

# WESTFIELD SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers,

Welcome again to Reception and Westfield School! We have had such a lovely start to the year. It is going to be an exciting and fun-filled first year of school. In Term One, we will focus on settling into the routines of school life, building relationships and building self-confidence. Our topic of the term will be 'Magical Me' where we will explore different ways of learning about and celebrating ourselves and how we have changed since birth. We will celebrate all the things we can do and think about all the things we can learn to do at school. If possible, please can bring in a small photo of your child as a baby or a young toddler for our topic display board.

We have been thinking carefully about how best to support our pupils with their return to school life. To plan our return, we have used the work of Professor Barry Carpenter who has developed a "Recovery Curriculum". This is based around five levers of recovery which we will be using to shape our curriculum, particularly in the first term. You can read more about this at:

<https://www.evidenceforlearning.net/recoverycurriculum/#mentalhealth>

In the first term, we will be focusing mainly on Lever 1 (rebuilding relationships) and Lever 4 (metacognition). We are also going to be using the Thrive thinking and learning skills and children will be learning about how to be effective 'team workers' which will tie in with Lever 1.

In order to rebuild a sense of community and belonging, the whole school will be completing a project based on the book "Here We Are Now: Notes for Living on Planet Earth" by Oliver Jeffers.

Home learning will be set termly with a 'home learning menu' provided. You can choose to do as many of the activities as you would like from the home learning menu. You can do these in any order. Please bring any home learning in on a Friday so it can be celebrated. Some home learning will be experience based, this can be uploaded to Tapestry.

Your Tapestry accounts will be set up and finalised by the 18th September 2020. We will provide you with all the log-in information you will need. We will upload photos and observations from your child's first two weeks of school. More information and guidance for tapestry will be provided separately. If you want to share anything with us about your child's development, for example learning to ride a bike or earning swimming badges, you can upload these to Tapestry for us to see and celebrate at school.

Each child has a reading record with log-in details for Mathletics. They have been assigned all the activities for the year. You can now use Mathletics with your child at their own pace. For every activity completed, your child gains points which will earn them certificates.



I will be offering a Phonics and Early-Reading workshop for parents online via Zoom this term. I would have done this in person but we will be unable to do this with current restrictions in place. We will send out the time, date and zoom meeting details via the Facebook Group and Email. I will explain more about our approach to reading and the systems for home reading we will have in place.

Please remember to provide your children with hats on sunny days and apply sun cream before they come to school. If the weather is uncertain, please provide a coat which we can leave on their pegs.

We are so excited for the year ahead, all the children are so polite and kind. It is going to be a lot of fun and they are going to learn so much!

All the best,

Mr O'Neill, Mrs Kenna and the EYFS Team



## The Four Guiding Principles for Teaching and Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage:

1. Every child is a unique child who is constantly learning.
2. Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships at home and at school.
3. Children learn and develop well in enabling environments.
4. Children develop and learn in different ways.

### Understanding the World.

- Our technology focus will be on online safety and early programming – we will program beebots to follow directions.
- Science focus of look at how we have changed from babies to now? How do we look different? What can we do now that we couldn't before?
- People and Communities – discussing people who help me? Who are people who help me, what do they do?
- The World – talk about where we are in the world, where is our school? Our homes? Use of 'Here We Are' book.

### Expressive Art and Design.

- Following our school Art progression framework we will start with colour including colour mixing e.g. exploring how colours can be created from primary colours and matching colours.
- Mark Making - hold mark making tools correctly.
- Make marks using a variety of tools e.g. thick felt tip pen, chalks, paint, charcoal, wax crayon, pastel and investigate different lines - thick, thin, wavy, straight.
- Begin to colour within the line and introduce a tripod grip.

### Numeracy.

- We will use the White Rose Maths Mastery scheme of work along with the rest of the school.
- We will focus on the mastery of a number theme each week, thinking about number recognition, formation, counting, matching and ordering.
- Focus on fundamental mathematical principles of: one-one counting, stable-order principle, cardinal principle and the abstraction principle.

### Literacy.

- In phonics we will start with Phase 1 and move quickly to learning our Phase 2 sounds, following the Letters and Sounds scheme of work.
- For those who are ready we will practise writing our own names.
- Our core texts that support our learning around 'Magical Me' include: 'Ketchup on my Cornflakes'; 'Toothpaste'; 'Oliver's Vegetables'; 'Pumpkin Soup'.
- We will ask lots of questions about what we have read, ask questions about the illustrations and ask the children to share their predictions, ideas and thoughts on the stories we read.

## The Areas of Learning

**The Prime Areas** = Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Physical Development (PD) and Communication and Language (CL). *These areas of learning form the foundation of all future learning and development in the specific areas.*

**The Specific Areas** = Literacy (L), Mathematics (M), Understanding the World (UtW), Expressive Art and Design (EAD). *The essential skills and knowledge for all children.*



## Westfield School – EYFS Term 1

### Magical Me!



### Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

- Our term's focus is 'Making Relationships' – topics include: How to make friends; how to solve friendship problems; how to help others feel part of the group; how to help ourselves when they feel upset or hurt.
- Activities planned to encourage collaborative play, specific lessons to support making and maintaining friendships.
- Self-confidence and self-awareness – use of class Dojo, stickers and positive praise to build confidence. What do we like about ourselves? What are we good at? What do we want to learn?
- Managing feelings and behaviour – introduce classroom routines, and boundaries. Use of visual timetable and positive behaviour management system. Introduce golden rules.
- Whole school 'relationships' focus using 'Thrive' activities to support.

### Communication and Language.

- Sharing and singing our favourite songs and nursery rhymes to build confidence speaking aloud and support development of rhyme.
- Provide puppets and puppet theatre for children to tell and act out stories and sing familiar nursery rhymes/songs.
- Share all about ourselves. What do we like/dislike? Our favourite memories? Talk about our special people.
- Talk about how we have changed and how we might change as we get older.
- Provide lots of small world and role play opportunities for children to act and talk out stories or real life experiences.

### Physical Development.

- Gross motor development supported through PE lessons focusing on movement and awareness of space, climbing and balancing.
- Talk about activities we enjoy e.g. riding a bike, swimming – what do we want to learn to do?
- Encouraging independence with using the toilet, cutlery, dressing, washing hands and eating healthily.