

Monday 14th September, 2015

Dear Parents/ Carers,

A very warm welcome to all of our EYFS families and friends. The children have all settled so well and we would like to thank you for all of your support during the transitional period.

We are already busy collecting the assessment information needed to make our baseline judgements. These judgements will be formed from the observations made in school, your child's learning, our professional judgements as well as the transition documents and information provided from your child's nursery.

Following our assessment we will then be able to identify your child's needs and next steps and ensure that the teaching is planned and delivered accordingly. We will also be able to ensure that the learning environment reflects the children's needs and level of attainment.

Topic learning

In order to ensure that our teaching and learning follows the interests and needs of the children we do not plan for set topics. There are however topics and themes that lend themselves to the different seasons and the events and celebrations that fall within the different times of year. For example in the first half term we will be looking at ourselves and our families as we build new relationships and develop our understanding of each other.

Maths

We will be using lots of songs, rhymes and games to enhance learning through play. When direct teaching has begun our maths teaching and learning sessions will focus on developing basic counting skills alongside shape, space and measures. To ensure the learning is put into context at every opportunity we will be applying our maths knowledge through the different areas of the classroom.

English

Your children will be reading with a member of the EYFS team each week. Please ensure that reading journals are brought to school every day. We have sent home reading books with your child already. Please advise a member of the team that your child needs to change their book. Story time takes place daily before home time and is a key opportunity for us to develop your child's love of reading and reinforce those early reading skills.

Phonics

When direct teaching begins there will be a phonics session daily. We follow the Letters and Sounds guidance which begins at phase one and finishes at phase six. These sessions will be taught in small groups according to your child's next steps following our assessments.

Woodlands

The children will be learning in the woodlands each Monday afternoon. If you would like to send alternative clothing please feel free to do so – it can be wet and muddy but we love this as it creates excellent conditions for exploring!

PE

Although PE is not a statutory part of the EYFS curriculum we acknowledge the many benefits of PE sessions and the skills that can be developed through direct teaching. The children will therefore have a PE lesson in the hall and engage in physical development activities in EYFS on alternate Thursday afternoons. Please ensure that PE kits are kept in school. We will ensure that they are sent home at the end of each term for washing!

Home Learning

As part of our home learning policy we would like you to engage in reading with your child each evening – this may be sharing stories together until your child has developed the skills to be able to read independently - or engaging in reading activities. We will also be sending home key words for your child to learn. More information to follow as we progress with our phonics and reading.

Reminders

Our first sports day will take place on the MUGA on 22nd September 2015 at 2.15pm weather permitting. Your child can come in their sports gear on that day.

Please make sure that if your child has hair longer than their shoulders it is tied back to ensure we avoid any unwanted visitors! Also as the weather gets colder please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing and that all items have their names in.

Please check the school menu each week on the newsletter to ensure that your child likes the choices on offer. Michelle, our cook, is now offering a 'packed lunch' choice. Please ask for more information. A reminder also that £6 milk money is now due for any children who will be 5 this term (from 1st September to 31st December).

Don't forget to sign up to Tapestry to keep a track of what your child gets up to in school. Also share with us what they get up to at home. If you would like the invitation to be resent please email your child's teacher and let them know (j.pickup@barrowford.lancs.sch.uk / v.trapanese@barrowford.lancs.sch.uk).

We have our Celebration Assembly each Friday at 9am – you are always welcome to join us and for tea and talk following assembly in the Sanctuary. Your child will receive a birthday bun in assembly the week of their birthday.

We are looking forward to a busy term of learning!

Thank you once again for all your support

Kind Regards

The EYFS Team

