

Wednesday 7th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

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

Lunches and Snack

Children in our nursery class have an early lunch and the children can have up to 40 minutes to eat their lunch. Two members of the nursery team support the children during lunchtime, encouraging independent eating and for them to eat as much as possible. Children who have a hot lunch, if the staff feel your child hasn't eaten much, we will ensure to let you know when you collect them. Should either we, or you, feel they are not eating enough or enjoying their meals, we would recommend you bring them in a packed lunch instead. For children who bring a packed lunch into school, we always ensure packaging or uneaten food goes back into their lunch boxes, so you can see what they have eaten.

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.

EExAT

EExAT is our online learning journey. For parents of children who have returned to us from the last academic year, you will, from this week start receiving your weekly photos again. Thank you for your patience during a very unusual end to the last academic year; for the last few weeks while we have been settling the children back into school and also helping to welcome and settle all our new children.

For all our new parents, we will soon be sending out a letter explaining EExAT and providing you with a personal log in code for your child. You will then be able to download the EExAT app, and register so that you can then begin to receive photos and comments from your child's keyworker. This is a great way for you to see them enjoying their play and achieving something new at school. We encourage parents to also upload photos from home, so that we

can share these photos with your child and talk about the exciting things they have got up to outside of school. We love to hear about trips outs, family gatherings and holidays.

Keyworker phone calls

For all our new parents, this week your child's keyworker will give you a call to introduce themselves as your child's keyworker and to let you know how they have settled into nursery over the last few weeks. This will be a great opportunity for us to let you know how they are getting on and if you have any questions for us, these can be answered during the call.

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.

We 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, as we need to get back into the classroom as soon as possible, as we still have children in the classroom. However, we do hope our phone calls home to you this coming week will help. 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.

Belongings

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. Should you accidentally take home another child's cardigan, jumper or hoodie could we please ask that you bring it back to school the following day so it can be reunited with its owner.

Drop off and collection times

Can we please politely remind parents of the drop off and collection times, especially our morning and afternoon drop off times, which are 8.30am and 12.30pm. We kindly ask that parents are waiting at the gates for these times,

for when a member of the team comes down to open up, so we can ensure a quick turnaround for staff to return back to the classroom to be with the children.

Warm coats and wellies

As the weather seems to be getting colder and wetter, can we please ask that you send your child into nursery with a warm coat and once it becomes even colder a hat and gloves. Children are able to free-flow between inside and outside throughout the day so we like to ensure they are warm enough whilst playing outside.

We would like to use the big garden more; however, with the rain it is becoming very wet and muddy. We are therefore asking parents to please bring a pair of named wellies into school, which can be left on your child's peg so should they wish to play in the big garden, (which most of them do) so they are then not having to sit in wet muddy shoes in the classroom for the rest of their day.

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 nursery 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 keyworker if you have any further queries.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. Chesters and Mrs. Jeffs

Nursery Class Leads