



# Bitham Brook Primary School

**Hands**  
Every child  
knows how to be  
part of a team



**Head**  
Every child a  
good learner

**Heart**  
Every child  
knows they are  
valued

## Autumn Newsletter Terms 1 and 2 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

This letter is to share with you some of the routines and expectations that will help make the best possible use of the time your child is with us. I'm sure you are proud of how confidently they have begun school. We've had an excellent start and we are all impressed with the way children are coming into class very independently.

As you will appreciate the mornings are a busy time and staff are not always available to speak with directly so please use the message book located on the cloakroom shelf to write anything you need to pass on - notifications of absences, changes of collection arrangements, future appointments - and it will be read during the course of the day. Anything of a more confidential nature can be discussed with Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Keay or Miss Vaughan at the end of a school day.

### Class Rewards

This term whilst we are establishing rules for what makes a harmonious, happy class we will work for a class reward earned by children who keep our '**GOLDEN**' rules for appropriate friendly, helpful and courteous behaviours. The whole class can decide their treat in advance as this motivates them to work hard as a class to earn it. We all share the reward. Children soon learn that if everyone keeps the rules we earn the reward faster!

In addition the children will receive stickers. We encourage them to attach them to their own sticker charts and when they are full we will send them home for you to see! Children like to keep these and look back on their achievements. Consider starting an achievement book. They will achieve many awards and certificates in their time here at Bitham Brook of which they can be proud.

Another behaviour strategy we will be using is 'Class Dojos.' This is an interactive whiteboard points system where the children have an animated character that represents them. Each time the children demonstrate the positive behaviour, they earn a point and at the end of the week there is a prize for the child with the most Dojo points.

### Uniform/Jewellery/PE

Children's belongings **MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED** with both names, preferably with stitched name tapes (order forms available from the office entrance). In order to help the children become independent and responsible for their own uniform they do need to be able to recognise their name. Frequently washed biro does fade so it not sufficient to label clothing with this.

For hygiene purposes, in the event that your child accidentally brings home someone else's clothing, borrows PE kit or needs to borrow spare uniform, please could we ask that it is washed before it is returned to school.

Jewellery is not permitted except for watches and stud type earrings and if these cannot be removed children will have to wear micropore tape across their ears for PE. This is county policy which we have to follow. May we suggest earrings are not worn on **Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays** from the beginning of October. PE bags need to remain in school and will be sent home every six weeks for washing. Please ensure daps still fit before returning their PE kit each time as feet can quickly grow!

### Birthday Assembly

On Tuesdays we have a unit assembly celebrating the children's birthdays. We invite everyone who has had a birthday the previous week (Wednesday onwards) to share how they celebrated their day. They may bring a present and cards in to share.

### Indoors and Outdoors

When your child stays for the whole day, we introduce our 'Quiet Zone' activities first thing in the afternoon. They are not allowed to sleep but we do have a regular rest time when we can recharge for active learning - this may include listening to music, story time or yoga!

We also ask you to bring a pair of wellington boots for outside and these can be left in school on the shelves by the toilets. Please remember to name them too.

### Homework

We expect you will want to support your child achieve the very best that they are capable of and to this end even our youngest children are expected to do regular homework. This may take the form of

- sharing a playpack or a reading book
- playing a number game or a speaking and listening game

From time to time there may be a task or activity to complete which is topic related. Our topic for Term 1 is **All about Me** - during this term we will be exploring our new school environment as well as learning all about each other. We will find out about how we have grown and changed since we were babies and we will ask your child to share a few of their baby things later this term, and we are hoping to have a visiting mother and baby to help make our Baby Clinic role play more realistic! In Term 2 our topic is **Light and Dark** - we will be looking at sources of light and also really investigating the dark learning about nocturnal animals. Our learning will be based around several stories. Please check your child's reading folder regularly to ensure you are aware of what is in it and remove out of date information.

### Phonics and Reading

We will continue to send home playpacks with the younger children as a bridge to engaging with stories. Later your child will share LILAC/BLACK books individually with an adult to begin with. They have no text and help us to assess readiness for reading. Your child can talk about what's happening, what they can see, similarities and differences, they can make predictions, sequence and recall things. Lots of children benefit from spending extra time at this level developing their imaginative story telling skills. Your child will really benefit from hearing you model a version of the story first. Read the prompt card to them and you will find they will develop it to include lots more detail at subsequent retellings. There's

no limit to how many times they might like to retell it and, like riding a bike, the more they do it, the better they get at it. Additionally they may bring books home from our phonic programme **Floppy's Phonics**. These books develop all important skills of rehearsing sounds before the more formal learning of grapheme/phoneme relationships. As soon as they are judged ready for simple sounds and words they will bring home books from the **PINK** level.

The orange PACT book (Parents and children together) is a record of their reading progress and reading targets will be shared in them with you. Please look and see what the targets are so you have an idea of what to talk about and what reading behaviours to encourage. Your comments are important to us so we ask you to sign and date each time you share a book with your child. It helps enormously to know whether a child has had an opportunity to share a book with someone. Grandparents, childminders, brothers and sisters are always keen listeners and we welcome their comments too!

**We will hold Parents' Evenings in early November where we can discuss how your child has settled in school.**

Additionally, there will be two further information sharing sessions regarding Phonics and Literacy and also Maths. More details will follow - please look out for these dates.

And finally please feel free to come and discuss your child's progress at any time you have concerns. Assuring you of our best efforts for your child at all times.

Ruth Kennedy, Laura Keay and Katie Vaughan  
Foundation Stage 2 Teachers