



Newsletter Friday 5th November

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the half term break. We are so pleased with how the children have settled back into our preschool routines. I have enjoyed observing the children arrive this week and was thrilled to see their big smiles as they excitedly explored the different activities. One of our drivers is **ENGAGE** and that is exactly what I saw - children excited to explore and motivated to learn. As you know, our activities are carefully planned through the eyes of the children, following their interests and building on what they already know and can do.

Last summer we asked parents for some feedback and were thrilled with the wonderful comments we received. 100% of the parents who responded said they would describe the care their child receives and the planned activities on offer to meet their child's needs as OUTSTANDING.

Just a few of your lovely comments:

"Each of the staff are so giving, caring and encouraging to promote my child's individual needs."

"I am in awe of the scope and learning stations planned and I don't think I've ever seen the same set up twice!"

*"Flying Start is a fantastic nursery with a nurturing and encouraging environment that makes *** feel safe and comfortable with staff that give her the confidence to be herself and try new things."*

*"Thank you for taking the time to get to know *** so well; for praising her achievements, supporting her weaknesses and caring for her so effortlessly. I fell forever indebted and eternally grateful for all your collective work in looking after my little girl."*

We have also taken on board some suggestions for improvement e.g. we have the snack list on the notice board; all staff have time outside at pick up to feedback to parents; started daily name writing for our school leavers (all children get opportunities to write their name); more visitors and little trips out. Our Tapestry updates no longer show where children are achieving in monthly brackets which is one of the changes from the new statutory Early Years Foundation Stage document. However, we understand that parents like to know where their children are at, whether they are where they should be in comparison to their peers and how they can help at home. Therefore, I have attached an old document for parents (which is still helpful and relevant) called 'What to expect when...' It is a large document so can appear overwhelming, but look at the age bracket which is relevant to your child and it gives an idea of expectations and some ideas of what you can do at home. Please remember, children don't all progress at the same rate and may excel in different areas at different times. This is why the government has taken away these boxes to label children and instead look at the child as an individual where they are and what they need next.

Clothing

We are a preschool – children will get dirty and messy! Please send children in **old clothes** and **coats** that you don't mind getting dirty!

To ensure suitable ventilation in the hall, we continue to have the windows open. Please make sure children have warm indoor clothes.

Footwear

With our garden getting muddy and wet we ask that all children bring wellies and indoor shoes to preschool each day.

CAR PARK

We are extremely lucky to have a car park! However, I am aware of how tight it can be to be enter, park and exit. The entrance for the car park is from Walton Road and the exit from the car park is at the side onto the side road. **PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK THE EXIT!!** This is to help the flow of traffic in and out. If you don't want to use the exit gate, then please don't park in our car park. There is space on the road and some easy spaces outside the shop opposite. If you arrive at 9:10am our car park is much quieter.

We would like donations of old photo frames for our transient art please.

Makaton

We have been teaching children Makaton. Makaton is a language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.

Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. With Makaton, signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear.

Increasingly, Makaton is being used in an inclusive way with all children, not just for those with communication difficulties. Lots of parents of typically-developing children and settings such as nurseries and mainstream schools use it with their children too. It is beneficial for children with EAL (English as an additional language) as a way to help those children develop their spoken English skills. Many children's understanding develops ahead of their spoken language. Signing can help little children express themselves during this time and prevent or alleviate their frustrations caused by their current inability to communicate.

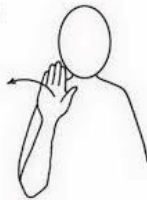
Makaton of the week:

Hello and Goodbye

Please and Thank you

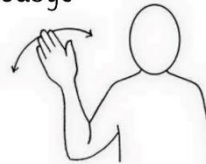
More

hello



Make sign at shoulder height

goodbye



Wave hand



Flat hand, palm down, covers top of other fist.

more

PLEASE



THANK YOU



Picking Up

Please inform staff in person, via text, phone or email if someone other than a parent is picking up.

Value of the Month

October is Respect

During circle time this week the children were exploring our value of respect, one of the children suddenly realised and shared with the group:

"I've just realised, when I throw lambkin out of my bed, I'm not being very respectful"

I love this quote, as the child has been able to apply her understanding of respect to other aspects of her life.

At home, use the words respect/respectful when talking to our children.

How are your children being respectful to their belongings?

Dates to Remember

Mon 1 st Nov	Return to nursery
Wk Beg 29 th Nov	Parent Consultations (By phone)
Thurs 9 th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Fri 10 th Dec	Christmas Concert at 11am

(all children welcome even if not their day)

At the moment – ONLY 2 guests per child please

Fri 17 th Dec	Christmas Party
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(All children welcome 9-12:15pm, even if not their day)

Fri 17 th Dec	Break up for Christmas –
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CLOSE at 12:15pm for all