



September 2016 Newsletter

Welcome back!

Welcome back to the new term at Charles Baines. It has been very impressive to see the children settle so quickly and focus straight away on their learning. Our new Foundation Stage class have settled very well, and the children are already becoming confident in the routines of school life – well done! All visitors to the school have commented on what a wonderful atmosphere there is and how polite the children are – modelling our school values.

School Development Priorities

This year we have reflected on our achievements and identified three areas to develop this year:

- Improve progress and attainment in reading, writing and maths
- Develop leadership and management of middle leaders
- Further embed new assessment systems so that they are rigorous and effective

Site Improvements

Over the summer, significant improvements have been made to the Early Years outdoor area. While the work is still ongoing, we are sure you'll agree that the area looks fantastic and will strengthen school's drive to give pupils the best possible start to their education. As always, there are more plans for the future...



School Uniform

We appreciate your support in setting a high standard in terms of uniform and it has been wonderful to see all of the children start the term looking so smart and ready to work. Our uniform reflects how proud the children are to be part of the Charles Baines community and shows that they are ready to work hard at all times. **Please be aware that trainers are not part of our school uniform.** It is acceptable for children to bring trainers to change into when playing sports at break and lunch times but smart black shoes should be worn by all children in the classroom. Please ensure all uniform is labelled clearly with your child's name so that it can be easily returned, should it be misplaced.

Curriculum Update

The website has been updated with the new curriculum maps for 2016/17. These offer an overview of the topics your child will explore as the academic year progresses and will allow you to plan any home activities or days out to support their learning. If you would like any more information about any topics to be covered this year, please speak to your child's teacher. Maths Whizz is still available and should be used as much as possible at home. The app is available on laptops and tablets and is proven to significantly improve maths progress if accessed regularly. We recommend that pupils visit the app for a few minutes at a time, focusing on the broad range of maths skills they can develop. Years 1 to Year 6 have access to the app – usernames and passwords are available from the class teacher. If you need any support accessing the app on a device, please pop into school and we'll do all we can to help.

Absence Policy

The threshold for persistent absence is now 90% and has been set by the Government. There are also regulations about persistent lateness, as well as term time holidays. School has employed an Education Welfare Officer who will be monitoring attendance very closely and contacting families of children whose attendance is of concern to support in any way she can.

Attendance

This year we will aspire to achieve 97% whole school attendance. Please help us to achieve this by minimising appointments and holidays etc. in school time. We had 10 children who achieved 100% attendance last year – and it was no coincidence that they made outstanding progress!

Values

Values play a very important role at Charles Baines. We strongly believe in educating the whole child and feel our school values help to develop interpersonal skills and a growth mindset, encouraging the children to be confident, determined and aspirational learners. Our school's twelve values this year are:

Respect Care Co-operation Trust Appreciation Understanding

Patience Aspiration Friendship Responsibility Tolerance Hope

We greatly appreciate support with embedding these values both in and outside school. We encourage all parents to identify and celebrate evidence of children showing these values at home and in the community, reinforcing their importance.

We also welcome nominations from home for our 'Values Dude' award, given out in achievement assembly on a Friday afternoon. Please speak to Mrs Pearson in the school office or a class teacher if you wish to nominate a pupil for the award.

Important Dates for your diary:

Friday 16 th September	Year 5 Leicester Space Centre
Tuesday 27 th September	Year 6 Construction Day
Monday 17 th October	Parent questionnaire sent out – all responses greatly appreciated
Tuesday 18 th October	Consultation Evening for Parents
Wednesday 19 th October	Maths problem solving day at school (all classes)
Thursday 20 th October	School closes for half term at 3.30pm
Friday 21 st October	Staff Training Day
Monday 31 st October	School re-opens to children
Monday 7 th November	School photographs to be taken from 9.00am
Thursday 17 th November	KS1 visit to Gainsborough Old Hall theatre performance
Friday 18 th November	KS2 visit to Gainsborough Old Hall theatre performance
Tuesday 20 th December	School closes for the Christmas break and Mr Gaff completes his interim Head Teacher role
Tuesday 4 th January	School re-opens to the children and Mrs Simmonds takes over as permanent Head Teacher

*Dates are subject to change and will be communicated via text, or letter.

*Dates for KS1 Christmas plays to follow

Wishing you all a wonderful term,

Kind regards,



Mr A Gaff
Headteacher