

30th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we have had a few questions and concerns from parents around the start of the academic year, I wanted to send a letter to confirm some details and hopefully put your minds at rest.

Lunches and Snack

Both classes in Reception have an early lunch and the children can have up to an hour to eat their lunch. The midday staff support the children for the first half of lunch, when the teaching staff then come in to support any children who are still eating.

We encourage children to eat as much as possible, but we cannot promise that we will be able to see all children's lunch before they leave for their play. We ask them to show an adult their plate/lunchbox before lining up – however some children don't always do this as they are keen to get outside to play.

If your child is not enjoying the school lunches, we recommend that you bring in a packed lunch they will eat, if you are concerned about the amount of food they are eating during lunch.

There is no need to bring in a snack for snack time, as we have the government funded fruit and vegetables provided. All children will have this (should they wish to) as part of our 'Healthy School' pledge. Unfortunately, we cannot give your child any crackers or crisps (or similar) as this does not constitute a healthy snack and all children should be eating the same snack.

Parents Evening

At present, we cannot confirm the format of parents evening. Due to the changing nature of the guidelines, we are in discussions how best to proceed with these and as soon as we know more, we will let you know.

I understand that some parents have been asking how their child is settling in, but due to the current climate – we are unable to have lengthy conversations at drop off and collection times. Please rest assured though, that if we have any concerns about your child, one of our staff will speak with you at the end of the day.

We ask you please to ensure that your child's water bottle is filled only with water and that these are clearly labelled. Unfortunately, we have some water bottles which are the same and without names on, which is confusing and not COVID compliant. Please also ensure that all items of your child's clothing are labelled clearly as we have a number of jumpers and cardigans with no name on and no owner.

We appreciate that it is a time of uncertainty due to the current climate and some children have not been in a school setting, or similar, for a number of months. We have very experienced staff here in our early years team, who care for every child and nurture them to ensure that every child is happy, feels safe and enjoys their time in school. We encourage parents to be fully involved in their child's learning experience - as much as possible – even though this is difficult given the current situation. As we develop this two-way partnership between parents and our staff, we ask that you put your trust in us to care for your child, while providing them with enriched and varied learning opportunities.

I hope that answers some of the questions you may have, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher if you have any further queries.

Your Sincerely,

Mrs. Castle

Assistant Headteacher

EYFS Lead