**September 2016 Newsletter**

Dear Parents, 12th September 2015

Welcome to Base 1. We hope you had a great summer holiday. It was so good to see so many happy, smiling faces on our first day at school. Everyone looked so smart in their new uniforms and shiny shoes! All the children in Base 1 have done so well, they are happy and settled. We spent the three days last week getting to know the routines of the day and to find out where everything is. The children have been fantastic and have got involved in all our activities straight away.

Thank you to those reception children who have brought in a Treasure box, we have enjoyed sharing them. Please make one with your child so that we can get to know them and what they are interested in. If you need any help then please come and speak to us.

**Base 1 - Reception and Year 1**

As you are aware, Base 1 is made up of children who are in their reception year and year 1. This is common in small schools due to there not being enough children in each year group to have straight year classes. The reception children will be taught following the Early Year Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. The year 1 children will be securing their knowledge of the EYFS curriculum and being taught following the Year 1 National curriculum. We are lucky to have a full time teaching assistant in Base 1, Miss Willis, with teaching experience. This allows us to split the children up to be taught in small groups and target what they need to learn for their appropriate year group.

The Year 1 children's curriculum has been planned alongside Miss Pitchford's (Base2) and my Y1s will also spend time in Base 2 with the other Year 1 children for RE, French and some topic work. We will endeavour to bring the whole cohort of Year 1’s together as much as possible.

**Autumn School Theme**

We have a whole school theme each term for this new school year and we begin with **'Into the forest'.**

Many of the curriculum subjects have been woven together to make our learning more meaningful this term. The holistic autumn term overview gives a flavour of the work we will be covering. We will try to learn outside of the classroom as much as possible, so please ensure your child brings a coat to school, even if the morning is bright and sunny as you leave home. We will go outside whatever the weather.

**Water Bottles**

All our children do need a **water bottle** in school every day so that they can access water whenever they need to. It must be **labelled** and taken home to be washed out at the end of the day.

**Snack**

At break time we will give the children a piece of fruit for their snack. The Year 1 children only can bring money to then buy something from the canteen. It was decided that reception children would just have the fruit as we found they were not hungry at lunch time and leaving a lot of their food.

**Clothing**

Thank you for labelling all your child’s clothes, if you have not done so then please can you label as many items as possible including coats. PE kit easily becomes mixed up during changing, please check that all items are clearly labelled.

Many children have brought in Wellington boots already. If not, could you please ensure your child brings some in so that we can go out exploring our school grounds even in the bad weather. We are also going to be doing some planting in our Base 1 planter box in our school garden soon, so we will need them for that!

**P.E**

Base 1 will be doing PE on a **Monday and a Friday**. All children have their PE kit in school, thank you. We will send them home at the end of every half term for washing.

**Baseline Assessment**

The children in reception have made a start on their Baseline Assessment, which creates an accurate picture of the skills, knowledge and wellbeing of your child on entry to our school. During the assessment period we cannot directly teach the children as this affects the data. We are hoping to complete the assessments by the end of this week. Please bear with us as we collect all the information we need.

Year 1 children have also started their baseline assessment along with the rest of the year groups within the school. Again, this gives us the starting point for each child and allows us to group children accordingly, set targets, personalise their learning and teach the children what they need.

**Reading**

Year 1 children have already been given reading books to take home, and the reception children will start taking books home to share this week. This is their homework each day. Your child will also have a reading record book sent home. Please record what they have read, make a comment and then return with the book to be changed.

**Learning Book**

New starters: You will soon be able to see your child engaged in activities in school via the learning book.

Also, please check the school website as often as possible to keep you up to date with events at school. There will be a weekly news feed on the activities and news from Base 1.

**Dates for your diary:**

**Year 1 only -** Pastoral Meeting – Wednesday 21st September 3.35pm in Base 2

We will host a parent evening for our new starters before the half term.

We are going to have a fantastic year of school together and we look forward to getting to know you as well as the children. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to catch us at meet and greet or at the end of the school day.

Thank you

Mrs McGhie, Miss Willis and Mrs Ball