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Headteacher: Jude Long

10<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome the start of the Autumn 1 Term. The children have all made a great start in our Early Years unit and are starting to learn or remember our routines. Remember if you have any queries you can request a chat at the end of the day. If you need to speak to Mrs Wilkinson or Mrs Blythe, please let us know when you get to the front of the line and we will ask you to wait with your child, until all the children have been reunited with their parents. You can also email us with queries at the addressees below. We are pleased to welcome a new teacher to our Early Years Team, Miss Powell, who will be teaching the children on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, as well as supporting us some mornings as a teaching assistant. Our topic this half term is '**All About Me, Now and in the Past**'. Please find a planning overview for this half term attached detailing the curriculum areas we will be covering. It also includes some general information.

As part of our topic work we will be getting the children to compare themselves as babies with how they are now and think about how they have changed. **Please could you send a baby photo of your child into school in the next couple of weeks?** You can send us a digital photo by email or lend us a photo that we can copy and then give back to you, whichever way is easiest for you. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

In addition to this information, please can you ensure your child has a **coat in school every day** as the weather is very variable at the moment and if we get a sudden heat wave, please send sun cream and a sun hat.

#### **Changes in our use of Electronic Learning Journals and Assessment this year,**

In the latest government advice about recording in EYFS there is now much less emphasis on staff recording every step of children's progress, in order to free staff to have more time interacting with the children! We have decided this year that we will not be continuing to add to the children's Electronic Learning Journals once they are in **Reception**. However, we will be sharing their work with you at parents meetings and will continue to keep in touch with you about 'wow' moments in their learning verbally at the end of the day and sometimes by email.

For **Nursery** children we will continue to capture their 'wow' moments using our Electronic Learning Journals which also allow you as parents, as well as staff to celebrate those special



moments of progress. If you are not already logged on to this system, please speak to Mrs Wilkinson so that we can sort this out.

We will continue to assess where children are currently at using our ongoing informal observations of them as we interact with them daily. In addition we will continue to use the **Northumberland School Readiness Checker** at regular intervals (approximately every 6 months) to take a 'snap shot' of each child's development to make sure they are on track to be ready for Reception or Y1 when the time comes. **If there are any areas of their development where we need to offer more support, we will of course be talking to you about this as our aim is to work in partnership with you to help them catch up.**

Finally, in terms of assessment, we are required to carry out the **Reception Baseline Assessment** with all our Reception children within their first 6 weeks in school. This involves a short individual screening test in both Maths and Language & Literacy. The children's responses go directly to the Department of Education and we do not get to see the overall scoring. The assessment is designed to be very child friendly and we anticipate your child will not see this as anything different from any individual task they are asked to do with a teacher. **Please contact Mrs Wilkinson if you want to know any more about how we will be assessing your child's progress this term.**

#### **Reading books:**

All **Reception children** will initially have two 'reading books' each week. These will be changed on **Thursdays** to be returned the following **Tuesday**. Initially, one of the books your child brings home will continue to have no words in it and the aim is for them to tell you the story using the clues in the pictures. The second book is one they have chosen; a 'library book' (you read to me). As soon as they have mastered enough phonics and can sound out and read some simple words, they will be given a 'phonics book' (I read to you). This will be a book they have already read in school so they should be confident with it. When they are at the stage of reading some simple phrases or sentences they will get a third 'book bag book' (we read together) which will be unfamiliar to them, but will contain the same letter sounds as their 'phonics book'. **Nursery children** will continue to bring home a 'library book' that they have chosen. This is for you to read to them and for them to talk to you about what is happening in the pictures. Encourage them to join in repeated phrases as they become more familiar with the story.

#### **Phonics Homework:**

Reception children have a book or game sent home every three or four weeks to reinforce their phonics knowledge in a fun way. These need to be returned before another one is sent out. When they are ready (probably after half term) they will also get an individual Nessy Login to practice phonics on a phone or tablet if they want to.

**Please don't hesitate to request a chat with one of us after school, if you have any queries, however small about this or any other matters about your child. We are always happy to make a time to talk with you.**

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Melanie Wilkinson**, EYFS Teacher (Every morning and Friday afternoons)



Email: [melanie.wilkinson@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:melanie.wilkinson@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)

**Mrs Karen Blythe**, Class 2 Teacher (EYFS Monday and Wednesday afternoons)

Email: [karen.blythe@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:karen.blythe@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)