

Dear Parents and Carers,

16 October 2020

### Early Years – Early Adopter Status

At the end of the Reception year we assess your children and decide if they have met a set of early learning goals in different areas of learning. The Department for Education has decided to change the early learning goals that we use to assess your child and has provided schools with the opportunity to adopt the new early learning goals one year early, in September 2020.

Our school has decided to become an early adopter school and from this year we will be using the new Development Matters and Early Learning Goals to assess your children at the end of their Nursery and Reception year. New guidance to support learning over the year has been released alongside these new early learning goals, this is called Development Matters. 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 continue to offer high 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. Your child will be unaware of any changes, as it is most definitely business as usual for them!

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

Nothing will change for parents/carers. We will continue to engage with you as best we can, under current national circumstances due to Covid-19, to enable you to help your child at home. We value your thoughts, opinions and knowledge of your child and will seek these throughout the year.

### What does this mean for early years teachers?

Our teachers have studied the changes and new guidance closely and are quickly becoming experts in what is expected of your child. We are working hard to assess your children and identify and plan the next learning opportunities for them. 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 judgements about whether they have met the early learning goals. We would hope that the government will ask our opinion of the changes they have made and that we can help to inform the future of early years education.

Please send an e-mail to the school enquiry address or give us a call if you have any questions, worries or concerns about this!

Best wishes,

Miss Davis  
Phase 1 Lead.