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Executive Headteacher:
Mr. G. Smith

Head of School
Mrs A. Mills

Monday 6th September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

It's our aim that your child will enjoy their time with us, and discover their full potential. We would like to work in partnership with you so that your child gets the best possible start to their school career. With this in mind, we will send regular letters, such as this, to let you know about the work that your child will be doing. We hope that this information will help you to support them with their learning at home.

Please remember, the children need to be collected at 11.45am this week, then 12.45pm the following week and then, from 28th September, home time will be 2.50pm. If you are sending someone else to collect your child, ***please let us know, in advance.***

During their time at school, the children will be playing outside on the grassed areas, so each child will need to bring a pair of wellies to keep in school. Thank you to those parents who've already sent a pair of wellies into school. ***PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING HAS THEIR NAME IN !***
Personal, Social and Emotional Development – *This is the most important area of learning during the first term at school.* The children will be encouraged to share, to take turns and to respect the needs and views of others. All children will be expected to say 'please' and 'thank you' as appropriate. We will be talking about the need for rules at school, and the way in which we can all help to make our school a good place to be. The children will be introduced to 'The Ten Magdalen Values'. Children will be encouraged to face new experiences and will be supported when doing so. We aim to enable the children to become as independent as possible. With this in mind, please encourage your child to put their shoes and coat on by themselves – I know it takes a little bit longer – but they will feel so proud when they can do it!

Communication, Language and Literacy – Your child will be encouraged to speak clearly and politely *and to listen to what others have to say.* We will encourage a love of books and listening to stories and rhymes. Children will be encouraged to develop a comfortable pencil grip to enable them to use pencils and pens effectively. The children will be encouraged to recognise their name when it's written down. More information regarding phonics and reading will be sent shortly – once we have completed our baseline assessments.

Maths – We will be counting just about everything and anything! The children will be taught to touch the objects that they are counting to make sure that they don't miss any out. The children will be encouraged to recognise the numbers 0-10 (and then 20). We will be learning many counting rhymes to teach number order as well as simple addition and subtraction. Children will be taught the concepts of more and less. We will be asking the children to recognise simple repeating patterns, to copy and continue them, as well as devise their own. You can help your child by encouraging them to look for numbers in their environment. We use the White Rose approach to maths.



Understanding of the World – We will be working within the theme of ‘All About Me’. The children will be encouraged to recognise their own physical characteristics and those of others around them, to celebrate the fact that we are all different and unique. We will be painting self-portraits and making hand prints. We will be encouraging the children to talk about their likes and dislikes. We will be talking about the season of Autumn.

Expressive Arts & Design – The children will have access to a variety of materials and techniques. They will be painting, printing, making collage pictures, drawing and cutting. It would be great if you could help your child to practise cutting paper using scissors.

Physical Development – The children will have P.E. lessons on Wednesdays and Thursdays, starting soon. ***As discussed during the open days, details will be sent nearer the time.*** During our PE lessons, we will be practising stopping and starting, moving in different ways and working in a space. The children will be introduced to some simple games. As you can see, the children have a very busy time ahead of them! During this first term, we will begin to build up your child’s learning journey on Tapestry. This is the document which shows the observations that we make, the photos that we take and the work that your child does whilst they’re at school. It is our hope that you will help us by contributing your own observations and photos of your child. During these first 3 weeks, the staff will also be carrying out baseline assessments on all of the children – in order to gain a clear picture of their ability so that we can plan experiences for them to move their learning forward. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope that you found it useful. Remember, if you have any questions or concerns, **please come and see us.** We are always available to have a chat!

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs R. Sealey
Class Teacher

Mrs A. Mills
Class Teacher
Head of School

Mrs K. Perry
Higher Level
Teaching Assistant

Mrs D. Linkman
Teaching Assistant