



14 September 2020

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to welcome your daughters back to Westfield and we had a fantastic first week back in Transition (Year 1). The girls were full of enthusiasm and seemed extremely pleased to be back with their peers, to continue their learning journey.

I hope your daughter will enjoy her year in Transition. They all seem very settled and ready to adapt to new routines and a slightly more structured timetable.

It is a strange world at the moment and as we are unable to meet in person, I hope this letter will give you an insight into the learning that will be covered this term.

English

We will be continuing the structured phonics programme and practising on a daily basis. Key words will be learned by sight to help with reading and writing. Correct letter formation will be revised and also practised regularly using lower case and upper case letters.

Independent writing will be encouraged through a range of stimuli, starting with short basic sentences this term. We will be focussing on the use of finger spaces, capital letters at the beginning of sentences and proper nouns and the use of full stops. Nouns and adjectives will be covered and also the use of question marks.

A range of literature will be studied and we will discuss fiction and non-fiction. We will be discussing characters in stories, settings and story structures. Grammar and spelling within the stories will be explored and we will look at rhyming words and also some poetry.

The girls will be reading aloud at school daily and I would ask that you continue to hear your daughter read each evening, discussing the text, asking questions about its content, expressing opinions and making predictions.

I would appreciate if you could record the pages read each evening in their reading diary and any relevant comments.

Maths

Please see the attached letter about White Rose Maths which we will starting to use this term. I am sure the girls will enjoy this approach and enjoy all the practical work and hands-on activities. I am certainly excited about it! We will of course use additional resources and incorporate them into the teaching of a variety of concepts.

I hope you will support your daughters at home and encourage them to develop their learning further, through a range of activities.

The areas we will be covering this term will include:

- Number: Place Value [within 10]
- Number: Addition and Subtraction [within 10]
- Geometry: Shape
- Number: Place Value [within 20]

At the beginning of each week in school I will send a note home to inform you of the concepts being taught in lessons that week. Hopefully this will help to support learning and consolidation at home.

Our **learning topic** this term will be “Me and my world”.

In **Science** we will be learning about different parts of the body and exploring our five senses. We will also be learning about the different stages of the human lifecycle.

We will be observing seasonal changes throughout the term and this will continue throughout the year in Transition. I am however hoping that we will not see much snow this term!

In **Geography** we will be learning the countries of the United Kingdom, their flags and emblems. We will use simple maps and begin to explore the use of an atlas.

In **History** we will be looking at different buildings around us, new and old, and different types of homes through the ages.

In our **RE** and **PSHE** lessons we will be thinking about “Belonging” and learning about The Creation story. Towards the end of term the Christmas story will also be covered.

Miss L Brown will be teaching the girls **PE**.

- Week One PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Week Two PE days are Monday and Thursday.

At present, the girls should wear their PE kit to come to school on PE days and wear this kit for the duration of the day.

Mrs Nicholson and Mrs Mc Naught will be teaching the **Forest School** activities and I know how much the girls enjoyed their first afternoon on Thursday. This will only take place in Week One.

Mrs Locks will be teaching **Music** lessons each week.

Miss J Brown will teach Art and Technology lessons. This term will focus on **Art** and the girls will be learning how to draw portraits and position facial features. They will explore the work of different artists such as Van Gogh and Andy Warhol. They will use a range of materials and use colour to express emotions. A Picasso style collage portrait and a Pop art portrait in the style of Andy Warhol will be completed.

In **French** lessons, Transition will be completing activities “All about France” in addition to learning different greetings, classroom instructions, action words and numbers to 12. They will be buying fruit and vegetables at the market and learning about mealtimes in France.

Mr Drake will be teaching the girls for their **Computing** lessons. They will be programming with beebots - navigating to end points using a range of instructions. The girls will also be exploring digital media graphics - creating, editing and refining pictures using a range of tools.

It is going to be an exciting term and I hope your daughter will enjoy all aspects of the curriculum. Although the timetable is slightly more structured in Transition, the girls will have many opportunities to develop their learning through indoor play and structured outdoor learning.

For some activities, we will join together with Early Years and Mrs Alexanders, with Transition will still having some access to the areas of continuous provision such as the sand and water tables.

Your daughter has her own tray of equipment in school, which is for her sole use. No other equipment is necessary.

Please could I ask that art overalls, wellies and waterproofs are in school at all times so all the girls are prepared for any messy activities or inclement weather.

I am really looking forward to teaching your daughter this year and watching her progress. Transition is a year group where I see the girls becoming more independent, more resilient and they very soon adapt to the more structured timetable.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any concerns or any additional information required. Your daughter's happiness is of the utmost importance. It has been incredible to see smiles all round so far and such a positive start to the new academic year. Transition classroom has been full of laughs and giggles already and we will continue to have fun as we learn.

It continues to be a very different world at the moment, but I hope to be able to meet with you all soon.

Kind regards

Miss G McKeating
Transition Form Teacher