

6th September 2019



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back! I hope that you have had a really enjoyable summer break. It has been good to see all the children return with such enthusiasm this week and settle to their learning.

We want to give a special welcome to all the children who have started in EYFS1 and EYFS2. We have all been impressed by the way these youngest children have settled so quickly and we wish them a great start to their learning adventure!

New Staff

This week we have welcomed some new staff to our school. There are several new Teaching Assistants who have started with us. Mrs Bovington, Mrs Murray, Mr Goddard, Mrs Bourke and Mrs Westerman have joined the team and we wish them every success as they support individual children and groups in each phase of the school. We are very fortunate to have such a strong team of teaching assistants working with our children. We also welcome Mark Wood, a PE teacher from Archbishop of York Secondary School, who is supporting schools in our Trust with PE during PPA sessions this year.

We have also welcomed back Miss Harver and Mrs Brisby from their maternity leave and Mr Nelson who is settling back to school following his illness. We are delighted to see them all back with us.

School Improvements

During the summer holidays, new automatic gates have been fitted at the front of the school on Eastholme Drive. These are not fully commissioned yet and will start to be in operation next week. These gates will greatly improve the safety and security of the children.

Until they are working fully, the double gates will be closed during busy times from 8.20am-8.50am and from 3.00pm-3.30pm. Once working, the main vehicle gate will be locked during these times and access during the rest of the school day to this gate and the middle pedestrian gate will be via the intercom which connects to the school reception. The cycle entrance will be open at the beginning and end of the school day but locked in between these times. There will not be any changes to the gate at the rear of the school building.

Curriculum Developments

During the summer term, we started to look at the creative curriculum once again and review the way we plan and organise our teaching and learning. This work will continue and I will share progress during this term through Newsletters.

As we develop new approaches to planning, teaching and assessing the curriculum, we will be communicating these changes through the school website and I will keep all parents and carers informed as we go along.

There is now a renewed focus on the whole curriculum and also on the enrichment experiences we provide as part of the wider curriculum in our school. We are thrilled that this is now going to be given special consideration when Ofsted inspect a school. We may well be inspected this year so our developments are very timely.

This term we are developing our planning for some subjects in three weekly blocks which will begin with an exciting "Wow Day" and end with a published written outcome which can be celebrated and used as part of our assessment of the children's skills. The work during this three week block will be cross curricular, practical and always with a purpose and with strong links to real life experiences.

The final published piece of work will be developed along the way and we expect this will encourage all children to grow in confidence as writers, using a wide range of vocabulary and using their knowledge developed through these cross curricular blocks.

Whole School Themes

Each term, every phase will be joining in with a whole school topic or theme. This will enable all children, from EYFS to Y6, to feel a part of the learning and be able to share experiences and relate to each other's work, especially when we do cross phase projects which we like to do! This term our whole school Theme is "Magic and Mayhem" and you will find out about what your children will be doing through phase newsletters each week.

Already, children in LKS2 have been doing science experiments with potions and children in KS1 have explored the title of a shared story through drama in the hall. They are now really excited to read the story! Our Wow Day activities are designed to draw the children into the topic and give them an exciting glimpse of what they will be learning in the next three weeks. Phases will continue with these "Wow!" activities on Monday 9th September, linked to the first three week block of learning.

Teaching staff will be sharing this work using Class DoJo and through newsletters and Facebook. We are excited about this new approach and alongside this we will continue to provide all the children with a range of exciting experiences through PE, music, dance and drama, along with our continuing use of the allotment and our forest school. The children will also be continuing their cooking activities!

I will continue to share developments in the curriculum with you over the coming weeks and months.

Kitchen Cutlery

Just a reminder that children do not need to bring in any cutlery to school with their packed lunches. There is plenty of knives, forks and spoons in the hall for them to use if they need to for their packed lunches.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andy Herbert
Headteacher

