



St. Andrew's CEVA Primary School
Ecton Brook Road
Ecton Brook
Northampton
NN3 5EN
Tel: 01604 406486

Mrs D Thompson
Headteacher

Tuesday 2nd October 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This letter is to tell you some exciting news that will affect children in Year 1 this year. They will be participating in a programme called Roots of Empathy. This programme teaches children about feelings, their own feelings and the feelings of others. Once every three weeks, baby Liam and his mother will visit the classroom. As a trained Roots of Empathy Instructor, I will gather the children in the classroom around a green blanket, and together they watch the baby grow.

The children predict and cheer when their Roots of Empathy baby reaches the 'developmental milestones' of the first year: "He can roll over!" "He got his first tooth!" "He can sit up!" "He can crawl!!"

The Roots of Empathy Instructor also coaches the children in observing and reading the cues the baby gives as to how the baby is feeling: "Is the baby happy or sad?" "How can you tell?" We use this discussion as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel: "Do you smile when you're happy?" "How can you tell if your friend is happy?" Being able to understand how other people are feeling is called **empathy**. I will also visit the classroom before and after each Family Visit to prepare and reinforce teachings using a specialised lesson plan for each visit.

For twenty years, across Canada and internationally, over 700,000 children are learning to respect and care for one another with the lessons started through their Roots of Empathy baby. More information about Roots Of Empathy can be found on their website www.rootsofempathy.org

If you have any questions or would like more information, please let us know.

Photographs will be taken in some of the sessions to be displayed in the classroom, but may also be used to promote Roots of Empathy. The children will also be asked to produce some artwork at times which may also be used in this way. If you are happy for this to happen, could you please complete the attached Photo/Video and Artwork/ Writing Release form and return it to school.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Jo Deveney

Teaching Assistant

