Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: Early Years Foundation Stage – Early Adopter Status**

At the end of the Reception year, we assess your children using the Early Learning Goals and make a judgement for each child about if the early learning goals have been met. There are seventeen early learning goals across seven different areas of learning.

The government has introduced a new statutory framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), with revised areas of learning and early learning goals, and has offered schools the chance to adopt the new framework one year early for the academic year 2020-2021.

Our school has decided to become an early adopter school and we will be using the new early learning goals to assess your children at the end of their Reception year. New guidance called Development Matters has also been published, which will support us in monitoring your child’s development and identifying if they are on-track to achieve their early learning goals at the end of the year.

At the end of the year, we will complete the EYFS profile for your child, which will be shared with you and submitted to the local authority. For each early learning goal, your child will be assessed as either:

- Expected - meeting the expected level of development

- Emerging – not yet meeting the expected level of development

These assessments will be used to decide if your child has achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD).

Alongside the areas of learning, we will also be observing the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning (Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, and Creating and Thinking Critically). These characteristics support your child’s learning across all areas and shows us how they are developing as a learner.

**What does this mean for your child?**

Nothing will change for your child. We will continue to offer them an engaging and stimulating provision that encourages imagination, creativity and enquiry. We will maintain our play-based ethos, identifying meaningful play opportunities that facilitate hands-on and open-ended learning. Adults will observe and interact with your child to support their learning and enable their progress, planning activities and enhancements carefully.

**What does this mean for parents / carers?**

Nothing will change for parents/carers. As always, we will work in partnership with you to build a positive relationship between home and school. 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 MarvellousMe to record your child’s learning journey and collect examples of their independent learning alongside their writing and maths work.

**What does this mean for early years practitioners?**

Our staff have studied the changes and new guidance closely and are developing a thorough working knowledge of the new EYFS. We are working hard to baseline your children to establish their starting points on the new framework. At the end of the year we will still use our knowledge of your child, alongside evidence we have gathered throughout the year, to make our professional judgement about whether they have met their early learning goals

I have attached details of the new early learning goals to this letter for your reference. Please note, these are used only at the end of the reception year to make a judgement on your child’s development; it is the areas of learning that are observed and tracked against as we move through the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions regarding this information. The Reception team are very much looking forward to working with you all over the coming year.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a safe and happy half term break.

Rachel Smith

Assistant Headteacher
EYFS leader

