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Head Teacher: Mrs. C. Lindsay
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Monday 5th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a lovely start we have had to the school year! It has been wonderful helping the children settle into their new environment and to support them in their early stages of learning in the Reception setting.

As we aim to always keep parents informed about their children's learning, we would like to update you on our current '**Early Years – Early Adopter**' status.

At the end of their Reception year, the children are assessed against the early learning goals in different areas of learning and development, showing us how the children have progressed in line with age-related expectations.

The government have made changes to the early learning goals that we use to assess your child and has offered schools the chance to adopt the new early learning goals one year early, from September 2020.

We have decided to become an early adopter school and from this year 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 been released alongside these new early learning goals to support learning over the Reception year. Development Matters is not a checklist of things that your child should do, rather it is guidance for adults who work with children, to help them to support and embed your child's learning journey.

What does this mean for your child?

Nothing will change for your child. We will strive to offer them the highest quality learning experiences in school and we will continue to develop the whole child, thinking about how they learn and who they are as individuals. We hope that your child is unaware that anything different is going on; it is definitely business as usual for them!

What does this mean for parents / carers?

Nothing will change for parents/carers. 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 Tapestry to record your child's learning journey. Whilst we are waiting for Tapestry to update their assessment and recording profile, you may notice we are still uploading observations. We will update these in due course – the observations will remain the same but you may notice new learning and assessment statements added in the future. If you would like to see the new goals and guidance, the links to these are at the bottom of this letter.

What does this mean for early years teachers?

Our teachers have studied the changes and new guidance closely and understand how these will link to and support your child's learning journey in Reception. At the end of the year we will still use our knowledge of your child, alongside evidence we have gathered throughout the year (from both in school and the observations that parents have uploaded to Tapestry), to share a statement about whether they have met their early learning goals. This year the Local Authority will not moderate our judgements. We would hope that the government will ask our opinion of the changes and that we can help to inform the future of early years education.

What is the new guidance?

Below are hyperlinks to the new guidance from the Government. They are lengthy reads – there is no expectation for parents these documents.

[Early adopter schools: framework for the early years foundation stage](#)

[New Development Matters: non statutory curriculum guidance for the early years foundation stage](#)

Please come and talk to us if you have any questions, worries or concerns about this.

Kind regards

Miss Johnson
EYFS Lead and F2 Teacher