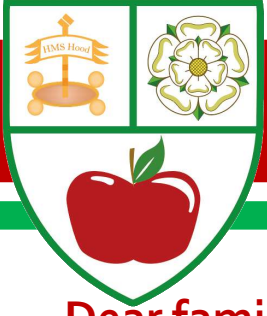


Applegarth Primary School

Aim High... Be Happy and Celebrate... Together



Reception Starters
Induction Booklet
2023 - 2024



Welcome

Dear families,

On behalf of the children, staff and governors of the school, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you. Our historic building is in the centre of Northallerton in the heart of North Yorkshire. When our school was built in 1909, it was for the purpose of being the model school in the county. It is our goal to make this vision a reality.

At Applegarth, we teach a carefully-sequenced, challenging and contextually-relevant curriculum that ignites a love of learning and provides children with memorable learning experiences. Pupils access an enormous variety of extra-curricular/enrichment activities which promote personal development and give every individual the opportunity to thrive in the areas they are most passionate about.

Our leaders and staff have the very highest expectations of all of our learners and have an unwavering belief that every child can and will succeed. We have achieved strong outcomes over the last two years, in part, by immersing pupils in high-quality literature from their very first day in Reception.

Our Applegarth Values (being *ready, respectful* and *safe*) are the guiding threads for positive behaviour management in school. The atmosphere is nurturing, calm and safe. We promote fundamental British values alongside this to enable pupils to develop tolerance, respect diversity, care for others and the world around them.

Every Child a Reader

At Applegarth Primary School, we recognise the importance and value of reading; it is for this reason we have placed reading at the heart of our whole school curriculum. We are relentless in our efforts of ensuring that learning to read progresses to reading, effortlessly, to learn; this is why our approaches to phonics and early reading are the foundations for our children's learning, not just in English but across the whole curriculum and all learning opportunities. Phonics, early reading and reading are taught with expertise and consistency which enables children to become proficient readers.

Developing children who become lifelong readers and who choose reading for pleasure is essential. It is for this reason we have made significant changes to our reading environments, reading resources and provided a wide range of opportunities for children to participate in exciting virtual author events. To support reading across the curriculum, children have exposure to a wealth of high-quality texts, feeding their imagination, and igniting a love of reading and learning. Reading for pleasure begins in developing confident and competent readers; we place a high value on teaching and learning opportunities which promote and develop both reading fluency and comprehension.

Outdoor Learning

We value outdoor learning for all children and maximise our school grounds and local area. Our grounds include a well-designed nature area, a bug hotel, hencoop, vegetable and fruit zones, a mud kitchen, climbing apparatus and a sports field. We have two members of staff with Level 3 Forest Schools training and one member with Level 2. Our reception class learn in the Wildlife Area on *Wild Wednesdays* and *Forest Fridays*.

Technology

At Applegarth, we believe that the use of innovative technology has a significant impact on pupil outcomes. Our Computing Lead runs CPD for the Swaledale Alliance and has provided school-to-school support on ICT and computing. Pupils who attend Code club use a vast array of technologies: Crumbles, Raspberry Pies, Microbits and other various coding software. This entitlement is also built into our curriculum. A recent visitor to school described us as: "*preparing children for the future by combining new technologies with a real appreciation of nature*".

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We are passionate about engaging children in after school and sports activities both in school and within the local community. We work relentlessly to create opportunities for pupils to start a love of sport and to nurture their talents in other areas. The children can attend a variety of school-organised after school clubs in sports and other areas. This half term, we are currently offering: Gardening and Craft club, Drama, Bushcraft, Football and Multi-skills. Qualified coaches lead sports clubs on site. We take part in many inter-school sports competitions and ensure that a wide range of pupils have the opportunity to be involved, whilst developing skills and expertise. We are proud of our four School Games Gold Awards; we are now focusing on achieving the Platinum Award.

Wraparound Care

Applegarth Breakfast Club takes place in the school hall for pupils of all ages from 7:30am Monday to Friday. The breakfast club is very popular and up to thirty children a day can attend. We have recently extended our wraparound care offer: after school care is now available from 3:15pm – 6:00pm daily.

