



ST MATTHEW'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

10th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

EYFS Woodland and Meadows Update

As we come to the end of the first full week 'settling in', we would like to take the opportunity to say a huge well done to all of the children. It has been great to see them settle into their new environment so quickly, playing with their friends and building positive relationships with children and staff within the setting.

The children have come in each day to their classroom base and then enjoyed exploring their environment accessing both Meadows, Woodlands and the outdoors during 'free flow'. Children are able to choose where they would like to learn and play, spending as much time as they choose in any of these areas.

Some key updates about our EYFS setting were shared at the information meeting on 28th June, and we wanted to take this opportunity to reassure parents and carers of the key changes this year:

Our Early Years' setting works as one Early Years Unit, with two mixed Nursery and Reception classes; Woodland and Meadows. Each class has their own 'learning base' where the children will be dropped off and collected at the end of the day. However, most of the children's day is spent accessing the whole child-centred environment (including both classes and the outdoor area). During this transition period, we have very much focused on the similarities with Nursery settings they may be more familiar with, including our own, but as we continue with our transition over the next few weeks, more differences will slowly be introduced to the children.

All children will access continuous provision alongside focused short group times to hook and immerse children in their learning. Any group teaching will be suitable for the children's age and stage. We ensure there is a good balance of adult-led/child-led focus activities during their time with us. Working as a unit allows reduced class sizes and a higher adult-to-child ratio to help ensure all children meet their full potential.

If you have any queries regarding our EYFS Unit then please come and speak to a member of Early Years staff in the first instance. We can only discuss each child on an individual basis and we'd be more than happy to offer you further reassurance or explanation as to how the EYFS Unit will be working.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure we continue providing the best possible education for your child.

With best wishes,

Natalie Cropper
Early Years Lead

Let Your Light Shine

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