Dear parents and Carers,

Firstly we would like to say a big thank you for allowing us to visit your children at home and for making us feel so welcome. It was lovely to see the children eagerly waiting to meet us and share their toys. Home visits are a valuable part of our induction process and allow the children to get to know us a little bit more before starting here at Lickey Hills Primary School and Nursery.

It has been a wonderful two weeks and we have enjoyed getting to know the children. They seemed to have settled right in and it is great to seem so many happy children arriving in the morning looking very smart in their new uniform. The children have learnt where to put their belongings and are becoming accustomed to the new routines. They have made lots of new friends and are enjoying playing in the different areas. Sometimes a child may settle initially and then become unsettled after a few weeks. This is a common behaviour as the children realise they are coming to Nursery every week, this usually lasts a short period of time so please try not to worry. If your child is finding it hard to settle each morning then we will contact you so that we can work together on finding ways to help with this transition. There will also be a member of staff available on the phone if you wish to check on how they are once they have been dropped off. We understand that leaving an upset child can be just as stressful for the parent as it is for the child so do please contact us for reassurance if needed.

In nursery we value the importance of learning through play and we choose our themes and topics based on the children's interests and stories they love. The themes will change each half-term. Our first theme is ‘All about ourselves’, this will allow the children to get to know each other and explore nursery. It will include us learning about our body, our home and our family and friends. For each theme we will send a letter home with details of an activity for your child to complete. This is not compulsory but it would be lovely for your child to share their wonderful creations with their friends.

We will keep you updated about the themes and special days through the school website, text messages and the communication folders. The folders will come home on your child’s last session of the week. Please return the emptied communication folder on your child’s first day back in nursery. Children do not need to bring in an additional bag other than this communication folder. This helps us to ensure we do not miss any communication that has been placed in a bag that remains unseen on your child’s peg. On a day when the communication folder remains in school we ask you to put any letters or other communication in the communication box that will be placed outside the nursery every morning and afternoon. We will check the box each day and respond accordingly.

Each week we will choose two children to be star of the week. We chose our star of the weeks for lots of different reasons like, being a kind friend, using kind words, trying hard to tidy up, getting changed on their own in PE or doing some super counting. We will explain this to the children however, it would be lovely if you could chat to them about it too.

You may have already seen our ‘proud cloud’ by the entrance to nursery, we love sharing your child’s special achievements in school and we would also like to celebrate your proud moments from home. This could be when they dress themselves independently or they tried hard to use a knife and fork. It could be when they share with a sibling or a friend, taking it in turns whilst playing game. We will send some clouds home in the communication folder but please feel free to take some when you are dropping off or collecting.

We want the children to have lots of fun, enjoy their learning and would like to share their experiences with you through our electronic observation programme ‘2Build a profile’. The email address you provided in the induction packs will be entered into the 2simple package . It is a secure online system, when you receive a profile invitation please consent so that we can share your child’s learning journey with you. If you do not receive a request please let us know. The observations will be sent to your email at the end of each month. In addition to this, you will also be able to see some of the fun we have been having by checking the reception pages on the school website.

Finally, some general reminders:

* Please ensure you have returned any outstanding forms to us from your induction packs and the £10 voluntary creative fun, if you wish to contribute. This fund really does help us to make the year extra special for all of the children. We use the funds for cooking, food tasting and creative activities. Please put the cash into an envelope with your child’s name on the front.
* Every day your child should arrive with coat, the weather can change quickly so it might be sunny in the morning but by the afternoon it could be raining. The children will continue to use the outdoor play area whatever the weather!
* If you haven’t already please label your child’s belongings, including their water bottle, lunch box, clothing, wellingtons and PE bag.
* Please provide a PE kit in a labelled bag and place in the baskets on the shelves in the cloakroom.
* From time to time your child may have a toileting accident, become unwell or may been adult assistance. Please ensure that the intimate care policy has been read, signed and returned even if your child does not have regular needs. This will give us permission to help support your child if needed. Also please leave a set of spare clothes on your child’s peg.

Thank you for your support and patience throughout the first two weeks. We want your children to have a wonderful and happy year in Nursery ready for Reception. If you have any questions please catch us as the end of the day when the children have been safely released to their adults. If you would like to arrange a meeting for any other conversations or concerns please talk to us through our school email address. (office@lickeyhills.worcs.sch.uk).

Kind regards,

Miss Cooke and Mrs Green