

Dear Parents/Carers



Welcome to Cuckoo Class

Welcome back. We hope you have all had a lovely summer with your children. We're really excited to get to know them and for the year ahead. We have had such a lovely couple of days with your children – they are all settling really well.

All the information in this pack is also on our School Website Page: (Bruton Primary School > Children > Class pages >Cuckoo)

Each week we will try to put some photos of what the children have been up to on the class page so that you can see and talk about what they have been up to.

We also have a class email address:

cuckoo@eastsomersetfederation.co.uk

Please feel free to email any time with queries or messages.

For important messages regarding end of the school day arrangement changes, please could you telephone or email the school office as well as the Cuckoo Class one as we don't always pick up emails throughout the day.

If your child is booked into After School Club and you are picking them up at 3.30, please could you let Community Kids know directly so they are aware.

Timetable

The way we plan our day will enable a smooth transition from Auklet/Barn Owl Class, so there will be a mix of formal teaching, group work and independent activities. We have a visual timetable on the board so the children are able to see the structure of the day and we go through it each morning at register time. We have daily English, Maths and Phonics lessons. Mastering Number happens 4 times a week. Other curriculum lessons fill the other slots in the timetable.

PE will be on Monday and Tuesday

Please ensure your child comes to school in their sports kit on Mondays and Tuesdays. Monday will be a shorter PE session which, if the weather allows, will be an outdoor session so warmer clothes may be needed as the term progresses. Tuesday will be a session with the class teacher. For the first few weeks of this term we *may* be able to go swimming. We will send out an email if this can happen and when the day has been confirmed in which we will swim.

On Thursdays, every other week we will be having a forest school session. Please could the children have a pair of wellies in a named carrier bag kept in school for this.

On Fridays we give out a Star of the Week award. If your child is awarded 'Star of the Week' they will bring a certificate home saying why they have earned it. They will also get to take home the Maths Monster for the weekend. On Fridays the second certificate is for demonstrating one of the school's Learning Behaviours.

What you will need

Bags - Due to limited space, could we request that your child only bring in a book bag or smaller backpacks with what they need for the day. We simply don't have room for large backpacks.

It may also be a good idea to keep a separate bag on the children's pegs containing some spare clothes. Accidents can happen and it would be helpful if we could quickly access some of the children's own spare clothes.

Snack and Water bottles - Please bring in a bottle of water and a healthy snack for morning break. We will provide an afternoon snack of fruit or vegetables. Please could water bottles and snack pots be clearly named. We are a nut free school, so please ensure there is nothing containing nuts in your children's snack boxes.

Medication - If your child has any medication that is needed in School eg Inhaler or EpiPen, please can they be taken to the office by a parent in a named bag or container. The office will provide you with a permission form. The same applies for if your child is having any prescribed medication, we can not administer this without a signed consent form which is available from the school office.

Homework

Reading and phonics/spellings

Phonics is the main way of teaching reading in KS1. We will build on what the children have learned previously, practising blending and segmenting words and recognising those tricky words that you just have to know. These are called Common Exception Words (CEW) . Phonics lessons will happen daily. After Christmas, Year 2 children will begin discrete spelling lessons as they have reached the end of the phonics programme.

Children will be encouraged to put their books into a box when they come into the classroom in the morning. If their books are in that box, they will be changed. Book change day will be in line with the rest of Key Stage 1 and happen on a Monday and Thursday.

Reading with your child has such benefits and really sets them up for success in later life, so sharing that time with your child at home is so important.

We operate a 2-book system consisting of:

- 1) A fully decodable book (a book matched to the individual child's reading level for them to practice reading at home)
- 2) A sharing book (for adults to read to children)

Fully Decodable Book-

- This is accurately matched to each child's phonic level based on regular assessment and close observation during reading sessions. Adults will be constantly evaluating whether children are reading with fluency and comprehension.
- Must be read repeatedly to reinforce and retain phonics learning. At a minimum, children should be reading their decodable books 3 times per week. This provides them with enough exposure to practice and improve without overwhelming them.

Sharing Book-

- These story books are to be enjoyed with the child's family. They are not decodable but offer rich language, varied vocabulary and opportunities for discussion that builds comprehension skills.
- These books encourage a love of reading as they provide variety, exposing children to different genres, authors and topics.

Throughout the year, some children will move across to our Accelerated Reader scheme. This is when the children will choose their own reading book from the library, based on the level they have been assessed at. Once they have read the book, they will complete a short comprehension quiz on the computer. If they complete three consecutive quizzes at a pass rate of 80% or above, they will be able to move up a level. If your child is already on this scheme, they will simply continue as they have been doing.

We are beginning to assess the reading levels of all the children and aim to get reading books out by the end of next week.

If you would like to do some extra practice of phonics at home with your child there are lots of online resources/games that they can have a go with. There are some helpful resources/links on the class page of the website.

Later in the year, all Year 1 children and some Year 2 children will have to undertake the phonics screening test. This is a statutory check that all children in Year 1 have to do. They will need to use their phonics skills to read real and nonsense words. Next year, we will be doing lots of practice based around this and will hold an informal information meeting for parents. Year 2 children will be taking part in the optional SATs for reading and maths.

Both Year 1 and 2 children will be given a list of Common Exception Words that they will be assessed on at the end of the term. It would be beneficial for you to practice these at home with your child. Year 2 children could practice putting these words into sentences.

Topic – half termly topic homework will be set. Please see the included letter with further details. These are generally more practical activities which we really hope the children will enjoy doing with you. These are fun tasks which are designed to create a love of learning. You can either photograph and email their activities or your child can bring the finished product in. We celebrate all homework in a homework showcase, in which we visit all Key Stage 1 classrooms to see what all our friends have produced.

Behaviour

We follow the school's behaviour policy that is available on the website. We also have a class behaviour chart. The children will all start in the green zone and can move themselves onto our learning behaviour zones if an adult spots them demonstrating one of those behaviours. If a child needs to think about their behaviour choices, they will be given a warning and a private discussion will be had with the child. If the behaviour continues they may be asked to move themselves to the pink for think zone. This gives the child the responsibility of making the correct choice. If the choice is corrected, their name moves back to the green zone and can continue as normal. If the behaviour continues, the teacher will decide what is going to happen next. This may be a phone call to parents, or a conversation with the head of school. All decisions will be made in line with the school behaviour policy and with the child so they are aware of what is happening.

When a child demonstrates a learning behaviour, they also get a house point. The children all belong to a house team and the points that they earn are added to those of the other children in their 'house' in different year groups. At the end of the week, the total number of house points are read out to the whole school.

Show and share

Throughout the year we will run a Show and Share rota. This will give the children a chance to bring in or talk about something of interest to them. Each child should get a chance across the year for this and all the information is on a separate sheet which is sent home as a hard copy. This was a really big success last year as the children really enjoyed sharing their special interests with their friends. In the Spring term, we will change to 'Show and Share a Story' in which the children will bring in their favourite story from home to share with their classmates.

We are really looking forward to the new year ahead with Cuckoo Class. Please do not hesitate to contact us on the class email if you have any queries. If you would prefer to speak to one of us in person, then the end of the day is a preferable time to do so.

Miss Larcombe, Mrs Patel and Mrs Shepherd.