

# CLASS WELCOME MEETING



## Welcome to Pioneers Class

A chance to meet the team, understand the year ahead and strengthen our partnership with families.



Our new logo brings our identity and values together: **Belong • Achieve • Thrive.**

# Today's Class Welcome

What we want every family and child to leave knowing

## Our class

Who we are and how we build a strong class community.

## Learning

What children will learn and the routines that help them succeed.

## Working together

How school and families can support achievement, belonging and thriving.

# Our New School Logo with our Values



- At the heart of our logo is the Shapla, the national flower of Bangladesh, celebrating our school's heritage and our diverse community, where people of all heritages, cultures and backgrounds belong.
- Our three shared values now sit visibly around the logo: BELONG • ACHIEVE • THRIVE.
- The logo is a reminder that our values are not just words – they should be experienced by children and families in everyday school life.
- You will see the new logo increasingly across school communications, displays and resources.

# Our Shared Values

The values shape what children experience every day

You will see these values reflected in our new school logo.

## Everyone Achieves

- High expectations for every child
- Support and challenge to remove barriers
- Pride, effort and progress

## Everyone Belongs

- Warm relationships and respectful language
- Every child known and included
- Strong partnerships with families

## Everyone Thrives

- Wellbeing and self-regulation
- Confidence, independence and responsibility
- Opportunities to participate and succeed

## Our Class Identity

### Pioneers

In Pioneers Class, we support every child to discover what they can do, find their own ways to communicate and become more independent. Learning goes beyond the classroom, with children developing practical skills through cooking, shopping, travel training and exploring their local community. We provide meaningful experiences that help children build confidence, make choices and develop skills for everyday life.

Pioneers Class is part of the Phoenix Specialist Classroom Project. We work closely with Phoenix School and benefit from weekly input from a Phoenix Outreach Teacher and Speech and Language Therapist. This partnership helps us to continually develop our provision and provide the right support for our children.

# Meet the Class & Year Group Team

The adults who will know, teach and support your child

**Charlene**

Harban

Humaira

Ruby

Hasna

Jania

Amina

Sharon

Penny

# Learning This Year

A broad, ambitious curriculum with strong foundations

## **Our Curriculum – Pioneers Class**

This year in Pioneers Class, we will be developing children's learning, communication, confidence and independence through a wide range of activities and experiences.

Children will take part in reading and writing at a level that is right for them. Depending on their individual needs and stage of learning, some children will follow Read Write Inc., some will use See and Learn, and others will focus on developing their reading fluency and comprehension skills.

All children will take part in daily Maths Mastery sessions, where they will develop their understanding of number and other important maths skills through practical, hands-on learning.

Children will also learn through The World About Me, forest school, art, dance, computing, and games. These sessions give children opportunities to explore, be creative, develop new skills and build their confidence.

Some children will have daily 1:1 reading and maths sessions, giving them additional opportunities to practice, build confidence and develop their skills.

An important part of our curriculum is helping children become more independent in everyday life. Through cooking, shopping and travel training, children will practise real-life skills such as following instructions, making choices, preparing food, handling money, visiting local shops and learning how to travel safely in the community.

# Supporting Positive Behaviour

In Pioneers Class, we support children to feel **safe, calm and ready to learn**. We understand that behaviour is often a way of communicating a need or feeling. We use a calm, consistent approach and adapt our support to meet each child's individual needs.

- **Calm spaces** – children can access quiet, calming areas when they need them.
- **Calming tools** – sensory resources and regulation tools are available throughout the day.
- **Choices** – we offer simple choices to help children feel involved and in control.
- **Low-demand approach** – when children are becoming overwhelmed, we reduce demands and give them time and space.
- **Simple language** – we avoid overloading children with too much information or too many instructions at once.
- **Zones of Regulation** – we check in with children and help them recognise and communicate how they are feeling.
- **Predictable routines** – clear routines and visual supports help children know what is happening now and what is coming next.
- **Positive relationships** – adults take time to understand each child and what helps them feel safe and regulated.

The aim is always to teach, support regulation, protect everyone's right to learn and help children make a successful return to learning.

