Welcome back, or, for Abigail and Benjamin, welcome to Class One! I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday and made the most of the sunshine! It is really lovely to see everyone again and all of the children have come in happy, settled and ready to begin our fabulous new topic of ‘Transport.’ This will include lots of Science, Art, Design Technology, History, Geography and Computing, but the highlight will, I am sure, be our whole school visit to the National Railway Museum on Tuesday 8th October. More details will follow in a letter soon.

As usual, both teachers are in class every morning so that all the children have the opportunity to work with us both. Miss Aldridge will teach every afternoon apart from Monday when Mrs Issitt takes over. Most mornings Year One and Year Two children will work predominantly on Maths and English, including key number skills, phonics and spellings. Everyone, to some extent, will still have the chance to ‘Get Busy’ and play alongside our Reception children, who will ‘free flow’, with short adult led sessions for Maths and Phonics, as well as adult initiated learning based on the children’s interests. Our afternoons are as busy as ever with topic work, our Science work on Materials, our RE work on ‘Being special: where do we belong?’ and ‘How should we care for others and the world and why does it matter?’. This term our PE is swimming lessons on Friday afternoons and Gymnastics in the village hall every Wednesday. However, whilst the weather is good, we may add some outdoor games sessions, so please could you ensure that your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school all week? Thank you.

Home Tasks

When appropriate, a Maths Home Task may be set. Look out for a big yellow exercise book in your child’s book bag! These tasks are usually open ended and help support the learning taking place in school. Each child also has a Maths Passport which they can practise with you at home – a little and often is best!

Every child in Reception and Year One will receive a ‘Phonics Pack’ with current sound cards in. Please practise these along with any words handed out for a few minutes every evening. Once again, a little and often is best. Year Two children will receive a book mark with words on to learn for the half term – these are to both read and spell independently in their own writing - as well as weekly spelling patterns to investigate. We do not have weekly spelling tests but there may be the occasional quiz - with prizes, of course!

Reading Records

The most effective ‘home task’ you can do is read with your child for 10 minutes or so every evening. Everyone has a reading record so that anything read can be noted. Children read regularly in school and we try to change reading books on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. When you read at home, please record pages read and write a comment. Please note that a reading book will not be changed unless an adult has signed it off as being completed. As your child progresses and reads more fluently, please ask them lots of questions such as ‘Why do you think he did that?’, ‘What do you think will happen next?’ and ‘Is this like any other books we have read?’

Diary Dates for This Half Term

More details about each of these will follow in separate letters, but sometimes it’s handy to have advance notice!

Friday 6th September: First swimming session. Please collect your child from the swimming pool at 3.20pm.
Tuesday 10th September 3.30 - 4.00: Getting To Know You! A very informal half hour when I am available to answer any questions or queries.

Thursday 12th September: Miss A out all day (nowhere very exciting!) Mrs Issitt teaching all day

Wednesday 18th September: Maths Passports and Maths lesson workshop for parents 9.00-10.00am

Friday 20th September: Sharing Assembly 9.00am

Monday 23rd September: School closed due to Pateley Show.

Tuesday 24th September: Cycle, Scoot and Skate To School Day. Wear your own cycling gear. Helmets obligatory!

Thursday 26th September - Miss Brown and Year 2 from St Cuthbert's with Class One all morning

Friday 27th September - Miss A out all day (again!) Mrs Issitt teaching all day

Tuesday 1st October - Archery lesson in school 😊

Wednesday 2nd October - Flu vaccinations

Tuesday 8th October - Whole school trip to the National Railway Museum. Please note 8.45am departure from school.

Wednesday 23rd October - Computing lesson for parents and children in Class One 9.00-10.00am. 😊

As term begins, please could you ensure that your child has a named water bottle and a pair of wellies in school all week, and that all clothing is named. If an item does go missing, you can usually track it down to our class Jumper Pot! As ever, the children adore junk modelling so any small, clean boxes, tubes etc are always gratefully received. The children are allowed to bring home one model a week, as long as it fits in their book bag!

If you would like to catch up with what we have been doing in class, please see either of us on the playground before or after school for a chat, or come to our weekly Friday certificate assembly at 9.00 am. Please note that we are unable to speak with parents after this assembly or after 9.00 am as it is then the children's learning time.

If you would like any further information, or if you have any queries about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak with either of us.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Miss Aldridge and Mrs Issitt