



Early Years Class; Ladybirds and Dragonflies,

Dear Families,

July 2020

Welcome to Early Years at Ellen Tinkham School, and the start of a brand new adventure! We understand that starting school can be an anxious time for the whole family, as well as exciting, so please get in touch if you have any questions or worries. We are here to support the transition as best we can.

In this Welcome bag, you will find some resources to use with your child - a WOW bag session and a Tap Tap box song. There are accompanying videos on the Ellen Tinkham School Website, especially for our new pupils, so that they can become familiar with us and enjoy activities that will become part of their school timetable.

On your child's first day in September, we will call you during the day to ease your worry and let you know how they are managing on their first day. We will also send them home with a Home-School Diary in which we will write every day to tell you what they have been doing. There is space each day for you to write us a message if you would like to.

The pupils are split into two key groups, Ladybirds and Dragonflies, for registration purposes and to provide a room base for the children to start and end each day. All staff members in the Early Years team are allocated to one of these key groups in order to provide named adults, ensuring pupils feel safe and secure. You will know who these adults are, by the booklet included in this Welcome bag.

Throughout the week, the children have opportunities to play within all of our learning spaces (3 indoor rooms and an outdoor area), and the adults will also work together and support all of the children across the Early Years Department.

The Autumn term is all about settling into school routines, getting to know each other and building relationships with new people. In our Early Years department we use a continuous provision approach to learning which encourages child led play alongside adult led focused sessions.

The seven areas of learning and development within the Early Years Foundation Stage (Personal Social, Emotional Development, Physical, Communication and Language, Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts) are all interlinked and so pupils work on appropriate and individual targets through the daily activities. Pupils will take part in individual therapy sessions where appropriate.

If you have any queries or worries, do not hesitate to get in touch via email, or, during term time, ring us or write in the diary. We will always do our best to help.

We look forward to meeting you all in September.

Kind regards,

**The Early Years Team**

*Ladybirds*

Katie

Emma

Amy

Stephanie

*Dragonflies*

Claire

Jodie

Gemma

Chloe, Kate



Some practical information you may find useful:



### **Snack / lunchtime:**

At snack time we are able to offer all pupils water and fruit (children are provided with free fruit through a Government funded scheme, up to the age of 7).

If you would prefer, you can send in a healthy snack and drink for your child.

At lunchtime we are able to offer all pupils a hot school dinner, or a school packed lunch if they would prefer. (Currently there is a government scheme 'Universal free school meals', which provides a free meal for all children in Early Years and Key Stage 1).

We recognise that eating and widening their diet is a common aim for many of our pupils and as such we can offer and encourage them to taste some of the school dinner and have their home packed lunch as a backup. Please let us know if you *would not like* this to happen. We always take pupil's individual needs, including intolerances or allergies, into consideration when ordering school meals.



### **Nappies, pads and pull ups:**

Please ensure you send in an adequate amount of these for your child as we are not able to provide spares. Each pupil has a named basket in the toilet area for their personal items, so we are able to accommodate a whole pack if you would find it easier to do this rather than send a small amount each day. We will let you know when we require a top up. For hygiene we use soft wipes and water that school will provide. However, if you prefer your child to use a specific wipe, please also send these in.



### **Coats and Waterproofs:**

We use our outdoor area frequently in all but the most extreme weather conditions. We place huge value on children being able to learn about their world by being outside in different weathers and experiencing through all of their senses. Please make sure your child brings something suitable to wear for all weather conditions. Wellies and waterproof suits are ideal for those rainy days, as even if it is not actually raining, sometimes the outdoor equipment/bikes can be wet, as can the ground which many of our pupils like to sit down on! It would be helpful if we could keep the waterproofs in school and return to you each school holiday.



### **Spare clothes:**

It is useful to send in a set of spare clothes for your child in case of accidents, spillages etc. We are able to keep these at school on their peg.

In addition, if you wish your child to wear an apron at mealtimes, please send one in from home. Unfortunately we are unable to provide these from school funds.

*It is really important to ensure all uniform, coats, and spare clothes are labelled with your child's name. It is very difficult to trace an item of clothing that has gone astray if it is unlabelled.*



### **Swimming:**

Currently, at the time of writing, we are unable to use the school hydrotherapy pool due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, when this becomes available again, we will use the pool for individual hydrotherapy or water confidence swimming sessions. We will send you details of this, and the equipment needed, when the time comes.