

## Beaver Road Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Beaver Road, we are keen to continue the excellent parental involvement that has developed within the Foundation Stage, throughout the School. Therefore, from September we have incorporated lots of the outstanding practice into the other year groups.

We know that your child has had a fantastic year in Reception and we hope that you have felt completely involved in their learning journey. They are a fantastic year group. As your child continues their learning journey at the School into Year 1, we have worked hard to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible for everyone involved. Staff from year 1 have been working closely with the Reception staff on the profile assessments and been visiting the Reception classes this half term. This is to ensure they have a thorough understanding of where your child is at and what their next steps will be.

We would like to invite you to a transition meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June at 6.00pm. It will be an informal meeting, where information will be given about Year 1. There will be lots of time for you to visit your child's new class and meet your new class teacher and teaching assistant. This night has been planned because the next day they spend the whole day with their new class teachers in Year 1. Any queries about the transition day can be addressed that evening. It would be fantastic if you could all come.

Finally, a request....if any parents are interested in becoming a School Governor, visiting meetings and observing what they do, please could they contact me at School.

Thank you for all your support this year.

Yours Sincerely,

Julie Mellish  
Acting Deputy Headteacher

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# Transition from Reception Year into Year 1, at Beaver Road Primary School

## *What are the problems with transition?*

Over the last ten years, there have been different national initiatives that Year 1 have had to comply with. For example, 'The National Literacy Strategy', and 'The National Numeracy Strategy'. Year 1 became a subject based curriculum and marginalised the role of play. This approach is in total contrast to the Reception and Nursery curriculum. That was informed by the 'Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage' and promoted play based learning through themes that the children were interested and excited by. Children moving from Reception through to Year 1 not surprisingly often faced problems with the transition.

The 'Foundation Phase' in Wales, promotes children's development and learning as a continuum from 3 to 7 years. There are no arbitrary 'stages', eg, under 5s and over 5s, as there are in England.

Research shows that most children do not benefit from extensive formal teaching until the age of 6 or 7, in line with their social and cognitive development. Earlier introduction of formal teaching can result in some children underachieving, attaining lower standards and exhibiting behaviour problems as they move through school.

In England, the 'Foundation Stage Profile' has 13 strands, each with 8 profile points. Nationally 90% of children are not meeting all 8 points by the end of Reception. The national question up for debate is therefore... '*What are schools doing to ensure that these children can continue their learning at the appropriate level?*' The 'Early Years Foundation Stage' has rescued our 3 to 5 year olds! We need to ensure that our 6 to 7 year olds and have a school learning environment and curriculum in which they will flourish and succeed. In England, children in Year 1 can already become labelled as needing 'boosting' or 'extra support to catch up', when in most other European Countries and specifically in Western Europe they have not yet started formal schooling.

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### *How does our child feel about their move to Year 1?*

During our circle time sessions, we have spent a lot of time talking about and discussing how your child feels about their move into Year 1. Most responses from our Reception children included a negative comment at the start.



During this summer term, we have addressed all of their concerns and fears. We are happy to say that most children now in Reception are really looking forward to their move into Year 1. We believe at Beaver Road Primary School that children should be able to continue their learning journey in Year 1, at their own appropriate level.

Therefore our aim is to provide:

- A curriculum which is relevant to all children
- First hand experiences
- Play
- Learning inside and outside the classroom
- Work at length and in depth
- Organisation that allows and encourages independence

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### ***So what are the key changes for Year 1 children at Beaver Road?***

- Classroom environment: creating more space for active learning in a workshop style, so children can be more independent learners
- Outdoor Area: children continuing to use the outdoor classroom during their day at school
- Planning: short term plans that are more responsive to children's needs and interests; more flexibility in when, how and where things are taught
- Timetabling: creating more opportunities for sustained learning
- Observation: creating more time for teacher observation of children especially at play
- Play: valued and taking place alongside adult-initiated learning
- Staffing: having two trained members of staff in each Year 1 class, who fully understand the curriculum

### ***But will our child still make good progress academically in reading, writing and number work?***

Research has shown that by investing such time and resources in our younger children, there will be key improvements in standards such as:

- Greater concentration brought about by more sustained periods of learning
- Children more willing to 'have a go' at new challenges-stickability
- Children, particularly boys, more co-operative with each other
- Children more confident for having worked in smaller groups
- Children more independent learners
- Children more confident to speak out and have an opinion
- Children having more to say about their learning and feeling greater ownership of their learning and achievements
- Writing standards, particularly for boys
- Children writing for more purposeful reasons and with much more success

### ***Are there any other good reasons for the changes at Beaver Road?***

There will be:

- ❖ A positive impact on children, particularly boys
- ❖ Improved behaviour and relationships
- ❖ Improved attitudes to learning-building good habits and a foundation for lifelong learning
- ❖ Curriculum more in tune with the needs and interests of all children

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## **Beaver Road Primary School**

At Beaver Road Primary School, we will ensure that your child has fun and loves their time at school, a love of learning is a gift for life.

### **'Now I am Six' by A.A. Milne**

When I was One,  
I had just begun  
When I was Two,  
I was nearly new  
When I was Three,  
I was hardly me  
When I was Four,  
I was not much more  
When I was Five,  
I was just alive  
But now I am Six, I'm as clever as clever.  
So I think I'll be six now for ever and ever.



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