

*To enable all children to achieve, access, participate and contribute to their community for life'*

*Kindness*

*Respect*

*Inclusivity*

*Openness*

*Resilience*

*Empathy*

*Trust*

*Understanding*

16th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The children and community of Medeshamstede Academy are settling well into their new routine for this academic year, enjoying being back at school. Thanks must go to teachers and support staff. Teaching new routines and managing change usually takes around two weeks to embed for our neurodiverse learners. Children are quickly learning independence within their daily routine, the expected pro-social behaviour and are making secure relationships with new teaching teams and peers.

Any teething problems need to be quickly addressed and we value your time to discuss and work with us in partnership early on. I strongly encourage parents to contact us with questions or any concerns. This way, any issues can be addressed early in the term so that the focus can be on learning and children's progress. I know for some children, travelling in larger groups in taxis has been a challenge. Mrs Maker is working closely with the transport service to get this transition right for all children.

Teachers will email parents/carers on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school as minimum communication points with you throughout the week.

What has impressed me greatly so far this term is how well our new starter children have settled in and their comments about how much they are enjoying school and being part of the community at Medeshamstede.

Personally, my favourite part of the school day is lunch time back in the hall and I think this maybe the case for many of our children! Thanks must also go to Mrs Greenway and the catering team. Now that the lunch time routine of being back together in the hall space has been taught, lunch times are a happy, social time and children are enjoying sitting with their peers, interacting, and sharing news of their morning activities. With the removal of last year's bubble system, it is heart-warming to see children socialising and being part of a whole school community once again.

### **This half-term**

In week one, teachers prioritised teaching daily routines, children forming new class relationships and ensuing all children settled well. This week teachers have been assessing what each child in their class knows and can do and what the next steps of their learning journey need to be. Children in EYFS are informally assessed through the new statutory baseline assessment this half term. From your child's individual start point, teachers will track progress over this half term and

set both academic and personal/social skills targets. These will be shared with you at upcoming parents' meetings.

Next week in KS1 – KS 3, teachers begin Imaginative Learning Projects with their class, starting with a memorable experience that hooks children into their learning project with an exciting multi-sensory activity. Details of your child's learning for their class this term can be found on the website in 'curriculum.' This year we plan to celebrate and share the outcome of the class learning project through a class assembly/presentation to parents by our pupils, appropriate to their stage of learning.

## **Other News**

### **Skills Builder Award**

As you know, we partnered with Skills Builder last year and I am delighted to announce that we gained the silver award over two terms. We exceeded our initial goal as we were aiming for the bronze award in year one, however, we were delighted to achieve silver!

*"All the schools and colleges who have achieved a Skills Builder Award this year have demonstrated that they are committed to ensuring that every one of their students builds the essential skills to succeed. These essential skills have been needed more than ever this year: speaking, listening, teamwork, leadership, creativity, problem solving, aiming high, and staying positive. We congratulate them on a brilliant achievement."*

#### *About the Skills Builder Partnership*

*The Skills Builder Partnership brings together more than 700 organisations towards a common mission: ensuring that one day, everyone builds the essential skills to succeed. We work with educators, employers and impact organisations to establish a shared language, principles and outcomes for eight essential skills which drive learning in school, underpin success in employment and foster life-long personal and professional development. Please visit [www.skillsbuilder.org](http://www.skillsbuilder.org) for more details*

**Tom Ravenscroft, Founder & CEO, Skills Builder Partnership**

We have Youth Dreams Project delivering our PE curriculum this term. As qualified sports coaches, they are teaching children appropriate skills for their stage of physical development. Please ensure that your child has a PE kit at school.

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, we have a day introducing the 'Young Leaders' programme where a group of older pupils will be taught by our partner PE consultant how to lead others in active play, outdoor games and activities within a 'Super Me' initiative. In this way, young leaders will support the play and active development of other children for structured interaction through games at playtimes. This incentive links to Skills Builder for speaking, listening and teamwork.

Warm Regards,



Mrs Ives

(Principal)