

# YR First Letter September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you feel happy with your child's start at Whiteley Primary School, and that our induction procedures have helped you and your child to adjust to this next step in their lives. We are pleased to see the children settling into the new routines. However, if you have any concerns, do keep in touch with the YR team and they will help to reassure you and discuss the best way to support your child in their first few weeks of school. It does take a little while to get children into the morning classroom routines, but we are grateful to parents for taking the 'leap' and saying goodbye to their child at the classroom door. It really does help to keep the classroom calmer, and whilst there may be one or two tears at first, the children generally settle within a few minutes.

You should have received my newsletter for all parents and the diary dates in September but below are a few more notices specifically for YR parents:

## Behaviour Policy

Our full behaviour policy is available on the school website in the 'Policies' section, and we would encourage all parents to read this. Each time your child changes year group, you will be re-sent the relevant appendix so that you know of any changes that occur to the systems used - enclosed with this letter is a copy of the YR systems which your child will be introduced to during this half term and our anti-bullying policy. If you have any questions regarding the policy, please do ask your child's class teacher.

## School Meals

I'm glad that so many of you were able to come along for our taster lunches and we hope that you found it a positive experience. Now that the children have started, it's great to see so many taking up the offer of the free school meals and we have been impressed with how quickly the children are getting used to lunchtime routines. We have smaller cutlery for our YR and Y1 pupils to use, which is much easier for small hands, but the children would still benefit from plenty of cutlery practice, particularly how to hold food still with a fork and then cut with a knife. This will help the children feel more independent.

Thank you for supporting us with our endeavour to get all children signed up for a school meal on the census day which is tomorrow. This will really help with our funding. The second INSET day is in January, and we hope to offer a similar choice between hot meals and picnic lunches on this day as well to encourage full participation.

## Pupil Premium - Service Families, Adopted Pupils, Low Income Families

Do you know that the school receives some additional funding according to the number of pupils who fit into one of the above categories through the 'Pupil Premium'? If either parent is in the armed forces, please can you make sure that you have informed a member of the school office for our records. Similarly, if your child is adopted and you haven't made the school aware, please do let us know. Hopefully you received the information regarding how to check if your child would qualify for free school meals due to low income last term – if your circumstances change at any time and you feel your child may be eligible under this criteria, please do contact the school as soon as possible so that we can make sure we receive the funding we are entitled to, and also to provide you with a £30 uniform voucher. If you would like to find out how we use the 'Pupil Premium' funding, please see the 'About Us' section of the school website.

## Coats

Please can you ensure that all children have a coat in school every day. Even on sunnier days, we know how quickly the weather can change. The children do use the outdoor classroom in all weathers and are outside for the second half of lunchtime, and so it is really important that they have a coat to put on over their uniform.

## Scooters and Bikes

It's great to see YR children making use of our bike racks but can I ask you to ensure that your children do not scoot or ride once they reach the school grounds. We ask for your support with this so that they can get into good habits from the start, and with so many people using the gates at the same time, it is important for everyone's safety.

## Supply Teachers

At times during the year, our teachers may be out of class to attend training or meetings, or through illness. We are fortunate to have a number of regular supply teachers who provide the majority of our cover in YR and pictures of these teachers on the outside display board near the YR outdoor classroom gate so that you and your child can become more familiar with them. They include the following:

- \* Mrs Whitehouse (regular supply teacher for the whole school).
- \* Mrs Davies (Y2 teacher who also teaches in YR on alternate Wednesday mornings whilst Miss Hemsley has her leadership time.)
- \* Mrs Mugford (Squirrels' Friday teacher who also does occasional supply teaching across the base)

## Policies

The school has many policies, some of which are of particular relevance to parents. Rather than overloading you all at once, I will aim to stagger the information over this half term, but all key policies can be found from a link in the school website. Those sent to you will include the following:

- \* Appropriate Use of ICT Policy
- \* E-safety information for parents
- \* Homework Policy
- \* Cluster attendance letter

Please do contact a member of school staff if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting you again as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Pennington - Headteacher