Friday 9th September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to welcome you all back to a new school year at Curbar Primary School.  We hope you had a fantastic summer break and we all look forward to sharing in an exciting new term, and school year, with you all.

**So what have WE been up to?**

The staff have been busy over the summer and at the start of this week preparing for a new term. On Monday, all the staff took part in First Aid training – this was new for some staff and a refresher for others. This means all staff have emergency First Aid training and two of our staff have Paediatric First Aid training…but we hope we don’t have to use it!

On Tuesday, the staff spent the morning going over timetables, rotas etc. and discussing the new school improvement priorities for the year. These are areas we can target for development to make the school even better. Once these have been approved at Governors, I will share these with parents.

I have also been busy updating our core practices and policies within school with a focus on teaching and learning, behaviour for learning, assessment and homework. A lot of these elements had been adopted by staff during the course of last year but it is an opportunity to formalise the need for quality and consistency across the school at the start of the year. Again, these will be shared with parents following discussion and approval at Governors. Most of these will be changes that occur within school, but don’t be surprised if you hear your child talking about something like a ‘growth mind set’ or ‘Golden Tickets’! Once approved, these policies, along with other relevant information will be put on the school website for your information because we think, as parents, it is information that you would like to know.

**So what does this mean for school?**

We are in the process of self-evaluating provision at school, as we did last year. This involves leadership and management reviewing and evaluating key areas against OFSTED benchmarks. This is part of the ongoing school improvement cycle that is carried out by all schools. When this has been discussed with governors, we will share what we believe are the strengths of the school and, as stated above, the areas for development. Hopefully, this will give parents a clearer picture of what we are trying to achieve as a school community.

**How will you know what is going on?**

Apart from the website, I will send home regular headteacher newsletters where I will explain key changes. And, of course, feel free to pop in and ask the class teacher or myself. I also aim to produce some parent information booklets for ‘Behaviour’ and ‘Assessment for Learning’ over the coming weeks which will summarise our current practice in language that even I can understand! Governors would also like to issue a termly newsletter highlighting their involvement in school improvement so parents have a clear understanding of their role in supporting leadership and management at Curbar Primary School.

Kind regards

Simon Beahan, Headteacher

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