

## Blue Class Newsletter, Autumn 1

Dear parents / carers,

Welcome to Blue Class! I hope that all of our families had a wonderful summer break, and managed to enjoy the weather. With all the recent disruption it is great to finally enjoy a little more freedom – the children were full of stories of where they had been this summer on our first day back, and buzzing to share their experiences.

Of course, I am new to Willow Lane and it has been just lovely to meet all of the new children I will be working with this coming year. In the first week, we included some more getting to know each other activities and began establishing some routines and expectations. I can't praise the children highly enough for how well they have adapted on their return to school – it can be scary having a new teacher, yet they have all been so positive and made me feel very welcome. The staff here have also been fantastic. The children gave me a tour of the school's outside areas last week – they are so lucky to enjoy such beautiful grounds and learning spaces.

Blue class will be supported primarily by Mrs. Mosey, who has already made a big impact settling the children in and helping with the organisation of the classroom. We are certainly very lucky to have her in our classroom. Mr. Cooper will be supporting the class on Tuesdays and bringing all of his energy and experience to Blue Class. Mr. Miller will be teaching the children Music.

A little about myself: I have moved back to Lancaster after a number of years away, most recently living in Cumbria where I was previously teaching. I love the city and it has been great returning to the city I grew up in. I enjoy teaching all subject,s but I am particularly interested in English, reading and art.

### **What we are learning about this half term**

This half-term's value is 'Resilience'. We have already spent time discussing the meaning of the word and how this value can help us succeed in our school and personal lives. The class topic is 'Sparks Might Fly!' (or in other words, electricity), and is our Science topic for the half-term. In Maths, we are looking at numbers to 10,000 and in English we are learning about the Loch Ness Monster and producing information texts. Initially we will be looking at the 3 and 4 times table and any additional home practice on these would be very beneficial. In computing, we will be focusing on e-Safety.

Some useful topic words to ask your children about:

Circuit    Conductor    Insulator    Static

### **Reading expectations**

Children are expected to read every day, though we know children do have clubs and activities some nights of the week that make this difficult. Myself and Mrs. Mosey will be checking reading records frequently and there will be class incentives and rewards for consistent readers. The importance of reading cannot be stressed enough. As well as the joy it brings, reading also makes the rest of the curriculum more accessible. Children should have a school book they bring to and from school in their book bags each day. Please record any home reading with a comment, date, initial and the page read to.

### **PE & Swimming**

PE day for Blue class is **Wednesday**, and children can come to school in PE kits. Please make sure appropriate footwear is provided and children not participating bring a note. Swimming begins on Friday this week, a letter will be sent giving more information.

### **Collection at the end of the day**

Parents and carers are now asked to collect their children from outside the classroom. We politely request that parents stand back on the grassy area rather than directly in front of the doors and windows to provide space to exit and reduce crowding. Blue class will finish at 3.15pm each day, so please time your arrival accordingly. It will take a little time for me to learn who is collecting which child so please be patient as I get used to learning all of the new names and faces.

We are so excited to begin this new year at Willow Lane, and are looking forward to witnessing lots of success, friendship and laughter along the way. **Mr Barnes and Mrs Mosey**