## Speech and Language Therapist

Honor is a Speech and Language Therapist from Phoenix School who will be supporting the children and staff in Pioneers Class. She will work closely with the team to understand each child's communication needs and help us put personalised strategies and interventions in place. Honor will visit the class every week, usually on a Wednesday or Thursday, spending time with the children during their everyday learning. She will also work alongside staff, modelling communication strategies, sharing practical ideas and helping us use these approaches consistently throughout the week. This support will help children develop their communication skills, build confidence and take a more active part in their learning and everyday school life.

# Reading Every Day

Regular reading at home is one of the most important ways families can support learning

## Every day

- Children are expected to read daily
- Please sign the reading diary regularly so we know when reading is happening at home
- Independent reading should also be confirmed by an adult.

## Bring to school

- Reading diary
- Class library book
- Must Read book
- RWI book where applicable

## Talk about books

- Ask what happened and why
- Discuss new vocabulary
- Read to your child as well as hearing them read

## Must Reads

Carefully selected books broaden reading experience, language and knowledge

- Children choose from the Must Read collection and are encouraged to read widely. There are 15 books that have been chosen to widen children's reading and their understanding of language.
- Families can read the books with children and can also read books aloud to them.
- When sharing a book, talk about the pictures, point out familiar people, objects and actions, and encourage your child to point, comment, make sounds or answer simple questions.
- Children do not always need to focus on reading the words. Looking at the pictures, turning the pages, listening and enjoying a book together are all valuable ways to develop communication and a love of books.
- Please return school books promptly so that other children can enjoy them.

# School Uniform

## Everyday

- Black trousers or skirt
- Light blue polo shirt
- Red school sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black trainers or shoes suitable for active play
- Please keep a spare set of clothes in your child's bag. Children regularly take part in water play, sensory activities and other hands-on learning, so they may occasionally get a little wet or messy. Having spare clothes means they can quickly change and continue enjoying their day.

## Jewellery

- Small stud earrings only — no hoops. Please be aware that staff are unable to remove earrings for children during swimming, so earrings should be removed at home on swimming days.
- No other jewellery or watches.

## Safe footwear for play

- Children can wear Crocs or other comfortable footwear that meets their individual needs.
- For running, football and active play, we recommend trainers or secure shoes that stay safely on children's feet.
- All children will need a pair of wellies in school for Forest School and outdoor learning.

# Year-Group Experiences

## Swimming

All children will take part in swimming every other Monday. We will leave school at approximately 9:10am and travel to York Hall. We will keep parents updated about when York Hall reopens and swimming can begin.

Our swimming sessions will support children to:

- Develop confidence and independence in the water.
- Develop their swimming skills at their own level.
- Practice travel training to and from the swimming pool.
- Develop independence with dressing and undressing.
- Follow routines and become familiar with the swimming environment.
- Build confidence with new experiences.

A Bangabandhu member of staff will be in the pool with the children, alongside a qualified swimming teacher.

## Swim wear rules



All girls' costumes **MUST** be one piece. Two piece costumes are not allowed as the tops come above the children's heads which is unsafe and does not provide modesty.

Costumes must be a tight fit.

Boys must wear swimming trunks and no tops.



No Jewellery allowed including earrings.



Asthma pumps must be brought to the pool.



All pupils must wear a swimming hat (goggles are optional).



Please make sure that all swim wear is marked with the school name and children's names.



## Life Skills and Independence

A key part of learning in Pioneers Class is helping children become as independent as possible. Through the Equals Curriculum, children practise useful skills that they can use both in school and in the wider community. This includes learning to manage everyday routines, solve simple problems, make choices and take increasing responsibility for themselves.

Children are supported at their own level, with adults gradually reducing help as their confidence and skills develop. Communication, interaction and independence are built into learning throughout the school day.

Families can support this at home by giving children time to have a go for themselves. Simple things such as putting on clothes, carrying their own bag, helping to prepare food, tidying up or completing parts of their personal care routine all provide valuable opportunities to practise independence.

