



Seven Hills Primary School,
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Headteacher: Mr Richard Catherall MA NPQH

Dear Parent,

A big welcome back as we start out on what promises to be a really exciting year at Seven Hills. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. The classroom displays and shared areas look superb and are really geared towards the children's learning and topics. The children seem ready for their new challenges ahead and have settled in quickly to their new classes.

As well as welcoming children that are new to Nursery and Reception classes, we also welcome Miss McNichol (Year 3 teacher) and Miss Christmas (Year 5 teacher). Both are strong teachers and were extremely impressive during their interviews last school year. One surprising departure over the summer, came with the news that our premises superintendent, Mr Johnson, will be leaving us today. He has received an offer to work in Afghanistan for a new challenge. We wish him all the best in his new role and thank him for all his hard work and contributions around school.

Last year was a really successful time for Seven Hills. Along with our Good Ofsted rating, Foundation Stage achieved their highest results in over 5 years with 57% of the year group achieving a Good Level of Development. In Key Stage One, three quarters of the Year 1 children achieved their expected attainment in phonics, whilst 61% of the Year 2 children achieved their expected standard in Reading, Writing and Maths in their KS1 SATs. At the end of KS2, 71% of the children achieved Age Related Expectations in each of Reading, Writing and Maths in the SATs. This is 7% above the national average.

One of our three school priorities this year is to further our children's reading and understanding of vocabulary. The termly focus on our class books/novels will support this priority, as will your discussion of any 'tricky' words during home reading. Another school priority for this year is to further extend our children's skills and knowledge in the foundation subjects e.g. sketch work with good understanding of proportions being learned about and demonstrated in art. Our third and final school priority is to improve our school's attendance as we aim to achieve a whole school average of 96% or above.



During this first week, the children will be considering and finding out their monitor jobs that they will be responsible for, and will also have the opportunity to put themselves forward for the school council. Importantly, the children will be going over age related aspects of being safe and keeping healthy. This will include the children creating a class contract as they agree their rights and responsibilities for the year ahead.

If you, or someone you know, was able to give time on a fairly regular basis to volunteer in school, please express your interest at the school office. Whether your interest is hearing readers, gardening or cooking, your time would be most welcomed and appreciated.

Finally, any support that you can provide for your child at home with phonics/spellings practice, number counts/times-tables learning and, of course, daily reading, will be absolutely invaluable and most appreciated by school staff. This also has a huge impact for your child's progress as they begin and move forward in their learning journey during this new school year - seat belts on!

Kindest regards,

R. D. Catherall
Mr Catherall

