31 August 2016

Dear Parents

After a relaxing summer holiday and building on last year’s successes, our staff are looking forward to welcoming students back into their classrooms, filling them with energy, enthusiasm and inspiring ambitions. With over 90 new families joining the school this year, it is important to share with you our school’s Vision, Mission and Promises that will drive decisions and create new opportunities for our students this year.

**Our Vision**

A genuinely ambitious school community.

**Our Mission**

To provide the highest quality learning driven by outstanding teachers within a culture of pride and respect, that will empower our students to succeed.

**Our Promises**

1. We promise that your child will experience creative and challenging learning through inspirational teaching.

2. We promise to nurture a sense of pride in both our individual and collective achievements.

3. We promise to instill a culture of respect from all, for all.

Keeping our governing values of Productive Paranoia, Empirical Creativity and Fanatical Discipline in mind, as well as our ambition for outstanding learning, I would like to remind you of some important points concerning the Foundation Stage:

*Punctuality*

All students are expected to arrive at school by 07:20. From 07:00, Foundation 1 and 2 children are able to go straight to their classrooms where they will be met by their Class Teacher or Learning Assistant.

The students will then have the opportunity to engage in play-based activities, access learning resources and socialise with their friends. Registration begins at 07:20 and the first lesson of the day begins at 07:30.

Parents of children in Foundation 1 are able to collect their children at either 11:50 or 13:30. A letter will be sent out at the beginning of each term where you can indicate what time you will collect your child each day. Parents are able to collect their children at different times on different days; however, this needs to remain the same each week.

*The EYFS Curriculum*

At NAISAK, we acknowledge that every child is unique, and that they learn and develop at different rates and in different ways. Our school uses a personalised approach to learning that inspires ambition and produces exceptional progress and achievement in all areas. In the Foundation Stage, we use the EYFS framework,

which outlines seven key areas of learning and sets standards for the learning, development and care for children from birth up to 5 years old. These are grouped into two categories: the Prime Areas and Specific Areas of Learning. The Prime Areas of learning are important because they lay the foundations for children’s success in all other areas of learning and life. These include Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development, and Communication and Language. The Specific Areas provide the range of experiences and opportunities for children to broaden their knowledge and skills. These include Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts and Design. The EYFS is a play-based framework with its key principle being that young children need to play in order to have fun, make friends, and begin to learn and understand the world around them.

Throughout the Foundation Stage, your child’s Class Teacher will assess each student through observations, questioning and discussion. At the end of the school year in Foundation 2, your child will have a final assessment to determine whether they have met the early learning goals and have reached the expected level for their age. The assessment is based on classroom teacher’s observation and the evidence collected throughout the Foundation Stage using the Early Learning Goals. This will be recorded in your child’s Learning Journey, which tracks each child’s progress.

*Communication*

It is important for your child to know that the relationship between home and school is strong. You are encouraged to check your child’s Communication Book each day for any notes written by their teachers. In the same way, you can write any messages you wish to communicate to your child’s class teacher. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you would like to arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. In the Foundation Stage, we encourage parents to contribute to their child’s Learning Journey, as parents are likely to have the most complete and consistent view of their child’s development. Therefore if you have any information that you would like to share about your child’s with their class teacher, for example, a photograph of them fastening a button that supports a learning goal, please send this in your child’s communication folder or give it directly to the class teacher.

*Physical Education*

All students will have two PE lessons a week. In the front of your child’s communication book, you will find details of the days they have PE, as well as their house colour. Students in F1 are expected to wear appropriate clothing and footwear on the days of PE lessons to be able to take part. Students in F2 must purchase and wear the correct PE uniform bundle. F2 students must wear their NAISAK sportswear to school with appropriate footwear on their allocated days to be able to take part in PE lessons. For health and safety reasons, students must not be wearing jewellery, such as bangles and necklaces.

*Healthy Lifestyle*

It is important to encourage your child to eat breakfast before they come to school. A good night’s sleep followed by food in the morning helps your child to concentrate and stay active at school. It also means your child is less likely to be too hungry during the morning and it will help with performance at school. Please can I remind you of the importance of sending only healthy snacks into school with your child to encourage healthy living and to help maximise brain capacity for learning. Healthy foods such as fruit, vegetables, brown bread and nuts are encouraged. Unhealthy foods, such as sweets and chocolate, fried items and sugary drinks are not allowed.

We understand the importance of keeping hydrated and this is something that we strive to educate the children about; therefore, we ask that you send your child to school with a labelled water bottle each day. Your child’s Class Teacher and Learning Assistant will monitor the amount of water that your child drinks throughout the day and ensure that your child has constant access to their water bottles and water fountains.

*Home Learning*

In the Foundation Stage, weekly home learning packets will be sent home and will include the week’s high frequency words, pre-cursive handwriting sheets (or for Foundation 1 a marking practice sheet) and one numeracy practice sheet or home share activity. In line with the Foundation Stage curriculum, some home learning will be play based. We encourage you to create games and include practical activities to engage your child with their learning.

*Morning Drop-off and End-of-Day Collection*

You can drop your child at their classroom from 7:00. It is your responsibility as a parent to ensure that your child has appropriate supervision until this time if they are arriving on the school grounds any earlier than 7:00. Please do not bring your child to their classroom before 7:00 as the teachers will be using this time to ensure that the learning environment is ready for the school day. At the end of each school day, you, or an appropriate carer or older sibling, will be able to collect your child from the red playground next to the nursery building. As the school increases in size, it is important that the youngest members of our school community are dismissed in an area suitable for their age.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I look forward to working closely with you and your family this year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your child’s Class Teachers, if you have any further questions or concerns.

Yours faithfully

Ms Carla Davies

Foundation Stage Leader