Partnerships

Successful partnership between the school, the parents and the pupils enable each pupil to take full advantage of all that our school has to offer. Our partnerships also extend to us working closely with other schools. We work collaboratively with local primary schools in The Beacon Partnership; this provides opportunities for schools to share resources, benefit from the growing strengths of each school, and provide shared events and experiences for children.

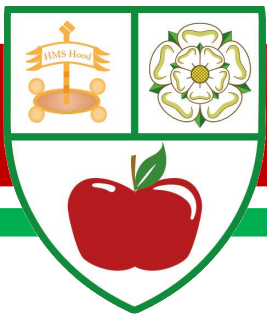
We are also a partner school in the wider Swaledale Alliance; all members benefit from collaborative support to improve learning outcomes for pupils and continued professional development (CPD) of educational debate and beyond. Being both a Schools North East and Red Kite Teaching Alliance partner school gives us access to high-quality networking and professional training opportunities across Yorkshire and at a regional level too.

We are very proud of our school, and we believe we have something very special to offer all our learners and their families. We are so excited to welcome you and your child into our Applegarth family – we look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Justin Peoples
Headteacher

Rev. Claire Soderman
Chair of Governors



Vision and Values

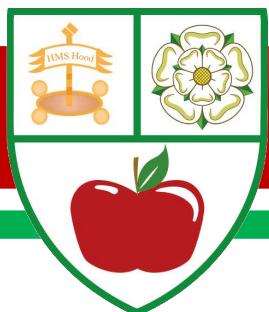
We are a supportive, safe and aspirational school with a proud heritage and ambitious vision to build a thriving and inclusive community.

Our vision for Applegarth is that:

- Our learners will be confident and aspirational individuals, who have high expectations of themselves and are courageous risk-takers, ready to take the next step in their lives.
- High standards will be achieved through a rich, contextually-relevant and exciting curriculum that provides memorable experiences through inspirational teaching, high-quality educational visits and input from experts.
- Pupils from all backgrounds, contexts and starting points will achieve exemplary academic progress and personal development, where talents are quickly identified and nurtured.
- Our school community will be able to celebrate their own unique qualities whilst showing respect and care for the diverse and ever-changing world around them.
- We will be proud to say that we have fulfilled the purpose of being the model school at the heart of our town and country.

The following values will help us achieve our vision:

- Our staff are professional, accountable and have expert knowledge through comprehensive, high-quality self-learning and professional development.
- We are an outward-looking school which develops strong links with partners in the local community and further afield.
- Our pupils confidently articulate what it means to be a good citizen and proactively contribute to their locality and wider world.
- We enable strong and enduring relationships by placing the wellbeing of every member of our school community at the heart of what we do.
- The Applegarth family is ready, respectful and safe.



Contact Information

Applegarth Primary School

Upwell Road,
Northallerton,
North Yorkshire,
DL7 8QF

Tel: 01609 773521

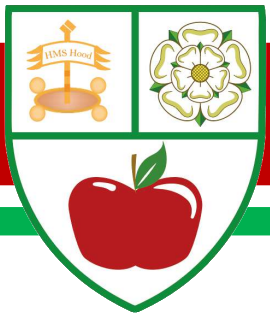
Email: admin@applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk

Website: www.applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk

School blog: blog.applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk

Staff

| | |
|---|--|
| Headteacher | Mr. Justin Peoples |
| Deputy Headteacher | Mrs. Emily Hopkin |
| Reception Teaching Staff | Mr. Tony Whiteley (Early Years Lead) |
| Teaching Staff | Mrs. Christina Crossley (KS1 Lead) Mrs. Alex Mitchell Miss. Beth Lycett Mrs. Kelly Jones Mrs. Lynne Cross Mrs. Vikki Hughes Mrs. Emily Hopkin (Deputy Headteacher) Mr. Steve Edwards (SENDCo) Mrs. Emma Slinger Miss. Georgia Mutch |
| Support Staff | Mrs. Sandra Ancell Mrs. Sharon Barugh Mrs. Diane Bell Mrs. Anne Hodgson (Learning Mentor) Mrs. Clara Hobbs Mrs. Gill O'Toole Mrs. Paula Parson Mr. Chris Rowland Mrs. Jayne Spence Mrs. Karen Vincent Miss. Emma Coatsworth Mrs. Lisa Evans |
| Office Staff | Mrs. Linda Rutherford Mrs. Sheila Fowler |
| Before and After School Club Staff | Mr. Chris Rowland Mrs. Liz Brown |



Meet the Staff

Meet the Reception Team



Mr. Tony Whiteley

Hello, I am the Early Years Lead here at Applegarth Primary School. I am also a paediatric and outdoor first aider, and a Level 3 qualified Forest School Leader. I have worked with children across all year groups and feel excited to be returning to Reception where we can build a culture of curiosity – lead by joyfulness, play and fun.

