



BEARWOOD Primary and Nursery School

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Learning, Enjoying & Succeeding Together

Wednesday 13th May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Playtime at Bearwood is changing!

At Bearwood, we will always strive to ensure that children are living their learning, and it is clear to see that the experiences your children are receiving whilst at school have become more engaging and more frequent over recent years. The next phase of our vision is to change the way we play.

Did you know that 20% of your child's time in school is playtime? This is the equivalent of **1.4 years** of their primary education, so it is imperative that we make this amount of time as good as possible. There are many proven benefits of good quality play which include, but are not limited to:

- More enjoyment at school
- Less disputes between children
- Improved behaviour
- Fewer accidents
- Improvement in negotiation skills
- Increase in physical activity

As we improve play opportunities for your children, they will be exposed to more challenges, have greater freedom about where and how to play and will use more of the school grounds for more of the year. All of this will, of course, be underpinned by rigid risk assessments, and is inline with best practise on health and safety, development and wellbeing. In the coming months you will be invited to events where you can come and see for yourselves what is happening and have the opportunity to join in too.

In order to play well, there are certain things that children will need eg; things to play with. We will be asking for help with resourcing some of this play equipment. Please take a look at the tubs near the front entrance and if you have any of the requested items to donate, we would be very grateful. If you have other items you think we may be able to use, please **don't** add them to the bins, but come and speak to me, as it may be something we would love to accept.

Our uniform will be adapted from September to accommodate more outdoor and active play and more information on this will follow. After May half term, we are inviting children to wear their PE kits every day, along with black trainers. This clothing can consist of plain black joggers or shorts, a purple PE T-shirt or a white polo shirt. Please be aware that children may come home messier from Summer 2, which is a sign of great playtimes! To you, this may look like a messy T-shirt, but to us it is a sign of free play, being creative, sand, mud and so much more.



Play is not instead of learning: Play is learning

Warm regards

Hayley Goodfellow
Deputy Headteacher and Curriculum Lead.



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