

Welcome to Townley School. From September you will find regular updates on all of the exciting activities going on in Class 1. Please have a look on our Class 1 page to see what the children have been doing.

As Early Years Foundation Stage practitioners we are committed to providing warm, caring relationships and stimulating opportunities so that young children are happy and engaged in the Early Years Foundation Stage. The class one team pay careful attention to how the children learn and how/when to build on natural interests, motivation and strategies for learning. We observe and support individual children with specific learning styles. These are called the characteristics of effective learning. They include playing and exploring (engagement), active learning (motivation) and creating and thinking critically (thinking skills). We will monitor these skills as the children explore the seventeen early learning goals which come under the seven umbrella headings of Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Communication and Language (CL), Physical Development (PD), Literacy (L), Mathematics (M), Understanding of the World (UW) and Expressive Arts and Design (EAD). We use a document called 'Development Matters' to support the children with their next steps. The Pre-School practitioners have previously tracked your children using this document. There is a parents' guide available. It is titled 'What to expect, when? It is available to download at <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/> There is a hard copy kept in class should you wish to look at it.

Your children's progress and achievements will be tracked using the online journal system 'Tapestry'. Your child will have been tracked using this system during their last term at pre-school. Those records will be transferred into my account but all of your logins and passwords will remain valid. You can visit your child's online journal at <https://eylj.org/login/>

You are very welcome to view your child/ren's journal on a class computer after school. Please let me know if you wish to do this so that I can make a computer available for you. It is a good idea to view your child/ren's journal with them so you can talk together about what they have been learning.

Your children have been part of the transition process since January. They have enjoyed coming over to class one for phonics (Monday) and a play session (Wednesday) each week. We feel that this has helped the children get to know the staff, environment and the other children so that they will have a happy start to full time life in class one come September. Children that enter reception from a different pre-school or nursery will be part of a specially organised transition process.

In September children across the country will be taking part in a new reception baseline assessment. Here at Townley we will be using the baseline assessment provided by Early Excellence. The assessments in all areas of the curriculum will help us to see what level your child is at and how best to support them in moving forward. Rest assured all testing is informal and the activities will be enjoyable for the children to take part in.

Each week your child will bring a phonics book home with them containing the new sounds they have been learning. Please practise these together.

Formal reading books will not be sent home until half term (October). We encourage you to keep reading with your child and record each session on your child's reading log. This will enable them to take part in the reading trophy competition for children that read regularly at home. Logs will be checked each Thursday and the trophy given out on a Friday.

Please ensure that everything is named and P.E kits/wellies are in school each day.

Your child will have a show and tell day. Please look out for separate notes to find out which day and the topic.

Please note that all reception children receive a free school meal as part of the government's initiative. Packed lunches from home are still welcome in you prefer.

If you have any questions, no matter how small please come and ask. Someone else is bound to need the answer too.

Lucy Culyer (class teacher).