



Northchapel Primary School

growing kind and curious children who aspire to succeed

Caterpillar Class



Autumn term 2025

Staff Team

Mrs Moore & Mrs Lintott

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and a very warm welcome to Caterpillar Class to our new reception children and welcome back to the Year 1s. We hope you all had a good summer, and your children are ready to learn and make new friends. Our Year 1 topic this half term is 'Role Play (home)', and we will be spending time learning about traditional stories and rhymes, post officers, seasons, and lots of play supported by adults! In the latter half of the term, we will be exploring all things 'space', as well as preparing for the holiday season. Please see our year group specific curriculum maps for more information.

Communication

We believe that children develop best when parents and teachers work in partnership for the benefit of the child. For Reception children, we will use Tapestry to share their learning with you. Year 1 children will have subject folders and shared floor-books with which they can share their learning with you. We will also ensure that we include lots of pictures in the Monday Messenger each week.

Each term we will invite you to discuss your child's progress at a meeting after school. In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any concerns relating to your child's wellbeing, learning or development, please email me on nmoore@northchapelprimary.co.uk. If it is something that will need more time to discuss, we can book a suitable time to have a longer meeting before or after school. You may also use this email address to let us know if your child is upset at home for some reason so that we can support them upon arrival. Emails will be checked by me daily during working hours and I will respond to you as soon as practicable. If you have an urgent need, for example, an absence or a change to collection arrangements that day, please notify the office.

Please ensure that any absences due to illness are reported to the School Office on office@northchapelprimary.co.uk, and if your child will be absent due to a medical appointment or other advance reason, there are request forms available from the office.

In relation to positive behaviour management and communication with parents:

- **Yellow Forms** will be used to communicate minor incidents including illness, first aid and minor behaviour events.
- **Emails** will be sent to notify parents of major incidents and those requiring restorative action (as outlined in our relational behaviour policy).
- **Face-to-face meeting** if there are repeated behavioural incidents, I will invite you for a meeting to discuss steps to support your child moving forward.
- **MCAS** will continue to be used to log negative/behaviour events as a centralised record.
- **Email** will also be used to distribute class specific communication, such as homework grids and topic overviews.

Home reading

We love books in Caterpillar Class! Reading helps children in all areas of learning so please support them by giving them time to read as part of their daily routine, talking about the pictures, questioning them to check understanding and helping them with any tricky or new vocabulary. We advocate 15 minutes a day reading at home together. Reading books will be coming home with children; they will each pick a 'sharing' book from our library, which you can read to them and discuss together. Once they are ready, they will also be sent home with an appropriate Oxford Reading Tree (ORT) book for them to read to you for a minimum of 10 minutes four times per week.

Parents are asked to record in their reading diary if children have read and whether they need their book changed. If you have any queries regarding the reading level your child has been given, please write comments in their reading diary.

Phonic sounds and key words

Reception

At Northchapel Primary School, we use the 'Floppy's Phonics' scheme to learn to read. Children will have daily phonics lessons where we revisit past sounds and introduce new sounds. Your child will be sent home with phonics sound cards and matching pictures for each new sound they have been learning, as well as tricky (or non-decodable) words for the phase they are working in, and some words which they need to be able to read on sight, and then write. Please practise these with your child for a few minutes each night. These cards will accumulate as we add new sounds through the year. If you are new to phonics, Oxford Owl has some useful information and videos which you may find helpful:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-at-home/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/phonics/>

Year 1

Children will continue to have daily phonics sessions and will be sent home spellings each week, consisting of some phonics-related spellings, and two unrelated, but commonly used words. Please practice spelling and writing these at home, using rainbow colours, in chalk or water on the patio, using a finger in a tray of flour or rice, or making the letters using playdough, the more fun the better! Children will be assessed on their home spellings the week after they have been taught and sent home on **Fridays**.

Water bottles

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle in school every day.

Covering all weathers

We will be playing outside every day! As the autumn term is subject to variable weather, please ensure your child has a pair of wellies which they keep at school, a waterproof coat, and a school jumper. If the weather is due to be hot and sunny, please apply suncream to your child before school and ensure they bring a sun hat to school.

PE

All Caterpillar class will have PE on **Tuesday afternoons** with Mrs Weller. Please can children come to school in their yellow PE t-shirts, school jumpers/cardigans, trainers and black shorts. As it gets colder, they may wish to wear plain black tracksuit trousers over their shorts. No leggings please.

Swimming

Year 1 will be swimming on **Thursday 11th and 18th September only**. Please can they bring in their swimming costume, towel, goggles and swimming hat in a named bag.

Trips

This term we will be organising a walk in the local area to discuss key geographical features in a real context. This will take place at **1pm on Thursday 20th November** to tie in with our geography focus that week. We require 3 parent volunteers to chaperone on this trip, please let me know if you are able to help out, thanks.

Sharing Assemblies

These whole school assemblies are held on *some* Friday mornings at **9am** and parents will be invited in to share our learning. Please check our newsletter and school calendar for details.

We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you and your children.

Mrs Nikki Moore
Class Teacher