Away from the classroom, I enjoy playing and coaching football, singing songs with my guitar and walking my cocker spaniel, Hattie. I have two children who both attend Applegarth Primary School.



Mrs. Clara Hobbs

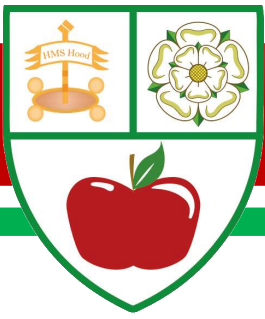
Hello, I am a Level 2 teaching assistant, paediatric first aider, qualified Level 2 Forest School practitioner and the Garden Club leader at school. I also lead our early language intervention, NELI.

I love any opportunity to be outdoors and in my garden. I am a creative person and in my spare time, I enjoy constructing and experimenting with wood, making things such as mud kitchens and bug hotels.

Hello, I am an experienced Higher-Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) and I specialise in PE and art. I teach swimming across the school as I am a qualified school swimming teacher. I love to travel in my spare time and recently I went to visit my son in Australia. One of the best parts of my job is being able to teach all year groups and watch the children progress through school.



Mrs. Gill O'Toole



Visits

Visiting the school prior to September

Welcome Meeting for Parents/Carers

This year, our welcome family drop-in session will be on **Thursday 22nd June** from **3:30pm to 5:00pm**. Families are welcome to drop-in at any time from 3:30pm up to 5pm. When you arrive, please register at the School Office where you will receive your child's book bag. Then, make your way through the car park onto the playground where you will be greeted by Mr Peoples and Mrs Hopkin. Tables will be available for you to complete the relevant paperwork in your child's book bag. You can then make your way over to the reception classrooms to meet the reception team and explore the classrooms.

At this event, you will meet the staff, find out about the Early Years curriculum and how we learn at Applegarth Primary School. You will be given a Starting School Pack which provides lots of useful information and guidance as to how best prepare your child for school.

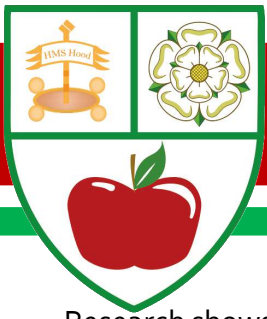
Transition Dates

Our transition dates will take place on Wednesday 12th July (09:30 am – 11:30 am) and Thursday 13th July (1:30 pm – 3.30 pm)

In the meantime, please ensure you regularly check our specially designated [Reception Starters](#) section on our school website and your emails.

If you do have any questions regarding transition for September 2023, then please do not hesitate to contact us at: admin@applegarth.n-yorks.sch.uk.

Mr. Justin Peoples and the Early Years Team.



Attendance

Research shows that children with poor attendance and punctuality are at a disadvantage later in life. They often:

- find it harder to make and maintain friendships;
- are less likely to gain good qualifications;
- find it harder to settle into full-time education.

Establishing good habits from the start of your child's school career helps your child settle more quickly into new settings and routines. This means:

- Children who rarely miss school in their reception year and attend on time are more likely to feel good about themselves. This is because they benefit from routine and feel more confident with both adults and other children.
- Regular attendance and good time keeping helps your child / children settle easily into the school day.

Procedures

The school bell is at 8:40 am. Your child will receive a late mark if they arrive after 8:50am. The register closes at 9:05 am. If your child arrives after this time, they will receive an unauthorised absence mark.

If your child is absent, you must:

- contact school on the **first morning of absence**;
- keep school informed on a regular basis if your child is absent for a long period.

