fridays.

What We Will Be Learning This Half Term

We have an exciting curriculum planned for the children this term:

- **English:** Posters and narratives
- **Mathematics:** Place value, addition and subtraction
- **Science:** Materials
- **History:** The Victorians
- **Art:** L.S. Lowry
- **RE:** Belonging
- **PE:** Multiskills and Dance
- **PSHE and Computing:** A joint unit on Digital Wellbeing
- **Music:** Keeping the pulse

(History and Geography alternate half termly, as do Art and Design & Technology)

We are looking forward to exploring these topics together and helping the children develop their knowledge, skills and confidence.

Reading

Reading plays a vital role in your child's progress and we greatly appreciate your support at home.

Reading books and reading diaries will be sent home next week and books will be changed every Friday. Please read regularly with your child and record any reading completed at home in their reading diary.

Reading wallets should be brought into school every day. As well as carrying reading books and diaries, any paper communications sent home will also be placed in these wallets. We would be grateful if you could help your child look after their reading books carefully to avoid them becoming damaged or lost.

PE

Our PE days are:

Tuesday and Thursday

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on these days.

Homework and Spellings

Topic-linked homework will be sent home next week.

Spellings will be sent home from next Friday and will be linked to phonics and year group common exception words. These should be practised at home and will be tested each Friday.

Please do not worry about children achieving full marks with their spelling tests. Our aim is for children to enjoy learning them, try their best and become familiar enough with the words to use them correctly and confidently in their writing.

Communication

Communication in Doves class will primarily take place through email and the school website.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for you to visit the classroom and see the children's work, including Showcase Evenings and Parents' Evenings.

If you need to pass on a message, please contact the school office. Should you wish to discuss anything in more detail with a member of staff, we kindly ask that you arrange a suitable time after school. Mornings are a particularly busy time as we support children in settling into the day and begin learning promptly.

Supporting Independence

As children move through Key Stage 1, they begin to develop greater independence. We would really value your support by encouraging your child to come into school confidently and take responsibility for their belongings, reading wallet and equipment.

A Few Final Reminders

- Please ensure all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Please ensure children have everything they need each day including a named water bottle and outer clothing suitable for the weather such as raincoat, sun hat, with suncream already applied etc.
- Children should not bring toys into school.
- Please avoid large keyrings on bags, as they can become a distraction during the school day.
- While we do not have a regular "Show and Tell" session, children are welcome to bring in items linked to our current topics, as well as certificates, medals or awards that they would like to share and celebrate with the class.

Thank you for your support. We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you and helping your child have a happy, successful and enjoyable year in Doves Class.

Kind regards,

Mrs McMahon & Mrs Hudson

Doves Class Team