# Lunchtimes

In Pioneers Class, lunchtime is an important opportunity for children to practise everyday life skills. We eat together around the table, creating a relaxed and supportive mealtime where children can become more involved in serving and looking after themselves.

Children are encouraged, where appropriate, to serve their own food, pour their drink, make choices and help clear away when they have finished. Family-style dining helps children to:

- **Become more independent** by practising practical skills they can use at home and in the wider community.
- **Explore different foods** in a relaxed environment, without pressure, while seeing their friends enjoying a range of foods.
- **Develop communication and social skills** through making choices, requesting, sharing, waiting and interacting with others.
- **Take responsibility** for their own place, belongings and simple lunchtime routines.

Eating together makes lunchtime a valuable part of our Equals Curriculum, providing meaningful opportunities to develop independence, communication and everyday life skills.

# Arrival & Dismissal

A prompt, safe start and end to the day

## Arrival

- Gates open from 8.45am and teachers will be there to greet you.
- Children should be ready for the register at 8.55am

| Class                             | Times                      | Entrance                                                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nursery                           | Part time 8.50am – 11.55am | Wessex Street through the Main Entrance Gate                  |
| Reception                         | 8.50am – 3.05pm            |                                                               |
| Specialist Inclusion Base         | 8.50am - 3.05pm            | Middle gate on Braintree Street                               |
| Specialist Autism Classes         | 8.50am - 3.05pm            | KS1 gate on Braintree Street                                  |
| Key Stage 1 – Year 1 and Year 2.  | 8.50am - 3.10pm            |                                                               |
| Key Stage 2 – Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. | 8.50am - 3.15pm            | KS2 entrance on Wessex Street or KS2 gate on Braintree Street |

# Arrival & Dismissal

A prompt, safe start and end to the day

## Dismissal

- Please line up outside the classroom for a safe and calm dismissal.
- Children remain seated and walk to the exit door only when their collecting adult is identified by the teacher and the teacher calls the child's name.
- Please inform the office if someone else will be collecting your child – they will need to collect an orange slip from the office.
- Please arrive on time for collection where possible, as some children can become anxious or upset if they are waiting after their classmates have gone home

# Attendance

Every day in school helps children learn, belong and thrive

## Our expectation

- Our school attendance target is 97%.
- Regular attendance supports learning, routines, friendships and progress.
- Even small amounts of absence add up over time.

## We will keep you informed

- We will share your child's attendance with you each term.
- Green (good): 97%+
- Amber (needs improvement): 92–96%
- Red (serious concern): 91% and below

## Please work with us

- Contact school promptly if your child is absent.
- Please speak to us early if there are barriers affecting attendance.
- Working together gives children the best chance to succeed.

# Health, Medical Needs & Safety

Please keep us up to date so we can keep your child safe

- Tell us about allergies, medical conditions and any changes to your child's health needs.
- Ensure prescribed medication held in school is in date and replaced when required – please hand in via the school office.
- Children who need glasses should wear them every day or have an agreed pair available in school.
- Please send a clean, filled, reusable water bottle each day.

# Healthy Snacks

Helping children stay healthy and keeping our school safe for children with allergies.

We provide children with a healthy snack each day, with options such as toast, cereal, crackers and fruit

## Please do not send

- Crisps, nachos, chocolate, sweets, cakes, biscuits, popcorn or similar snack foods.
- Fried chicken or chips, pies, pasties, sausage rolls, doughnuts or pizza.

If your child has a restricted diet, your SENCO will speak with you about suitable snack-time arrangements to meet your child's individual needs.

## Drinks

- We are a water-only school.
- Please do not send juice, squash, caffeinated drinks or fizzy drinks.

## Nut-free school

- Please do not send nuts or products containing nuts.
- Some children have severe and potentially life-threatening nut allergies.
- Items that do not meet the policy will be kept safely and returned to parents/carers; school fruit can be offered instead.

# Our Healthy Minds Approach

Supporting healthy habits around screens and smartphones

## What we advocate

- No smartphones for primary-aged children.
- Reduced and limited screen time for primary-aged children.