Failure to do these things may result in your child's absences being unauthorised

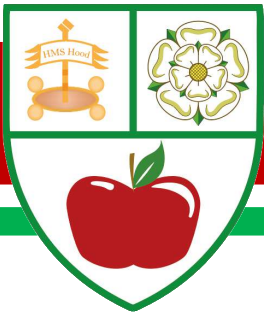
Unauthorised absences can be recorded on the register when there is no valid reason given for absences; a holiday not approved by the school; lateness after the register closes (9:05am) or illness without medical evidence when evidence has been requested.

Medical Appointments

If it is possible, any appointment should be made out of school time. If this is not possible, your child should miss the minimum amount of school time necessary. **If your child is well enough to go back to school following the appointment they should do so.**

Holidays / Leave of Absence

Please request a **leave of absence form** from the school office. Please note- we do not authorise holidays. You may receive a fixed penalty notice for holidays in term time.



Uniform & Forest School

School Uniform

Please follow the link to our [School Uniform Policy](#) (or look on our school website in the 'policies' section).

An order form will be included in your welcome pack at the new starters' drop ins and you can order more uniform at the school office or by following the link on the school website.

PE Kit

PE kits must be brought in Monday to be taken home on Friday. Trainers, which fasten with velcro, are highly advised as plimsols can be flimsy, and no laces are requested. There will be an order form for house team coloured T-shirts in your child's book bag when you attend the family drop-in session – the colour you need to order will be clearly indicated. If your child has an elder sibling who will be at school next academic year, they will be in the same house. When ordering your house t-shirt, you will be able to add your child's initials to their t-shirts – please indicate the initials you would like to use clearly on the form.

Forest School

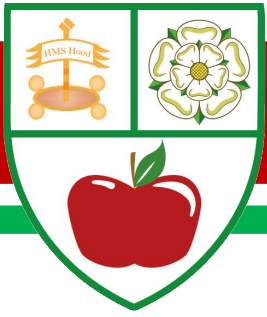
These forest school sessions will take place in our own school wildlife area. Mr Whiteley and Mrs Hobbs (a Level 2 qualified Forest School practitioner) will lead these weekly sessions.

The Friday Forest School sessions will take place in all weathers except high winds, therefore it is vital that children are suitably equipped for their forest school sessions to enable full engagement and enjoyment. Please make sure labelled kits are in school for each session.

They will need a separate set of clearly labelled clothes in a named bag:

- ✓ Waterproof coat
- ✓ Old, long-sleeved top
- ✓ Waterproof trousers
- ✓ Wellington boots or strong shoes
- ✓ Hat and gloves
- ✓ A plastic bag (for dirty clothes after Forest School)





The First Day of School

What to expect on your child's first day of school

This academic year begins on Tuesday 5th September 2023. At Applegarth Primary School, the reception children will start full-time from the beginning of the school year. A staggered entry approach can be put into place in special circumstances; this would need to be agreed with the Leadership Team beforehand.

Arrival

Children should arrive on the playground at 8:45am where they will be greeted by the EYFS team. Your child will need their school book bag, water bottle, PE kit and spare clothing – all of this must be labelled clearly.

Start of the school day

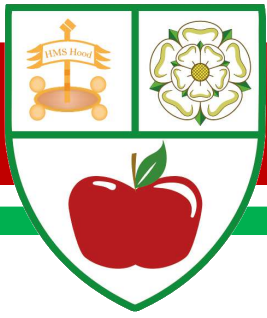
When it is time to enter school, children are encouraged to come into their class independently. Please do not worry about this, the EYFS team will be there to guide you and support the children. The Reception class name is Bumblebees and Mr Whiteley is the class teacher. He will open the doors to the classroom and welcome the children inside.

In the cloakroom, your child will find their named peg with a box underneath. The children place their own coat onto their peg and put their book bags in the box.

End of the school day

Home time is 3:20pm. Your child's class teacher will open the door to their classroom which faces the playground and will only let them out once they have seen you clearly. Please wave and walk towards your child. It is very important that you let us know if someone different from yourself will be picking your child up. You can do this by informing your child's class teacher at the start of the school day, or by contacting the admin team during the school day.





