

17th October 2018

Dear Parents / Carers

Foundation Stage

After October half term we will be starting 'Focus Weeks' for all children in Foundation Stage. This will begin on Monday 29th October.

Each child will be a 'focus child' 3 times a year, and there will be 4 'focus children' each week. This system is going to be in place to allow the staff to focus on your child's individual interests, gain a deeper understanding of each child as an individual and give us the knowledge to extend your children in the areas they need.

The week before your child is a focus child for the week, they will be sent home with a letter in their book bag and you will receive a text. This letter will ask you to write down your child's current interests or family events to help us to steer the learning in a direction that is exciting and engaging for your child. We will also ask you to send us some recent pictures of your child that they may wish to talk about to the class, these can be sent to us by email, uploaded to Tapestry or sent in your child's book bag. The sheet will also ask you to state which days are best for you to come in to discuss your child's week.

Before the week starts, your child's teacher will look at any previous assessments or observations of your child, alongside your home sheet, to produce some individual next steps for all staff to focus on during the week.

During your child's 'Focus week', all members of staff will observe your child closely through play, interacting with them and making detailed notes of any interactions they may have had with your child. All of these notes make up your child's focus week sheet. These notes will include what the member of staff observed your child doing, what they taught your child at that moment and what the outcome of the interaction was. The teaching could be modelling, encouraging, facilitating, questioning, explaining etc.

After your child's focus week, the Foundation Stage team will discuss their observation sheet and produce some personalised next steps to focus on with your child at home and at school. Everything the staff observed and taught your child, as well as their potential next steps will be shared with you the following week in a brief meeting at school.

For the weeks that your child is not a focus child, they will still receive their daily teaching inputs and have quality interactions with staff during their play, however these interactions will not be recorded in as much detail as they will be during their focus week.

In addition to the focus week meetings, you are invited to book a parent consultation on 7th or 8th November to discuss how your child is settling in to school.

Yours sincerely

The Foundation Stage Team

Learning and growing together