CARR JUNIOR SCHOOL

Executive Principal: Mr James McGann

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Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to Carr Junior School. They have made a fantastic start, and we are really looking forward to working with you throughout the year ahead.

As we begin the new school year, we wanted to share some important information and reminders about our school values, behaviour expectations, attendance and homework.

Our values and the Carr Journey

Our school values sit at the heart of everything we do:

- **Be Kind**
- **Be Curious**
- **Be Resilient**
- **Be Yourself**

These values guide children's behaviour, learning, relationships and decision-making. We want every child to feel safe, confident and proud of who they are.

Our Carr Journey describes how children grow during their time with us:

- Year 3 – **Ready**
- Year 4 – **Involved**
- Year 5 – **Stretch**
- Year 6 – **Excel**

The journey reflects both personal and academic development, showing children that confidence, independence, responsibility and leadership develop step by step.

Behaviour and Going for Gold

Our approach to behaviour is based on high expectations, positive relationships and consistency. All classrooms use our Going for Gold system:

- All children begin each day on **Green**.
- **Bronze and Silver** recognise positive choices, effort and behaviour.
- **Gold** is a special recognition for children who consistently demonstrate our values and expectations.
- **Yellow, Orange and Red** are used when behaviour needs to be corrected.

Gold is agreed by the Senior Leadership Team and is not awarded automatically after a set number of Silver awards. Children must demonstrate consistently positive behaviour and attitudes to learning, as well as completing 25 recorded reads during the half-term and other homework.

When children make choices that do not meet our expectations, staff help them to reflect, repair relationships and make a better choice next time. Each term, children begin with zero Red incidents, as we believe strongly in fresh starts and supporting children to get back on track.

Attendance and punctuality

Our attendance target is **96% or above**. Attendance below 95% will be monitored, below 93% is a concern, and attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence.

At 90% attendance, a child misses approximately one day of school every two weeks. Across a year, this adds up to almost four weeks of lost learning. Regular attendance makes a real difference to children's learning, friendships and confidence.

If your child is absent, please:

- Contact the school on the first day of absence.
- Tell us the reason for the absence.
- Keep us updated each day your child is not in school.

If we have not heard from you, we will contact you by telephone to ensure your child is safe and accounted for. If attendance begins to fall, we will contact you early so that we can discuss any worries or barriers and work together to find solutions.

Punctuality is equally important. Arriving late means missing the start of lessons and can make it more difficult for children to settle into their learning.

Homework and reading

We have deliberately kept homework simple and manageable, focusing on the essentials:

- Children should read at home at least three times each week.
- Each read should be recorded and signed in the child's reading record.
- Children should aim to complete **25 recorded reads each half-term**.
- Children will receive weekly spellings to practise.
- Children should use Times Tables Rock Stars regularly to develop their fluency and confidence.

If completing reading at home is difficult, we will provide opportunities for children to read in school so that everyone can work towards the half-termly target.

Further year-group information will be shared at our **Meet the Teacher sessions on Tuesday 22 September**. This will also be an opportunity for you to visit your child's classroom and hear more about the year ahead.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we can give every child the best possible opportunity to **Aim High and Shine Bright**.

Warm wishes,

Laura Winston
Head of School