

2nd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for attending the Google meeting on Wednesday 30th September.

The PowerPoint presentation will be available on the school website as an overview of the discussions. Parents/Carers had the following questions and interests:

Snack time: what is available?

- free fruit/vegetable available daily
- milk is free for all children under 5, however you need to register online at <https://www.coolmilk.com/parents/>
- children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day, so please ensure that they have a named water bottle in school every day
- please **no juice** nor **flavoured water!**

Lunches: can the menu be reviewed?

- puddings are unhealthy
- (I will pass this concern on...)

What behaviour strategies are used in the setting?

There are many ... including:

- singing songs to gather children to the carpet
- tidy up song
- who is listening/ looking song – children repeat
- photos and signs on display with class expectations
- circle time (discussion on behaviours and expectations)
- reminders – use kind hands, kind feet and kind words
- spotty mat or chair - for time out / thinking time – about 1 minute followed by discussion

Do we console the children when they're upset, given current situation?

- Yes, we do!
- by holding their hand / side hug (avoiding face to face where possible)
- sitting next to an adult
- asking other children to console them

Outdoor learning: a choice or requirement?

- outdoor learning is an integral part of the Early Years curriculum and activities are carefully planned for, therefore all children will access the outdoors daily
- children are divided into 2 groups (Butterflies and Bees) and alternate accessing the outdoor area
- all children access outdoor learning 3 times a day (\pm 30 minutes per session)

Is there a reason why Phonics is taught in the morning and Maths in the afternoon?

Not particularly, it just seems to sit well in the timetable.

- We follow a structured Phonics programme (Read Write Inc.), which is taught in discreet sessions. Whilst the knowledge children acquire during these sessions will filter into the rest of their learning, it is not necessarily based around the current theme.
- New maths concepts are introduced at morning input and do form part of the existing theme, for example: the story Jack and the Beanstalk could be the basis of teaching size and measurement through role play and exploration. The concept will be developed and explored within the setting using a variety of activities in order to embed children's learning.
- The afternoon maths session could include whole class mental maths games or interactive games on the white board.

Baseline assessments: will outcomes be shared with parents?

Yes, at 1:1 parent/teacher consultation meetings next half term. Date TBC.

Reminders:

- Please ensure your child has a spare set of clothes in a drawstring bag to be kept on their peg in case we need it. It does not need to be school uniform. The weather is changing and it is natural to have a little toilet accident or two, at this age.
- Their book bags will soon be populated with reading and library books and we want to keep these separate.
- We do go outside, so please ensure your child has a coat and appropriate footwear.

Keep informed of weekly activities and learning by:

- reading the weekly newsletter in the Early Years section of the school website
- accessing Twitter

Remember to share the Harvest assembly with your loved ones.

Please also watch the headteacher's '**meet the teacher video**' in the Parent/Carers section of the school website.

Thank you for your interest and co-operation, it is much appreciated.

Warmest regards,

Teri De Jesus