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 Primary School:

*Punctuality*

All students are expected to arrive at school by 07:20. They will be met by their class teacher in the courtyard and led to their classrooms for registration. The first lesson of the day begins at 07:20.

*Curriculum*

Our school uses a personalised approach to learning that inspires ambition, and produces exceptional progress and achievement in every subject across the curriculum. Students at NAISAK learn through three very strong academic curricula. The core subjects of Literacy and Numeracy are learned through the British National Curriculum. Science is delivered through the Cambridge Curriculum from Year 1, preparing students for their Checkpoint Examinations when they reach Year 6. The foundation subjects are learned through the International Primary Curriculum (IPC), which is a comprehensive curriculum with a clear process of learning and specific learning goals that enhance personal development and international mindedness. In order to support the delivery of these curricula, the school has once again purchased some fantastic resources to support teaching and learning in the Primary classrooms.

*Assessment*

Students across the Primary Stage will be assessed on their progress against age-related Fundamental Learning Objectives (FLOs) this year, supported by a four-point scale, not National Curriculum Levels like in previous years. This important shift in the way that we assess our students has been driven by changes made in the U.K. where in 2015, the Department for Education (DfE) granted schools the autonomy to create their own assessment framework and drop National Curriculum Levels. It is important to note that this has been an area of priority in all Nord Anglia schools over the last year with working parties writing their new assessment policy. In order to support parents with their understanding of our new assessment procedures, a Learning Lecture will be held in the Autumn Term.

*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.

*Building Learning Power*

NAISAK will continue to embed the Building Learning Power (BLP) philosophy throughout the school. All lessons are carefully planned to ensure that your child will have opportunities to strengthen their learning muscles of Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Reciprocity. We encourage you to talk to your child about these learning capacities and to look for opportunities within the home for them to be developed further. For more information about BLP, please visit <http://www.buildinglearningpower.com/>.

*Timetables*

All students will have their personal timetable stuck at the front of their Communication Book. We encourage our students to be independent learners. We expect them to check their timetables daily so they come to school with the necessary books and equipment. Please check your child’s timetable for their two P.E. lessons each week, which will be delivered by our specialist teachers. Students must wear the new PE kit that the school is introducing this year. PE bundles can be purchased through the website [www.gradestore.com](http://www.gradestore.com) or parents can pay by cash at the ‘Pop-up Shop’ that will be in school once per week throughout September and October. Parents should check the front of their child’s Communication Book for their House name, which will be needed to purchase the correct T-Shirt. For health & safety reasons, students must also wear trainers.

*Home Learning*

Your child’s home learning timetable can be found at the front of their Communication Book. Students will record their home learning in their Communication Book, detailing the task given and the date the teacher expects the work to be handed in for marking. Passwords for online learning platforms (Mathletics, Reading Eggs, Abacus and Education City) will be shared with students at the beginning of the term. Online learning platforms are a means of consolidating work that has been completed in school.

*Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs)*

A letter will be sent home this week with details of the ECA programme for the Autumn Term. Students will have the opportunity to attend two ECAs each week, led by our dedicated teachers or external bodies whom we have formed partnerships with this year. Participation in ECAs is strongly encouraged as such activities allow students to explore different activities, develop social skills and build strong supportive relationships with other adults in the school. The ECA programme will begin on Sunday 25 September.

*Healthy Eating*

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 that 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. Your child must bring a water bottle into school every day with their name clearly labelled on it.

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

Mr Steve Jones

Vice Principal