



# Caterpillar News

September 2022

A huge welcome (and welcome back for some!) to Caterpillars. ☺ We hope that you've all had an enjoyable summer and that you managed to enjoy some sunshine and keep safe and well. For our new families - thank you for choosing Caterpillars for your children. We look forward to getting to know them, and you, over the coming months.

It would be lovely if you could give the children a family photo to bring in for our family tree. Alternatively, you could email this to us at [caterpillars@millbrook.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:caterpillars@millbrook.swindon.sch.uk). Please put your child's name as the subject of the email.

We are now approaching the end of our induction weeks and we are really happy about how well our new Caterpillars and returning Caterpillars are settling in. ☺

Please remember, we are always here to talk about any concerns/worries or even celebrations, just give us an email.

## Arrival

When you drop off and collect your child from their session, please wait in line outside until you are called in by a member of staff. Currently, the line for waiting is to the left of the flowerpots by the main entrance. **Please give your child their bag to put on their peg as we are encouraging them to be increasingly independent.**

Please make sure that you arrive at the correct time at the beginning of your session (morning session 8.30am and afternoon session 12.30pm). Arriving late can be unsettling for your child and means that carpet routines are disrupted. Thank you for your ongoing support.

## Please name everything!

It would be really helpful if every child could bring in a bag of **named** clothes (in case of any accidents) each day and leave it on their peg in a **named** bag. We're afraid we cannot keep them here (unless your child is full time) as the pegs are used by different children morning and afternoon. Please **name** everything!! This includes uniform, coats, shoes, wellies and all other clothing.



If your child is still learning to use the toilet independently, please chat to us about it so that we can support your child in pre-school. If your child needs to wear 'pull-ups' whilst at pre-school, let us know and please provide a **named** bag with spare pull-ups, wipes, nappy bags and spare clothes. 😊

It would be great if the shoes that your child wears to Caterpillars are as simple as possible for them to remove and put back on again - this helps them to build confidence and independence. Many thanks. 😊

### Snack Time

Thank you for all of the payments we have received already via Parent Pay. Please activate your Parent Pay account and pay for this term's snack if you haven't done so yet. The cost is 30p per session ( £9.00 in total for 15 hours and £18.00 for 30 hours) If there are any issues or problems, please ring the school office. You **DO NOT** need to bring any food or water bottles from home unless your child is staying for lunch.



### New children

You will receive confirmation with this newsletter which colour group your child is in and who their key person is. Your child's key person will spend additional time with them during group activities and Play-to-Learn time. They will be responsible for most of their observations, assessments and next steps in learning. 😊

This week, we are still helping the children to get used to our routines and timetables. We will begin some small group and whole class activities such as 'Explore Time' and 'Squiggle Time' in the next few weeks.

### PE

We will have PE every Tuesday morning and afternoon. Whilst we do not change into PE kit for this activity, we do take off our socks and shoes. Please dress your children appropriately to take part. Please **name** shoes as we are often faced with three pairs of identical shoes or five Caterpillar sweatshirts with no names. It can be tricky matching them up!

### Welly Wednesday

If your child attends on a Wednesday, please could they have a pair of **named** wellies which they can leave in school. We provide fleeces and waterproof suits for every child on this day. However, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each Wednesday.



## **Blog**

On a Friday, we will be writing a weekly blog to share some of the learning that has been happening in Caterpillar class. If you have given permission for your child to appear in photographs, then you will see pictures of your child on the blog throughout the year. We will send out more information about the blog soon.

## **Admission to Primary School**

If your child was born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 they are due to start school September 2023 and you should apply for a school place for them. All applications for a primary or infant school place should be made to Swindon Borough Council online via the following link

[https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school\\_places\\_and\\_admissions/427/primary\\_school\\_places\\_and\\_admissions](https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions/427/primary_school_places_and_admissions)

**Please may we remind you that a place in Caterpillars does not guarantee a place in our Reception classes.**

## **Attendance**

If your child is unwell or unable to attend Caterpillars for any reason please leave a message on our absence line 01793 872800 option 1 or send us an email to [caterpillars@millbrook.swindon.sch.uk](mailto:caterpillars@millbrook.swindon.sch.uk)

## **Important dates:**

Individual & Family School Photographs 4<sup>th</sup> October

Teacher Training days - School closed for Caterpillars: 19<sup>th</sup> October, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> June

October half term: 20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October