Daily Timetable

The timetable for the school day remains roughly the same throughout the week, which contributes to a smooth running of each day. Of course, stories, songs, visitors and celebrations of children's work can be added and can happen spontaneously. Throughout the day, children will have access to fruit and veg for their snack and those eligible for milk will have it first thing in the morning.

Morning

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 8:50 – 9:05 | Registration |
| 9:05 – 9:30 | Phonics |
| 9:30 – 9:45 | Reading practice |
| 9.45 – 11.00 | Continuous provision |
| 11:00 – 11:10 | Tidy up |
| 11:10 – 11:40 | Mathematics |
| 11:40 – 11:45 | Wash up/lunch prep |



11:45am – 12:45pm

LUNCH TIME

Afternoon

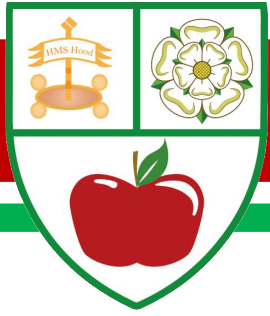
| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 12:45 – 1:05 | Whole class teaching |
| 1:05 – 2:30 | Continuous provision and group work |
| 2:30 – 2:40 | Tidy up |
| 2:40 – 3:00 | Circle time |
| 2:50 – 3:00 | Reflections and celebrating learning |
| 3:00 – 3:15 | Story |



3:20pm

HOME TIME





Learning in the Early Years

Early Years Curriculum

Activities in reception are carefully planned and organised in order to provide a range of learning experiences.

Our EYFS setting follows the curriculum outlined in the 2021 Statutory Framework for Early Years and the non-statutory guidance, Development Matters 2020. There are seven areas of learning and development which shapes our learning and assessment:

Prime areas

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Self-Regulation, Managing Self and Building Relationships**
- **Physical Development: Gross Motor Skills, Fine Motor Skills**
- **Communication and Language: Listening, Attention and Understanding, Speaking**

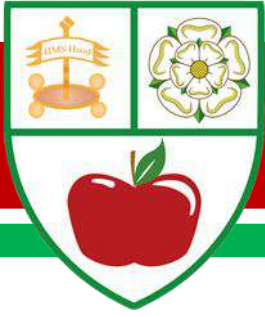
Specific areas

- **Literacy: Comprehension, Word Reading and Writing**
- **Mathematics: Number and Numerical Patterns**
- **Understanding the World: Past and Present, People, Culture and Communities, The Natural World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design: Creating with Materials, Being Imaginative and Expressive**

In planning and guiding what children learn, we must reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust our practice accordingly (Development Matters, 2020).

These characteristics of effective learning are:

- **Playing and exploring – children investigate and experience things and 'have a go'**
- **Active learning – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements**
- **Creating and thinking critically – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.**



Supporting families

Celebrating Learning

Initially, teachers will post photographs on our school blog (see website) for you to enjoy and see how the children are settling in. After a couple of weeks, individual Seesaw accounts will have been set up to give you access to your child's digital portfolio. Seesaw is an online app which supports an invaluable connection between home and school. It allows both teachers and parents to record and celebrate your child's development through photographs, videos and uploading digital work. It allows teachers and families to work closely together to help children develop and grow. Teachers and parents can comment on and 'like' a piece of work. Importantly, if families have any worries or concerns, they need to speak to a member of staff face-to-face. Seesaw is designed to focus on the learning aspects of school and not resolve issues.

Learning journey books will be used to supplement the work on Seesaw, especially to keep evidence of 'wow' moments, such as a drawing, a piece of writing, a mathematical achievement or a photograph of something a child has constructed.

Online Safety

Your child will use the internet and various electronic devices from very early on. A copy of the Acceptable Use Agreement will be distributed for you to sign and return. For further information about staying safe online, please visit our [Online Safety](#) page.

Phonics and Reading

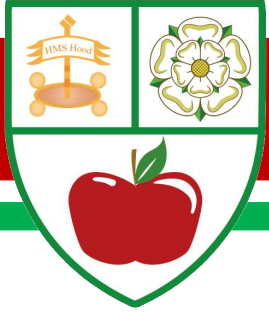
At Applegarth Primary School, we teach early reading through a systematic approach. Since September 2021, we have been using a DfE validated programme, Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, to support our teaching of phonics and early reading.

