



Head Teacher:
Mr Stewart James
BA (Hons)QTS

Deputy Head:
Mrs Ruth Force

Barcombe Cross
Near Lewes
East Sussex
BN8 5DN

Tel: (01273) 400287
Fax: (01273) 401187



Friday 9th January 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the new term; I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas holiday and New Year celebrations. Now is the time for the children to refocus their minds and immerse themselves in their exciting new learning journeys. Once again the teachers have been busy planning lots of exciting ways to bring our new learning journeys to life with first hand experiences, stimulating excitement and interest. The learning journeys for this term are; The Ancient Egyptians for Key Stage Two, The Great Fire of London for Key Stage One and People Who Help Us for the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Vision

Many of you may have noticed that the school vision statement on the front of the school website has changed. It now states:

'Our vision is to create a safe, caring and creative environment that will encourage our children to develop a lifelong love of learning. We aim to provide inclusive, stimulating, personalised, high quality teaching ensuring a school that is acknowledged for its excellence and children who are happy, confident, secure and independent. We aim to listen to pupils, parents, staff and the wider community as we work within the heart of our village and beyond.'

The governors and senior leadership team have spent a very long time developing this vision for the school and have listened carefully to views gathered from parents, children, teachers and governors. This vision statement we feel, clearly demonstrates the importance of children feeling happy and secure within their environment and the high aspirations we have for everyone within our community to reach individual goals and recognise success at their own individual level.

This vision will be at the heart of every aspect of school life and will be the foundation of school development now and in the future.

School Development Plan Priorities Term 3 and Term 4

1. Celebrating Resilient Learning Behaviours

Throughout our assemblies and within classes, we are celebrating children who demonstrate 'Resilient Learning Behaviour'. Being a resilient learner is all about being brave, having a go without the fear of getting something wrong, continuing to find a solution to a problem or overcoming a challenge that takes perseverance and completing an activity you find very challenging. We are introducing a weekly certificate for children who have demonstrated 'Resilient Learning Behaviour' during the week and these children will be celebrated during assemblies on our resilient learner display board at the entrance to the school and through

fortnightly Head Teacher information letters to parents.

2. Times Tables and Mental Maths

This term all children from Squirrels to Owls Class will be set times tables weekly challenges. Within every class the teachers will be using a 'Scholar, Wizard, Master' system of achievement for times tables knowledge. To be awarded a Scholar certificate the children must demonstrate a sound knowledge of the 2, 5 and 10 times table facts.

To be awarded a Wizard the children must demonstrate sound knowledge of 3, 4, 6, 2, 5 and 10 times tables facts.

To be awarded a Master the children must demonstrate sound knowledge of all times table facts.

If you are able to give up a small amount of time to help the teachers test the children on their times tables knowledge it would be greatly appreciated. Once again these achievements will be celebrated within class, in assemblies and through fortnightly Head Teacher information letters to parents.

3. Star Writers

This term we are continuing to celebrate our 'Star Writers'. Throughout the past two years the school has used a system of teaching writing based around the theology of leading educationalist and author Pie Corbett. The system enables the children to immerse themselves in a book and have a really deep understanding of the story, the characters and the themes. The children usually study one book for **three** weeks following a system of **Immersion, Innovation and Invention**.

This system enables the teacher to model high quality expectations of the children and share rich imagery and vocabulary the children can use within their own writing. We have seen the success of this system throughout the school within the children's writing development and this term we will continue to celebrate the children's 'Star Writing' through assemblies and our 'Star Writers' display board in the main corridor of the school.

All the children's achievements and successes are celebrated in school within class and during assemblies. If your child has achieved something out of school we may not have heard about please encourage them to share it with their class teachers so it can also be celebrated within school.

Truthfulness

Our value we are thinking about this term is '**Truthfulness**'. The children will be listening to bible stories and stories from other world religions based on the theme of truthfulness. The children will be discussing the importance of telling the truth and will be shown how telling the truth is an important part of getting on with each other and being kind towards our friends.

Best Wishes

Mr S James
Head Teacher

Learning Together, Believing Together

East Sussex County Council

E-mail: office@barcombe.e-sussex.sch.uk **Website:** www.barcombe.e-sussex.sch.uk