



Caterpillar News

September 2023

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, also a picture of them as a baby for our display. Alternatively, you could email this to us at caterpillars@millbrook.swindon.sch.uk. Please put your child's name as the subject of the email. Please do not send these on Clasdojo.

We are now approaching the end of our induction weeks and we are really happy with 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 ParentPay. Please activate your Parent Pay account and pay for this term's snack if you haven't done so yet. The cost is 35p per session (£1.75 in total for 15 hours and £3.50 for 30 hours every week) 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.



Lunch

If your child is staying for lunch please can you let a member of staff know if they are having a hot dinner when you drop them off in the morning. If your child is having packed lunch please provide a healthy lunch box with all fruit to be cut up please to prevent choking. Also, please may we ask that you do not give your child sweets, popcorn or nuts due to some children having allergies.

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 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 Wednesday 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! Please make sure your shoes are easy

for your children to put on themselves as this helps with their independence and confidence.

Welly Wednesday AM and Friday PM



If your child attends these sessions, please could they have a pair of **named** wellies which they can leave in school. Please provide your child with a coat now that the weather is getting cooler. We provide waterproof suits for every child Welly Walk days. However, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!

Admission to Primary School

If your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 they are due to start school September 2024 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

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

Important dates:

Individual & Family School Photographs 3rd October

Teacher Training days - School closed for Caterpillars: 18th October, 3rd January, 19th February, 3rd June & 24th July

October half term: 19th-27th October