**Autumn Term 2 2022**

Class 1 Termly Newletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, we can’t quite believe that the first half term is over and what a fantastic first half term we’ve had! The children have settled into school life very quickly, with the help of those children who were previously early years helping these children to settle. Over these last weeks, the children have been settled and happy. Once again, thank you for your continued support.

**Questionnaire Feedback**

**Parent EYFS Transition Questionnaire** – Firstly, thank you to the new parents who filled out a transition questionnaire for us. We appreciate the time taken to do so. Taking into account parents/carers views is a crucial part to our review process and will help us to make amendments and changes for the better. It is also nice to see what you feel we are doing well. As a result of these questionnaires, a few changes will be made. We can’t promise to change everything but will always listen to ideas.

**What you feel is going well…**

* The experience of looking around the school and the opportunities for the children to visit before September was overwhelmingly positive. The stay and play dates offered, singing sessions, transition evening, the opportunity to get to know the teacher prior to starting school and the home visits, parents found invaluable. Some parents found that this ensured that their child felt more confident with their new surroundings and key members of staff.
* Overall, the ‘Starting School at FPS’ was seen to be very helpful with a number of parents commenting that they felt fully informed, along with the home visit, of what to expect when their child started school (see what we could improve on below for a follow up to this) This year, we also created a book specifically for the children which parents’ thought was a good addition.
* Parents felt that they were well informed before their child started at FPS.

**What you feel like we could improve upon….**

* We need to make sure we include holiday dates and term times in the ‘Starting School at FPS’ booklet. Term time dates are always available on our school website.
* *Paperwork* – In the questionnaire, one parent asked if we could send things out via tapestry, for example, the termly overviews, rather than sending a hard copy. Another parent said they like that we send these home as they don’t have a printer at home. As our school our aim is to try and reduce paperwork and letters sent home. Where possible, we will always e-mail or add documents to tapestry rather than sending home as a hard copy.
* *Boom Reader App* – As part of our reduction in paper usage as well as allowing teachers to monitor reading closely and more effectively, we introduced Boom Reader this year. We know that some parents are still getting to grips with this. As part of our phonics evening (see more information below), we will happily go through how to best use this app. Please continue to log any reading you do with your child on the app; even stories you are reading to your child. It gives us a feel for the books they enjoy.
* *Tapestry* – It was mentioned by a parent in the questionnaire that they felt that there aren’t daily updates on tapestry. Historically, Tapestry was used for staff to record observations to document all areas of children’s learning. Teachers had to have lots of evidence to monitor this learning. However, following the implementation of the new EYFS curriculum in 2021, the expectation on teaching staff to do these observations has reduced significantly. This is great, because as you can imagine, these observations and daily updates mean that we were spending more time on ipads recording these observations rather than spending time with the children, nurturing their learning and supporting them with their play. We now use tapestry to record what we call independent ‘wow’ moments’; moments that monitor children’s key independent progress points throughout the year. Some weeks your child will have four or five observations, other weeks they may only have one.

We want you as parent, to feel that you know what your child is learning in school. Our aim is to support parents so that when your child comes home from school, when you ask the question ‘What have you done today?’ If you get the reply ‘I don’t know’ or ‘I can’t remember!’ you know yourself what they have been learning. One way we share what we are learning is through the detailed half termly breakdown provided for parents, so that each week you can see what your child is learning. We also provide knowledge banks to support. We are happy to talk to parents after school (once all of the children have gone.) Please be reassured that if there were any problems or worries we would speak to you quickly about it to help overcome these.

* *Tapestry home observations* – Please continue to send in any photographs of what your child has been doing at home. The children love to share with their friends their photographs and it is a great tool to develop your child’s communication and language skills.

**Half termly overview** -Please find the half termly overview attached. This has also been emailed to you.

**Knowledge banks** – In the new term, we will send home knowledge banks. These include key knowledge that we will be covering over the next half term. In school, we use these to teach and continually assess the children’s knowledge. Please talk to your child about them and see if they can re-call the knowledge on a regular basis.

**Phonics Parent Information Evening** – We are in the process of organising a phonics information evening to help you support your child with reading at home. We will send out further information in the new term.

**Welly Wednesday** – Welly Wednesday is most definitely a hit with the children in school. They love taking their learning outdoors! Please continue to send your child to school in their forest school clothes, including a hat and gloves as the weather gets colder, on a Wednesday morning and their bag of uniform so the children can get changed when before lunchtime.

**Baking** – Two of our parents, Laura and Sam, have kindly offered to organise the baking rota for next half term. A letter has previously gone out to parents about how to show an interest and offer support. If you need any further information, please don’t hesitate to ask Mrs Sharphouse.

**PE** – After half term, PE will continue to be on a Monday. Please continue to send your child to school in their PE kit on this day.

**Coats** – Please make sure named coats, book bags and water bottles (water only please) are sent to school every day. Please ensure coats and jumpers/cardigans are labelled clearly.

**Spare clothes** – If anyone has any spare clothes, in particular girls or boys pants, please send them our way!

**Wow! Petals** -We will continue with our ‘Wow!’ petals board so please keep sending them in. This is for parents to use to celebrate something your child can do at home. We read it to the class as an achievement and it goes on our Wow! board. It can be something really simple but something your child is proud of.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask. Thank you again for your continued support and we hope you have a lovely half term holiday. Remember that Monday 31st October is an INSET day and we will start back on Tuesday 1st November.

The Class 1 Team.