Further information and workshops will be available for families in the autumn term to support you in understanding how early reading and phonics are taught at Applegarth, and your role in supporting your child at home.

Newsletters*

Weekly whole-school newsletters are sent out via email every Friday and posted onto our website (within the 'Families' section). These newsletters will keep you up-to-date with events and learning which have been happening at school that week as well as information about upcoming events. Additionally, key school reminders will be put on these newsletters.

****Once you registered on our school systems at the start of the academic year, you will have access to these communications.***



Food, Drink and Health

Food and Drink

The EYFS staff will supervise hand washing and take the children into the hall for lunch.

All reception children are entitled to Universal Free School Meals (please see the [FAQ](#) section of our website for further information). **Please read the free school meal application form in your pack to see if you are eligible to receive free school meals.** We have a brilliant catering team who create recipes and make delicious food whilst ensuring a balanced diet. We advise all children to try school dinners to support healthy choices and eating a variety of food.

If you decide to provide healthy packed lunches for your child, we politely ask that they do not include foods such as: sweets, chocolate or fizzy drinks. **You must not bring any food into school that contains nuts.**

Children aged four are entitled to the Cool Milk scheme and will receive free milk. When your child reaches their 5th birthday, this scheme finishes. However, you may choose to have your child continuing to access this scheme by paying.

We have an open cafeteria-style snack table in our classroom where children have access to one piece of fruit or veg a day.

We actively encourage children to bring in a named water bottle each day; this will be placed in their classroom. They can access water whenever they want to throughout the day.

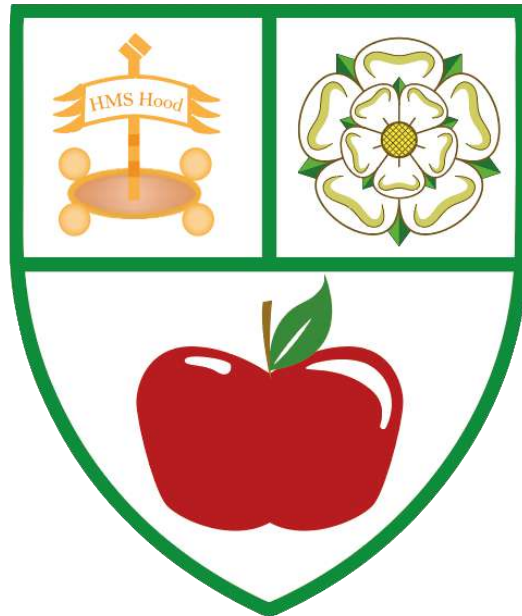
For birthdays and special occasions, we have decided as a school not to accept food such as sweets and cakes due to allergies and intolerances, in compliance with Natasha's Law. If you like to bring in something to celebrate this occasion, please donate a class book instead.

Health

Staff need to be aware of your child's medical background, in particular any allergies (e.g. bee stings, dairy food), any dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian or Halal), and any medical conditions that are important for us to know (e.g. asthma or eczema). **Please ensure the consent and medical forms are completed.**

Children can suddenly become ill and therefore it is important that we know we can contact you or another adult (relative/friend) at all times. We require a minimum of three emergency contacts. Please ensure that the school is **always** kept up-to-date with your contact details. If your child is unable to attend school due to illness, please telephone the school to let us know. In cases of vomiting or diarrhoea, your child should remain at home until 48 hours have elapsed since the last episode. In all cases of contagious diseases, the school should be informed immediately and medical clearance must be obtained before your child returns to school.

We have staff who are first aid trained. When an incident occurs, the trained practitioner will administer the first aid, record the full process out on a form and the parents/carers will be notified either immediately or after school. Head lice are an unfortunate reoccurring problem in school life. If discovered, please notify staff and keep your child at home until treated.



We hope that this pack is useful. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school admin team who will put you in touch with the relevant member of staff, alternatively please see the [FAQ](#) section in our Reception Starters page on the school website. Please remember to visit the designated Reception Starters section of our website regularly to keep up-to-date with the transition process.

At Applegarth Primary School, we aim to ensure that your child's learning journey is a happy and rewarding one. We look forward to working with both you and your child.