28 September 2020

Dear Parents

I am writing to let you know the arrangements for “Parents’ Evening” for our Reception class this term. For obvious reasons, it is not going to be possible to hold face to face meetings in the same way as we have in the past. However, we feel strongly that it is more important than ever this year to have the opportunity for some formal communication between home and school. Therefore, for Year groups 1 – 6 we are arranging telephone appointments. For our Reception class we are trying something a little bit different.

Rather than phone calls, between September and the middle of November, each of our Reception children will be a “focus” child for a week. During the week Mrs McArdle and the team in Reception will create learning opportunities for the whole class based around the interests of the focus children for that week. We have already had dinosaurs, babies, den-building with boxes and messy play as themes in the class! During the week the staff will carry out specific observations on the focus children looking at their style of learning, how they engage with the space around them, how they are getting along with others and their use of language, amongst other things. Parents will then be invited into school to discuss the observations and have the opportunity to contribute. Each child’s parents will have their own appointment time. This is a very personal and useful way of you getting feedback about how your child is doing, and a great opportunity for us to get to know the children even better.

Some parents have already been invited in and I know they have found the experience very useful and special.

We are very conscious of the fact that for those children who will not be “focus children” until later in the term this could feel like a long time to wait to get some feedback on how they are doing. Therefore, it is vital that if you have something that you would like to pass on to us, or feel that you could do with just touching base with Mrs McArdle, you do get in touch either via email or over the phone at any time. I know at present we are discouraging parents from coming into school to see teachers but we are still very much available to talk.

We are also in the process of introducing a program called ‘Tapestry’ in Reception which is an online tool that we can use to communicate regularly with you and also share some of the things your child has been doing in school through photos and video.

Many thanks

Mrs J Paisley

Headteacher