 Barningham CEVC Primary School

 September 2020

Dear parents and carers of children in Rabbit Class,

Welcome to the Rabbit Class and we are so pleased that the children have settled down! We contacted the nurseries and pre-schools in the summer term so we were able to hear from them all about your child. The Parent booklets that you have completed have also provided some really useful information for us to plan and prepare. Please would you take a few moments to let us know how you felt about the schools transition process over the first weeks by completing this survey by Monday 21 September? Following the changes required by the COVID-19 outbreak, we are reviewing our transition ideas and appreciate your feedback and ideas to help us provide the best first experience of school possible.

Thank you, Miss Garland and Mrs Price ☺

**How would you describe the transition two days (please circle):**  **very helpful** (5) / **helpful** (3) / not helpful

Thank you for working so hard to settle our daughter

**Please describe how your child found the first two weeks:**

* She was ready for big school!!
* He loved it
* Took him into the 3rd week before he was settled, but he is enjoying being in Rabbit’s class
* Exciting with lots to do (4) and has come back every day very happy
* Fun
* She loved her first two weeks and has settled in very well, so thank you to the teachers and teaching assistants for helping her to settle in
* He can’t really remember much/ doesn’t want to tell us! He has been happy to get ready in the mornings and comes to school happily
* She seemed to enjoy herself and settled in very well
* Quite tiring as she caught a cold in her first few days
* Always positive at the end of the day
* Interesting
* Loved getting her first reading book.

**We felt that the school:**

* Prepared the children in the summer with the fab booklet/ information pack. We shared the pictures at bedtime (3)
* Very clean and well organised (2), especially with the current situation
* Provided lots of information
* Very informative, plenty of ideas of how to help at home
* Friendly (2) and welcoming
* Set up well to deal with COVID changes
* Responded quickly to queries via email
* Could have made the transition two days a longer process – maybe over two weeks like a lot of schools did, not just two half days
* Supported our daughter with a friendly welcome and were very positive
* Always kept us updated in reference to COVID
* The parents’ tour also helped reassure us
* Try to keep the normal new as normal as possible.

**The length and timing of the transition in the first week was:**

* It felt short compared to normal times
* Great
* Good considering the situation with COVID-19
* Could have had possibly one/ two more days as ½ days
* Not long enough, especially as we could not take them to their classroom after the two half days
* About right – it was helpful to do two half-days
* Worked well to help settle the children in difficult circumstances
* Enjoyed the school lunchtime/ playtime ready for the following week
* A nicely planned transition
* Helpful
* Calm and organised
* A great start, just enough to start to settle her in.

**Please tell us how your child felt on starting Rabbit Class in September?**

* Couldn’t wait: to wear her PE kit; meet the other children/ teachers; have school dinners
* Excited (4)
* Positive
* Looking forward to being a ‘big girl’
* Looking forward to playing with the toys
* He was excited beforehand. At the end of the first morning he said he wanted to go back tomorrow and liked his classroom and teachers
* Nervous (2)
* Very excited as she loved nursery so was very excited to start Rabbit class
* Happy.

**The most useful aspects were:**

* Miss Garland always there to answer questions
* The booklet sent home (3)
* Having the two half days and staying for lunch on the second day
* Helping him with where to put his things on the first day
* How the children were able to settle in quickly
* Up to date texts and emails (2) made us feel prepared
* Parent info meeting – finding out the daily routine and how phonics etc is taught so we can support at home
* The booklet sent out with pictures of classroom and teachers We revisited it after the transition days. Maybe if in similar circumstances again you (school) could incorporate a tick off list for filling in after completing tasks, eg I found my peg or I met my teacher (2).

**It would have been useful to have known:**

* When fruit will be available for Rabbits & Squirrels all the time, but for the time being we will continue to provide from home (scheme restarted 14.09.2020) (2)
* The Bardwell Road entrance is a little dangerous with parents parking there to drop children off and other traffic going up & down the road. Is it possible to request not to park there? (This is the subject of a joint Parish Council and School discussion) (2)
* We had all of the information we needed
* I know due to COVID things had to change but I still feel an open event for parents that already have children there should of still been put o as had outs are not enough, but I understand things had to change
* Could the parent info meeting have been sooner? (Usually we host these meetings in the summer to help plus a more ‘in depth’ session at the beginning of term. We are conscious of not overwhelming parents & carers but will look to perhaps run this session in Week One rather than Two next year)
* I feel I was at an advantage as we have older children at the school but still felt we were given everything we needed and as always the school office are always a great help.
* Whether they needed their own equipment
* It has been difficult to prepare my daughter as we were unsure with COVID precautions but understand everyone was the same.