

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday. A special welcome our new school starters Jack, Alegria, Charlie, Gus, Jack, Charlie, Ivy, Narumi, Caitlin, Lilah, Alex, Torin and Matthew. What a great start they have made this week. Our four year one children have been brilliant in their new role and have been a great support to them.

Teaching staff are Mrs Jodi Dawson and Mrs Anna Perry. We have changed our hours and now work half a week each. Jodi will be working on a Monday and Tuesday all day, Anna will be working on a Thursday and Friday all day and we will alternate every other Wednesday.

Mr Stokes will be covering our planning and assessment time on a Wednesday morning with forest school for the children. We have Fiona as our full time classroom assistant to ensure continuity for the children throughout the week. We also have helpers in throughout the week who we are most grateful for. They come in and listen to children read. If you know of anyone who would like to come in and help with reading, gardening, library etc please send them our way. We strive to ensure that we all work closely together to ensure that your child has a fun, relevant and continuous learning experience in Webburn. (Timetables are displayed in the classroom corridor for your information)

Year 1 children will be following the National Curriculum for their year group, and reception children will be working within the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum). Year 1 subjects and the Early Years Areas of Learning will tie in together, bound by our topic. This half term our topic is **Dinosaurs** (please see separate topic overview displayed in the classroom). The children enjoy our creative approach to their curriculum which allows them to discuss at the outset what they would like to learn and do and then our plans stem from the children's ideas and interests.

Children are provided with a healthy snack by the school (fruit or veg) and a drink of milk or water at morning playtime. Children must also have a named water bottle each day that they can help themselves to throughout the day. We have a "WOW" table where children can bring in something unusual or interesting to share with the class any time, such as a shell, maybe something related to autumn or our topic they have found and collected whilst out and about or something they have made at home etc. Please find attached to this letter some "I can" sheets. You can fill one of these in as often or as little as you like and it can be about anything you and your child are proud of, from learning their letter sounds to riding their bike. We love to share and celebrate good news and again it helps us with knowing how your child is learning and developing at home. If you need any more throughout the year you will find them on the

Webburn section of the school website or pop in and pick some up from the parents notice board in Webburn. Please name and date them.

### Numeracy and Literacy.

All children will experience daily literacy, reading, phonics and numeracy sessions, but of course the nature and duration of these will be tailored to the children's ages and needs. We hope to also make lessons in these areas very much in line with the topic, with relevant stories and non fiction texts. Copies of our medium term plans can be found displayed in the classroom.

### Reading

Your child will regularly read at school through guided reading and individual reading sessions. Your child will bring home a reading book and a reading record book. It is so valuable to take some time each day to share this book with your child and we strongly encourage you to write a comment in the reading record book each time. Inside the reading record book you will find a useful insert on the letter sounds and information to support reading. Please take time to have a look at this. We do read your comments regularly and we can celebrate with the children if they have done well or address any concerns you may have. We will write in these books for you too so that there is a good line of communication about your child's reading. For reception children these early books will be simple picture books where they can be encouraged to "tell the story", talk about what might happen next, learn the characters names and so on. If you would like any guidance with supporting your child's reading or have any concerns please feel free to talk to us at any time. ***You are more than welcome to help yourself to the reading books at drop off times and pick up as and when you need a new one (maybe twice/three times a week) and work your way through our reading scheme with your child. Please ask for help on how to do it.*** If your child comes in on the bus we appreciate this is difficult and that is where our volunteer helpers are really valued. We will be sending home phonics charts. Please use these daily with your child. It would be helpful to keep it in their book bag so it can be used to support reading and writing activities at home and school. Each week we will learn new sounds. As a general guide we introduce 4 new sounds a week and also learn 'tricky words'. These will be sent home weekly. Year 1 children will be given a new list of spelling words each week to practice at home. If your child is finding their spelling words easy, they can think of sentences with these words in them, or think of other words which are spelt the same way. Feel free to learn them in a fun way- paint them on big paper, or build them with playdough! Children may bring home other home learning sheets too. It is not compulsory to do them and they can be completed and returned at any time. The children love to stand at the front and show their homework, and put their name on the happy side.

Every **Friday**, the children will have a library session where they will be able to choose a book to take home and share. We ask that the children return one book before they take out a new one. It is great to get into the routine of returning the book each week as the children really do enjoy choosing a new one. It's a lovely special time which the children really value. In light of the above it would be very helpful if your child could bring in their **book bag every day**.

### P.E. Swimming and Forest School:

This term we will have two PE sessions and swim. We will get changed for some PE sessions so the children get practice at dressing and undressing. PE kit is to comprise of a white Widcome PE shirt, blue/black shorts and trainers (although sensible school shoes are fine). We value outdoor learning a great deal and in addition to children free flowing into our own outdoor area, we plan to get the children out of the classroom for active learning whenever possible, making use of our outdoor space and the outdoor classroom. Please also ensure warm, waterproof coats are in school each day and a pair of wellies when we have really wet days. Remember to name EVERYTHING. Forest school sessions are starting on school grounds for the first few weeks, on Wednesday mornings. You will receive a letter with more information about Forest school. Swimming will be on Wednesday afternoons. Any changes will be on the weekly newsletter or emailed out to you.

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year. We know that especially for new children and parents, school can sometimes be overwhelming but please feel free to come and see us if you ever have any concerns or questions. If we know about it, we can help and advise. If your child catches the bus you can contact school via phone, e mail or write us a note and we will do our best to help. We do try not to bombard you with too much information but please do check book bags daily. The school weekly newsletter is published every Friday so if you only read one thing each week make sure it is that. Make sure we have your email address so we can send it to you. We also have a school Facebook page and a Friends of school page which will update you with information. You will also find weekly updates on Webburn on the website with pictures of what we have been up to.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Dawson, Mrs Perry & Fiona

