

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back to the start of a new school year.

It has been lovely to see the children return this week and share news about our adventures during the summer break. The children who have moved rooms have done so with confidence which is great to see.

Next week we will welcome our new families, starting with stay and play sessions in the toddler room. Whilst these take place (1 hour daily), the toddler room children will spend time in ocean room supported by Becky and myself.

At the end of last term we sent out a parent questionnaire. Thank you to all of you that completed this. The response was very positive and we received some wonderful comments and feedback. Thank you.

One common theme for an area of improvement is the way in which we feedback about your child's day at school and what they have been learning. This is an area that we have worked hard to address over several years but continues to be something that we wish to improve.

Currently we use an online platform called Family where we upload photos and descriptions of what has been happening in each class on a weekly basis. We also encourage parents/carers to come into school when their child is a focus child to see what they have been doing and to look at their special learning journey. As I am sure you can appreciate, feeding back to over 80 families at the end of each session is not manageable. We also try to ensure that staff time is not taken away from children so have made a deliberate effort to cut down on unnecessary paperwork. However, staff do consistently observe all the children which allows them to plan appropriate next steps in their learning through continuous provision and adult led activities on a daily basis. This information is displayed in each classroom and is available for you to look at.

Very few parents' access Family or check to see what children have been doing. Also, very few parents take the time to read our newsletters. It would be valuable for some feedback on what platforms you would like to receive information. We understand that everyone is busy and want to create a way of communicating with you effectively without it being a burden or overwhelming.

Below is a link to a short survey asking your preference for how we will communicate with you during the school year. please take the time to complete the survey so that we can deliver a system that is best suited to your needs.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Zc8JnLNRFv>

Our Family app will cease to be in operation very soon due to the cost and due to the very low number users. Once we have received feedback from you, we will decide on how we move forward to ensure that communication between school and home is effective and user friendly.

I wish you a sunny and restful weekend and please look out for future correspondence.

Sally