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Cleves Cross Primary and
Nursery School
Ferryhill
County Durham
DL17 8QY



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We hope you have had a fantastic summer and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead-we certainly are! We have had a fantastic first week and all of the children seem to have taken starting school within their stride and settled happily. We have particularly enjoyed rocking in our school shoes, just like our class puppet, Pete the Cat.

Our topic this half term is 'Marvellous Me'. This topic will support the children to continue to find their feet as they find out about themselves and their classmates and explore families, feelings, the body and pets. We will also investigate and explore Autumn before we break for half-term.

As part of the topic we will also focus on the following:

Personal and Social Education:

- New Beginnings
- Sharing 'All About Me' bags- *You should have received a letter outlining your child's day to share.*
- Growth and Change
- Our feelings
- Our bodies
- Our classroom charter and routines

Literacy:

We will begin our phonics (reading and writing) programme (you will be invited to attend a meeting in which we introduce you to this so that you can support learning at home), but some opportunities link to our topic:

- Listening activities- rules for good listening
- Phonological awareness- initial sounds, oral blending and segmenting sounds
- Learn letters and the sounds they make which will lead on to reading and spelling simple words e.g. cat.
- Name recognition and writing
- Asking questions
- Reading and writing about the following books: Elmer, the Gingerbread Man, Funnybones and Leafman
- Sharing non-fiction books linked to our interests and topics e.g. Hedgehogs
- Home corner and pet shop role play

Numeracy

Our numeracy this term covers:

- Matching, sorting and comparing amounts
- Patterns
- Exploring numbers to 5

Understanding the World

- Our bodies and how they grown and changed so far
- Investigating skeletons
- Sharing our families, homes and pets





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- Noticing and celebrating our differences
- Exploring and investigating Autumn

Expressive Arts and Design

- Accessing paint and using a paintbrush effectively
- Self portraits
- Junk models
- Exploring instruments and learning rhymes
- Autumn inspired art

Physical Development

As well as following our P.E. programme and taking part in a daily movement programme, we will:

- Developing fine motor skills and pencil grip

In the Foundation Stage we follow children's interests, so it may be that some of these activities do not get completed and we follow the lead of the children into a different aspect of the topic.

As part of our curriculum, on a Wednesday morning, we will have P.E. P.E. kits must be in school as soon as possible and they will be sent home at the end of the half term. For safety purposes, please ensure earrings are removed on P.E. days. It is also important that you label your child's P.E. kit, as changing for P.E. might be a little 'messy' for the first few weeks, as we establish a routine, and it is likely that kits will get muddled up.

By the end of the half-term, homework will be sent out on a Friday and should be completed and sent back into school by the following **Tuesday**- it may also be sent online via Tapestry or our class email. Homework is always linked to the work that we have done in school over the week, in order to help your child to revisit and consolidate their learning. It is also a great way for you to keep up-to-date with the objectives that we have covered. Reading books will also be sent out. Later in the half term, a letter detailing our reading scheme and our reading routines and expectations will be sent out alongside the first book and you will be invited to attend an early reading presentation.

The children are free to access their water bottles at all times during the school day. Water bottles will be sent home on a daily basis for washing and should be returned to school daily. Please fill your child's bottle with water.

As well as Tapestry, you will also find our 'Cleves Cross' app useful for staying up-to-date with both whole-school and class announcements. After downloading the app, you must subscribe to Reception's notifications. If you need help with this or experience any difficulties, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

If you have any questions or concerns, or want to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You contact us by phoning school or emailing our class email at recclaves@cclt.education.

We look forward to working alongside you and your children,
Mrs Richardson, Miss Hodges, Mrs Punshon and Miss Paley





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WANTED

In Early Years we use lots of recycled resources in our play and crafting. It is very challenging to keep the room stocked myself so I would really appreciate your help throughout the year. Please save and send in any of the following resources into school:

- Plain cardboard boxes
- Kitchen roll tubes
- Bottle tops
- Buttons
- Jar lids
- Corks
- Ribbon
- Generally anything that we can use creatively!

We also have a woodwork area in class and we would be very grateful if anyone is a joiner or knows a joiner who could donate us their soft wood offcuts.

We really do appreciate your help with this.

Thanks again,

Mrs Richardson

