

Providing the rich soil that enables  
our children to develop deep roots and flourish.

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **AUTUMN TERM 2022 – HEREFORD CLASS**

I hope that you all had a fantastic Summer Break and had some well-deserved rest and time with your families.

Firstly, I would like to thank the parents of the Hereford cohort, 22-23, for my cards, vouchers and gifts. I was completely overwhelmed with your kindness and generosity. It is really appreciated, thank you! Welcome back to my Year 2 parents!

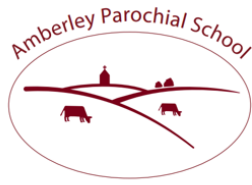
I would like to welcome the parents of the new Year 1 children too. I am looking forward to working with you all and this letter will detail some of the routines that are in place, which are different to the EYFS in Dexter Class. Your children will now be taught and follow the expectations of the National Curriculum. Life in Key Stage One is very different but I will do my best to make sure that the transition is smooth. Before the new Dexter Class become full time, all Year 1 children will have the opportunity, in the afternoons, to utilise Dexter Class for continuous provision. Children have been provided with a Year 2 buddy to help them settle into Hereford life.

For Year 1 children, phonics will continue to be taught daily. Now that the children are in Year 1, they will learn phase 5 sounds. These will all be new sounds to the children and their reading books will be tightly matched with the sounds that they have been taught. It is imperative that children read daily so that they become confident and fluent readers with these new sounds and keep up with new sounds taught. Year 2 will be taught spelling rules.

Books are changed twice weekly, on a Monday and a Thursday but are needed in school daily along with their reading records. Reading records are checked and books will be distributed accordingly. Please write in your child's reading record about how they have got on with the books, noting any difficulties they may have experienced. Please note, on occasions we may ask children to re-read books to aid their fluency.

As well as phonics and spelling, all children receive 3xweekly reading lessons. In these lessons, they are taught the skills of a reader. Children will read a wide range of texts within class, so please don't be alarmed if their home-school book is not always read by the child, with an adult in school. However, if your child has read their home-school book with an adult in school, it is still important that they read the book at home too. In October, we will hold a Phonics' Evening to discuss the teaching of phonics. It would be beneficial for you to attend as it will talk you through the Statutory Phonics' Screening Check in which Year 1 children will sit in June 2023. Keep your eye out for a letter in the upcoming weeks for more details.

Along with daily reading, children will receive weekly phonic/spelling homework. Please encourage your children to read the words and practise the spellings each day. They will all contain rules, sounds or tricky words that they have been taught that week. Year 1 will receive this on a Friday and Year 2 will receive



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them on a Monday. Please return the homework books on these days, so that we can distribute the new homework.

We spend a lot of money in school on reading and exercise books so please keep them in the zip case provided so that they stay in good condition. We ask you not to put water bottles inside book bags in case they leak.

The children will receive two weekly PE lessons. One with myself and one with Mr Spurrier. These will be on a Thursday and Friday. Children can come into school on these days, in their PE kits. If you require any new kit due to it being outgrown, please return the old kit, in good condition, to Mrs Russell and we will arrange a replacement kit.

On a Friday the children will also have Outdoor Learning, which is taught by Miss Green. Children will need to have a separate change of clothes for this lesson and in colder months, more layers. Please also ensure that children have spare footwear. It can get muddy in the Planny so wellies or old trainers would be preferable. We will provide waterproofs to all children, unless they wish to wear their own.

Please provide your children with a water bottle. These will be sent home daily to be washed and can be re-filled by the children at any time in the day. They are encouraged to drink regularly. Fruit is provided by the school at break times but if you wish to send in a snack with your child, that is also fine but please ensure that it is a healthy snack.

I update our BLOG each Monday, which will inform you of the learning for the week. Please make sure you are subscribed to this in order to get the updates. <https://www.amberleyschool.co.uk/blog-1>. On our website, you will also find the yearly overview detailing when each Immersion Curriculum block takes place. For those of you that are not familiar with the Amberley Immersion Curriculum (AIC), this is the teaching of our Foundation Subjects: Science, Geography, History, Art, PSHE, Music and DT Food. These subjects are taught in blocks of 1-2 weeks. The overview for each block of the AIC is placed on our class page so that you are able to see the skills, knowledge and vocabulary taught. If you think you may be able to bring expertise to any of these areas, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we would love to have you in supporting!

If there are any questions that you do have, please do not hesitate to speak to me. You can email me directly on [shamilton@amberley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:shamilton@amberley.gloucs.sch.uk) or contact me via the class page – this goes straight into my inbox. Alternatively, I am usually at the gate in the morning and at the end of the day so please catch me then, or make an appointment.

I look forward to working with you all.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Hamilton  
Hereford Class Teacher