## What we pledge in school

- Screens are used only when they are necessary for learning.
- Home learning will not be set on screens.
- We want children to have time for reading, play, conversation, creativity and sleep.

Please see our [Healthy Minds Policy](#) for further information.

# Online Safety

Open conversations and sensible boundaries help children use technology safely

## Talk and explore together

- Explore together – find out what games, apps and videos your child enjoys online.
- Let your child show you their favourite online activities and how they use them.
- Talk about staying safe online using simple language, pictures or visuals.
- Check how they are feeling and support them if something online makes them worried or uncomfortable.

## Set safe boundaries

- Check age ratings before your child uses new games or apps.
- Set clear and consistent rules for when and how devices are used.
- Use parental controls and privacy settings to help keep your child safe.
- Use simple language or visuals to help your child understand online rules.

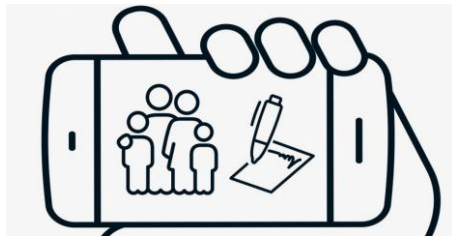
## We will support families

- Children take part in half-termly online safety sessions.
- We will offer workshops and share current advice.
- Families can bring devices to workshops for help setting up safety features.

# Important – Check Arbor

Arbor is now a key way we communicate with families.

- Download and use the Arbor App and make sure you can log in.
- Keep notifications switched on so important messages are not missed.
- Check Arbor regularly – even if you have not received a notification.
- Keep your phone number, email address and other contact details up to date.
- If you are having difficulty accessing Arbor, please tell the School Office so we can help you.



**PLEASE DON'T MISS MESSAGES**

## Important – Check Tapestry

Tapestry is our **online learning journal** that allows us to share your child's learning and progress with you.

- We share special moments, achievements and progress from your child's time at school.
- Observations may include photos, videos and a short description of their learning.
- Posts often link to your child's individual targets and next steps.
- Parents can view, comment and share achievements from home too.
- We also look at Tapestry photos together as a whole class, giving children the opportunity to celebrate their own and their friends' learning and achievements.
- Tapestry helps us celebrate progress and creates a strong link between home and school.



**PLEASE SHARE WOW MOMENTS FROM HOME**

# Working Together With Families

Children do best when school and home give consistent, supportive messages. Working together and keeping in touch between home and school helps us support your child to feel secure, build confidence and make progress.

## At home

- **Sharing books together** – look at pictures, talk about what you can see and enjoy the story together.
- **Encouraging independence** – give your child time to have a go at everyday tasks for themselves.
- **Practicing skills from school** through everyday activities and routines.
- **Checking your child's school bag regularly** for letters, belongings or anything that needs to be returned to school.
- **Celebrating small steps and achievements** – every bit of progress is important.

## Stay connected

- **Attend parent meetings and workshops** where possible.
- **Read class and school newsletters** to keep up to date with what is happening.
- **Check Arbor regularly and enable notifications** so you don't miss important messages or updates.
- **Keep us updated** about anything that may affect your child at school.
- **Talk to us** if you have any questions, worries or information you would like to share.

## Support success

- **Prioritise regular attendance and punctuality** to help your child feel settled in their daily routines.
- **Support school expectations and routines** using consistent, positive approaches at home and school.
- **Encourage independence** by giving your child time and support to have a go themselves.
- **Enjoy wider experiences together** such as visiting the library, park, shops or places in the community.
- **Celebrate progress**, including the small steps that are important for your child.

# Please Come Into the Playground and Say Hello

Small, regular contact helps us build strong relationships with families.

## COME IN

When the playground is open in the morning, where possible, please come in rather than waiting at the gate or sending children in by Themselves.

## SAY HELLO

A quick hello helps children see home and school are working together and helps staff get to know families.

## SHARE

Pass on a brief message if there is something we need to know. Longer conversations can be arranged for a suitable time.

# Thank You

We look forward to working with you this year

# Questions?

**Everyone Achieves • Everyone Belongs • Everyone Thrives**