



to Russet Class at St Margaret's Collier Street School

I hope you have all had a relaxing summer, and that the children are feeling ready to join their new class. I am sure the Year 1 children will be as excited, and enjoy helping our new members settle into school life. Miss France and I are looking forward to building up relationships with our children and families this year - a huge welcome from the both of us!

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With an on-site breakfast club, we need to secure the school by locking both access gates.

There will be a member of staff on duty to let you in at 8:45. You can then come into class straight away to help your child put their belongings away, select which lunch they need on the board, and join in with a table top activity. There are some reminders in our

cloakroom about making sure things are in the right place, so feel free to refer to them until you are used to the routine. When the bell goes, we usually come to the carpet for a morning greeting, which is then your cue to leave so that we can settle the children. Please remember to wave a cheery, not a heavy goodbye. Thank you, it really will help!

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I write a weekly newsletter for our class to let you know about our learning. It may include websites and ideas for you to join in with, along with pleas for help, such as resources which you may have access to, or reminders about junk modelling items. The newsletter is on our class door, but we email a copy so you can easily access any websites. If you need a paper copy, Mrs Lupton or Ms Coker will be able to help. Please take the time to read the newsletter, and thank you in advance for doing so. It is a way of involving school and home with the children's learning, building up strong partnerships. We put letters, photos and planning on our school website, too, which you can find by selecting the Russet Class tab.

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During our first week we will be developing friendships and thinking about rules and boundaries for in class, around school, and in our outdoor learning area. Our whole school Golden Rule is...never hurt anyone with our feet, hands or words. The children will learn about earning stars for good social skills and teamwork, along with the importance of trying our best. Come and read our "Star" display so you can find out about our merit system. To help with getting to know each other, all children can bring in a shoebox sized container with their favourite story, toy and even music from home, some family photos, perhaps including pets, and any other small items they would like to talk about, perhaps related to their holiday or interests. You can send them in over the course of the first 2

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weeks of school, and we will return them when they have been shared in class. Children have greater confidence in talking about things they are familiar with, so please do take the time to help your child join in with this. Year 1 will use them as writing prompts, so they can join in with this, too. Among other things this week, we will take part in lots of play based learning to embed social skills and acceptable behaviours, sing a range of nursery rhymes and counting songs, and Year 1 will make a start with their work books, too. We will issue reading books to Year 1 at the start of the week, to get back into reading at home routines. On Friday Year R will bring home a reading book, along with a reading record and some guidance. As mentioned at our coffee morning, please do not put pressure on the children to read to you. At this stage it is about sharing a book together, talking about pictures and events, and even looking for letters to match their names - lots of fun ideas to build up an enjoyment of books. Each Friday, Year R will bring home a Learning Diary with some instructions at the front, and Year 1 will bring home a Homework Diary, with some tasks to embed their learning from school.

That's all for now, but if you do have any questions or concerns - just ask! ☺

