



**Carlton**  
Primary School

**Let your light shine!**

**Head Teacher – Mr Adam Pritchard-Jenkins**

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

### **Reception starters September 2021**

**Dear Parents/Carers,**

As Headteacher at Carlton I can certainly say the team here are looking forward to welcoming your child(ren) as they get ready to start their reception year next term. It is not just about the children, it is also about you as parents and how we can work together to get the best for your family as part of our school community.

Many of you already have a connection to Carlton with children already in school or attending nursery, however we are welcoming some new families who have not met us yet. I especially thank those parents for the faith put in us as they have been unable to make the usual visits to school and no doubt will have the most questions and interest in finding out more. I hope you have heard that we are an open and friendly school, where staff work hard for children and in partnership with parents. That said the strange last year has not allowed the usual level of parent and teacher interaction. We very much hope restrictions will lift sufficiently to enable a more 'normal' transition into school and hopefully parent visits later this term.

I fully appreciate as a parent myself how important the choice of school is for your child. We are a very caring and nurturing school balanced with a work hard play hard attitude. We are committed to delivering a broad and excited curriculum with a host of enrichment and extended opportunities for learning that values the development of the whole child. We plan carefully to build on knowledge and skills across school to support children as they progress through our Key Stages in preparation for transition to high school and a life of learning.

**What next?** Miss Radley, our Early Years Leader, will be in touch shortly with a number of dates and opportunities:

- You will receive a welcome pack with school information and some helpful resources.
- We begin to make contact with feeder nursery schools and child minders to liaise over assessment and any additional needs.
- We will host a parent welcome meeting. This may be virtual or if possible in person as a group or in smaller groups. We will introduce key staff and explain Government changes to the Early Years Curriculum and assessment from September, explain how things work and give a chance to ask questions.
- Towards the end of the school year will plan to arrange visits to school for children and parents to meet class teachers and have a chance to take part in some settling in activities to help boost confidence and reassure.
- We will share some welcome video messages, stories and other resources.

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## FAQs

### How will my child cope?

The question every year (and I have been there as a parent) is how will parents cope!!! Every year children astound us all by arriving, settling quickly and thriving in school. Last year was astonishing after an extended lockdown and little opportunity for in-school transition visits. Children arrived and got stuck in. The key is how parents and school staff present the exciting opportunity and look positive about the move to Reception – children will take our adult lead.

### What if something isn't right?

This is a partnership and you know your child best. If there is something that concerns us or we have any positive suggestions our staff will be in touch. If parents have any worries it is always best to raise them early with staff so we can address them and support your child. Significant issues are very rare or long lived. Talk to us!

### There is a lot in the news at the moment about the impact of lockdown, especially on younger children. Should I be worried?

As a parent it is natural and right to be concerned about your child and want the best. 'Catch up' is an unhelpful term and pressure. 'Recovery' (if needed) is a longer term process which we in school are very attuned to. We will move at the right pace, working on the right things to support our children for the best long term outcomes – no gimmicky quick fixes! The issues raised recently have been around language and social development as a result of isolation and lack of interaction. There has been a national increase in the number of children receiving additional support for language. A few things are key:

- Lockdown has not been the same for every child. Some children have had more adult attention at home than normal, which is often positive. Effects are therefore hard to generalise.
- Receiving additional support if needed is a really good thing. The response to the pandemic from many schools has been to have an increased focus on language development and social skills which has been a positive response and has identified this need.
- Reception curriculum has a huge focus on social, emotional and language development so children will experience exactly what they need to develop.
- Carlton has invested heavily in Speech and Language capacity. We have commissioned a specialist S&L company who has worked with us since September assessing children, developing programmes of intervention and training staff. The Early Years Team have attended government funded training in early speech and language to be able to deliver the NELI programme.





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### How can parents get involved in school?

As we hopefully return to greater normality there will be an increasing number of ways parents can support school and get involved. **Our Parent Teacher Association** meets to plan fundraising and other community activities throughout the year and are always on the look out for helpers and people keen to take on formal committee roles e.g as secretary. Volunteering in school has been on hold but hopefully this will return soon. **Volunteers** can assist in many ways from helping staff prepare resources, listening to readers or helping on school trips or other activities in school. **Becoming a school governor** is another way to really get involved and help shape the strategic direction of the school. We are always keen to hear from **parents who have any specific skills or talents** that they would be keen to share whether that is sports coaching, art and craft activity, knowledge of local history etc or **links to work places** for children to understand business and career opportunities. If you have something to offer we would be keen to hear from you.

That's it from me for now. I look forward to meeting you this term and working together to make this exciting next step into school a positive one for your child. This will lay the important foundation to the next 7 years of growing, developing and learning at Carlton.

Kind regards,

Adam Pritchard-Jenkins

Headteacher

