

Darwen St James' C of E Primary Academy

St James' Crescent – Darwen – Lancashire – BB3 0EY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Early Years – Early Adopter Status

At the end of their Reception year we assess your children and decide if they have met a set of early learning goals in different areas of learning. The government has decided to change the early learning goals that we use to assess your child and has offered schools the chance to adopt the new early learning goals one year early, in September 2020.

Our Academy has decided to become an early adopter school, starting from our Nursery provision. From this year we will be using the new early learning goals to assess your children throughout Nursery and at the end of their Reception year. New guidance to support learning over the Reception year has been released alongside these new early learning goals, this is called Development Matters. Development Matters is not a checklist of things that your child should do, rather it is guidance for adults who work with children, to help them to support and embed your child's learning journey.

What does this mean for your child?

Nothing will change for your child. We will continue to offer them the highest quality learning experiences in school and we will continue to develop the whole child, thinking about how they learn and who they are as individuals. We hope that your child is unaware that anything different is going on, it is definitely business as usual for them!

What does this mean for parents / carers?

Nothing will change for parents/carers. We will continue to support you to the best of our ability and value your opinions and knowledge of your child. We will still use Target Tracker to record your child's learning journey. Many of you may want to see the new goals and guidance and links to these are on our website.

What does this mean for early years teachers?

Our teachers have studied the changes and new guidance closely and are quickly becoming experts in what is expected of your child. We are working hard to baseline your children and will release those results to you in the next couple of weeks. At the end of the year we will still use our knowledge of your child, alongside some evidence we have gathered throughout the year, to make judgements about whether they have met their early learning goals. This year the Local Authority will not moderate our judgements. We would hope that the government will ask our opinion of the changes they have made and that we can help to inform the future of early years education.

Please come and talk to us if you have any questions, worries or concerns about this!

Best wishes,

EYFS Team.