



Silsden Primary School

27th September 2024

Dear Parents

We have decided to take on board a new 'Buddy System' with our new Reception children, pairing up with our current Year 6 children. After lots of research and positive experiences from staff who have tried this system before, we are going to move forward with this very soon.

Everything points towards this being a venture beneficial to both parties, establishing a social bond, similar to that of a sibling, a brother, a sister, or a cousin, focusing mainly on developing social and emotional ties, as well as deepening and developing everybody's language and communication.

By using a buddy system in our learning programs, we will encourage everyone involved, not only to interact with their Buddy, but hope they will support and motivate each other too, at different points of the day. It might be tempting to think that the younger buddies benefit the most, but research shows that the older children can show amazing growth through the experience too.

We hope to train the older buddies to take care for their younger buddies, giving them a sense of responsibility, such as helping them out on the big playground at lunchtime, supporting their reading development, making them books and telling them stories and other activities throughout the year. It will definitely be a two-way support system where both buddies will hopefully benefit from developing empathy, understanding and acceptance of differences. They also learn valuable life skills, such as patience, cooperation and communication.

The older children have already penned a letter introducing themselves to their buddies, which will be given to the little buddies. First though, the big buddies will have training to prepare, before they meet their buddies to agree rules and expectations, e.g. dealing with problems that might arrive, not treating them like babies, etc.

We shall then set up our first meetings, in the classrooms, with all staff members to observe and support, then we will set up other activities and links throughout the year.

We will keep you informed of the progress of our new system.
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Many thanks

Reception and Year 6 Teachers.