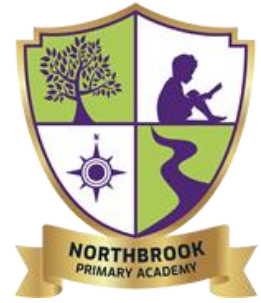


## **NORTHBROOK PRIMARY ACADEMY**

### **EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE**



Dear parents and carers,

We are so excited to welcome you and your children to our amazing school. The children have started off their school journey this week with confidence and excitement and are beginning to make new friends. I am so proud of them all.

#### **Our New Learning Area**

This year is particularly exciting in our EYFS because we are so lucky to be working in our brand-new learning area. Having worked incredibly hard through the summer, the builders only moved out on Tuesday, but it was well worth the effort to get everything ready. Hopefully you managed to come and have a look round at 'Meet the Teacher' on Thursday, but if not, do ask and you are very welcome to pop in.

#### **Our New Nursery**

We are also very excited to be welcoming our first cohort of Nursery children next week. Children are now able to join our nursery in the term after their third birthday. The Nursery and Reception classes together form our Early Years Unit and all the children have access to all our lovely new furniture and resources, financed by Endeavour Learning Trust. If you know of any families who would be interested in joining our nursery, please encourage them to speak to myself or Mrs Borg in the office.

#### **Our EYFS Team**

I am very pleased to introduce our Early Years team of staff, as below, and this team will continue to grow as more children join the nursery. Currently:

- Mrs Higson - Early Years Leader
- Mrs Brierley - Teaching assistant (full time)
- Miss Devine - Teaching assistant (full time)
- Miss Marshall - Teaching assistant (full time)
- Miss Hall - Reception class cover (Tuesday afternoon)

Each child is continually assessed so that we can provide a curriculum that meets their needs and all these staff will work across the whole EYFS unit to make sure that every child reaches their full potential.

### Our Class Names

In line with the rest of school, Nursery and Reception have their own class names. Nursery will be the 'Explorers' and Reception will be the 'Pioneers'. We will talk to the children about what these names mean and learn about lots of famous people who were inspired to challenge themselves and make a difference to the world.

### Our Timetable

Learning in the Early Years takes place in whole class sessions, small adult-led groups and opportunities for every child to choose their own activities in continuous provision. Our curriculum is mostly topic based but we also follow particular children's interests if possible.

Every day each child will take part in a literacy lesson, a focussed maths activity and at least two story times. Phonics is a very important part of our day - this is how we teach the children to read. We use the 'Read, Write Inc' phonics scheme and have a daily phonics lesson every morning. Children will learn a new set of sounds every week and all adults in class will practise with them to ensure that all children gain confidence in Phonics as quickly as possible. **Look out for details of a Phonics Workshop in school later in the term which you can attend to find out more about how we teach reading through phonics and how you can support at home.**

We have a hall session on Tuesday and Friday morning for PE. This term the children will be learning to get themselves dressed and ready for PE as independently as possible. Please support them by encouraging them to get dressed by themselves at home whenever you can. Physical development is a major part of our curriculum and the children will also have access to all the large equipment in our outdoor area.

### Parents as Partners

We are always keen to work with parents to provide the best experiences for the children. Please let us know if your child has any particular interests or if there is anything you think we should be aware of. If you have a skill or a job that you would like to share with the children then we are always keen to hear about it.

When the children have settled in school, they will be bringing activities home and we ask you to support them in the completion of these. They will bring home a library book to share with you and letters and words to learn. We will let you

know what our maths learning and our topics are so you can talk to your child about them.

In the next half term our topics are Ourselves and Autumn. Much of our learning will come from favourite stories such as 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', 'Elmer', 'Owl Babies' and 'The Gruffalo'. We are always keen to celebrate festivals from around the world and this term we will be learning about Harvest, Bonfire Night, Diwali and eventually Christmas. Let us know about any cultural experiences you have at home as a family.

It was lovely to meet so many of you in the summer term, both in school and during our home visits. Thank you for welcoming Mrs Cole and myself into your homes. The children have already talked about when we came to visit. I look forward to working with you through the year. If you have any questions or worries do not hesitate to get in touch.



## **Up-coming Dates**

### **September**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> - INSET

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - INSET

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Children Start

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - Meet The Teacher - 5pm

WB Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Y6 Baseline Tests

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Lunch

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - Macmillan Coffee Morning (a letter will be sent out)

### **October**

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Lunch

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Community Voice

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Parent's Evening

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - INSET WHOLE TRUST

### **November**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Children start back

WB 17<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Test Week

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Lunch

### **December**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - Birthday Lunch

Christmas Dates TBC

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - finish 2.10pm (Infants)/2.15pm (Juniors)

\*Children return to school Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026\*

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Higson