



Faith, Love, Courage, Patience.

13th September 2017

**Curriculum Information
EYFS Autumn Term 2017**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year at Wareside. First of all, we would like to take this opportunity to tell you what delightful children you have...we have thoroughly enjoyed our first week with them and they are a real credit to you all.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the curriculum, staff and routines in EYFS and the topics your child(ren) will be learning about this term.

The Staff:

Mrs Sue Lewis: Early Years Leader (Wednesdays)

Mrs Sharon Simmons: Early Years Teacher

Mrs Lindsay Barton: Early Years Practitioner

Miss Ellen Newton: Teaching Assistant

House keeping:

Children who are not yet toilet trained, should have spare nappies and a change of clothes in their bag at all times. It is also a good idea for all other children to have a change of clothes as they will often get wet or messy - we do have some spare clothing, but not enough for everyone.

Children should have long hair tied up at all times (not just half of it). This is due to health & safety (children could get their hair caught in equipment) and also because of head lice. Your child(ren) should also have a waterproof jacket with them at all times. We like the children to be outside as much as possible. Therefore, if they have a waterproof jacket, they are still able to continue their learning outside if the weather is a little wet.

Lunches:

Children from Nursery 2 upwards are welcome to stay for lunch. If you would like your child to stay, please see Mrs Duffy in the office.



Routine:

Children should be brought into class at 8:45 each day when they will begin their 'Busy Fingers' activities. This session is designed to help children develop their fine motor skills - the activities will vary day-to-day. During this period, we ask that you say goodbye to your child as quickly as possible and leave the school grounds promptly. We find that children often settle quicker without prolonged goodbyes and if they can see you through the door, this delays them in settling down. If you do not leave promptly, it also prevents us from allowing the children into the outside area, as it is not safe to do so until all of the gates are securely closed.

Children will have adult led daily phonics sessions, as well as maths and literacy. They will also have lots of Child Initiated Learning, when they have the chance to choose their own pathways for learning.

Children will also have a daily 'Wake and Shake' session and will enjoy meditating, story time and music/singing.

Reception Children:

As you are aware, Reception children join Class 1 in the afternoons where their teachers will be: Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Euler-Charlton and Mrs Lewis (on a Wednesday afternoon). Mrs Barton and Miss Newton will also be with them in Class 1 in the afternoons.

Reading:

It is vital that your child begins to enjoy reading from a very early age. Even if your child is unable to read yet, it is still advisable to allow them to explore and handle books and to enjoy them. Daily reading with carers can be most rewarding and we would like to encourage you to do this for at least 10 minutes per day. We will be allowing children to choose their own library books on a Friday, and will also be sending a book from the reading scheme for older children. If anyone has any questions or would like any tips on how to read with young children, please feel free to talk to us.

Phonics:

For some children, we will also be sending home phonics 'sounds' for them to practise. This is not compulsory, but the more they are exposed to phonics, the quicker they will learn. Once again, if anyone has any questions or would like to attend a session on phonics - please ask.

Topics:

This term, our topics are 'Ourselves' and 'The Local Area'. Children will learn to recognise and write their own names and ages as well as discussing their family, home and friends etc. We will also learn about our local area. We are hoping to go for a local walk and visit the church - many of the new children will not have had the opportunity to visit our church yet, so this will be good preparation for them before attending the Harvest Festival on **Sunday 8th October**, which we are hoping you will all be able to attend. If anyone has any worries or objections about this walk to the church, please feel free to speak to any of the Early Years Team.



PSED:

Children will discuss their classroom - what makes it a 'safe' and friendly environment - how they should treat their classroom and their peers. They will then create their own set of classroom rules. We will discuss forming relationships, and how to solve conflicts.

Communication and Language:

We will focus on listening one to one or in small groups; listening to stories with increasing attention and recall; joining in with repeated refrains and anticipating key events, phrases and rhymes in stories. Other focuses will be: listening to and following directions

Religious Education:

Children will be exploring belonging to family groups both in and out of school, celebrations and signs of belonging as well as looking at festivals and the Christmas story.

Literacy:

These sessions start with the children themselves and their experiences. They share information and Reception children will write imaginative captions and labels, using books as stimulation. They remember themselves as babies and create amazing self-portraits.

Mathematics:

Children will begin to recognise numbers which are of significance to them for example - their age, how many siblings they have, how many people are in their family, which door number they live at. They will recite numbers and use them in songs, rhymes and stories. They will count objects in various contexts and begin to match numerals to the number of objects in a set. They will use comparative language - one more/one less. They will begin to represent numbers using fingers, object and by using mark making. They will also be recognising, naming and describing shapes and continuing repeating patterns.

Understanding of the World:

We will discuss the area in which we live - some children live in the village, whereas others travel in from a little further. How do their towns/villages differ? How are they similar? Are all their houses the same?

We will also be looking at different family scenarios kittens/cats dogs/puppies, sheep/lambs and other animal babies. We will discuss how not all family units are the same. Our reading will include the stories: **Simpkin** by Quentin Blake,; **Little Monster Did It!** by Helen Cooper **And Tango Makes Three** by Justin Richardson & **Whatever** by William Bee.

Expressive Arts and Design:

Children will be developing their creative skills by creating self-portrait jigsaw puzzles; making a collage using pictures of their houses and playing musical instruments to represent different parts of their bodies (triangle or bells - finger or toes, tummy - drum etc.).

Children will listen to the sounds and point to the relevant parts of their body.

Physical Development:

Children will constantly be developing fine motor skills throughout all activities, as well as developing gross motor skills during 'Wake and Shake' and whilst playing and climbing in the



outdoor area. Reception children will also participate in PE lessons with Class 1 in the afternoons.

We are very excited about the year ahead, and are hoping to have some opportunities to invite you in and share in some of your children's learning.

Dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 13th September - Meet the Teacher 3pm & Governors 3.45p.m.
- Friday 29th September - McMillan coffee afternoon (more info to follow)
- Sunday 8th October - Harvest Festival - Holy Trinity Church 9:30 (more info to follow).
- Wednesday 18th October - Parent Consultations
- Thursday 19th October - EYFS Family Worship
- Friday 20th October - break up for half term

If you would like to speak to any of the team for any reason, please feel free to see us at the end of the sessions, or make an appointment via the school office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Simmons and the Early Years Team.

