

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday. A special welcome our new school starters Eliza, Martha and Phoebe and also to Luca who has joined year our year 1 group. What a great start they have made this week. Our year one children have been brilliant in their new role and have been a great support to the younger children. Congratulations go to Mrs Dawson and her family; she had a baby boy called Joey. You will get to meet him at the school gates as her other children have now joined our school.

This year we again have a lovely small class consisting of 3 reception and 14 year one children. We are so pleased to have Fiona and Claire in Webburn as our classroom assistants. Teaching staff are Mrs Amy Phillips on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Anna Perry on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We also have helpers in through the week who we are most grateful for. We will continue to strive to ensure that we will all be working closely together to ensure that your child has a fun, relevant and continuous learning experience in Webburn.

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 **Our Wonderful World** (please see separate topic overview displayed in the classroom - its main emphasis is gardens). 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. We have been endeavoring to improve our own little Webburn world and have begun on improvements. We are looking for kind volunteers to help out in very small ways to make a difference in our outside area. Please see us if you can spare a little time and we will provide the tea. Equally if anyone has a lovely garden we could come and visit to learn about plants and food then do let us know.

Children will develop key skills in the National Curriculum subjects History, Geography, Art, and Design Technology, Music, and ICT, but we will aim to link these right across our topic and very much stemming from children's ideas and interests. Science, PSHE and R.E. will be taught separately but will link in with the topic wherever possible. Reception children will be following the early years curriculum.

Children are provided with a healthy snack by the school 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 all 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. Over the next week 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. We will provide a phonics overview of the appropriate phase they are working on in your child's book bag. Please use these 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'. Year 1 children will be given a new list of spelling words each week to practice at home. These lists will go home on Fridays and there will be an informal activity where they will be challenged in a fun way to correctly spell these words in a phonics session on the following Friday. 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. If anyone would like to run the weekly library session on a Friday from 2:45 please see Anna. 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.

This term we will be doing two short PE sessions and one longer one along with our 7 minutes high impact fitness sessions with the whole school. We will get changed for some sessions so the children get practice at dressing and undressing. PE kit is to comprise of a plain white t shirt, blue 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 new 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.

**Widcombe Fair** Remember its Widcombe Fair on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. School is closed to the children on this day. As always Webburn class will be displaying a 2D piece of art work this year with a flower theme which we shall complete at school, they will also be displaying a 3D animal made up of vegetables/fruit. Please could you provide your child with the appropriate fruit/veg to make their animal and bring it into school in a named bag on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. We find putting them together using cocktail sticks is effective. We will help your child construct theirs during the day on Monday although they are very welcome to make it at home and bring in the completed article on Monday. We always find google images useful inspiration! Thank you in advance for providing the fruit/veg and cocktail sticks.

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.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Phillips, Mrs Perry, Fiona and Claire.

