

Early Learning Newsletter: Summer Term 2019 (May)

Supporting transitions

We've done lots of thinking about transitions for children who are leaving us to start primary school, and how to help them to become 'school ready', but it's important that we help them to settle into the new routine and most importantly, feel safe and secure in the school environment.

That's why the theory of attachment (Bowlby, Ainsworth) is critical for us to remember at this time of the year. We know that young children need to form strong attachments to their carers, in order to be emotionally secure. Your child has formed a strong bond with their **play partner** and now have to help them to feel confident and form relationships with their new teacher in school.

We know that pre-schoolers also form attachments to 'things' and 'places' – so moving to another room within the school building can be difficult. To help, we have worked with colleagues in school to develop a 'transition plan' to enable your child to visit the new class-room and get to know the Early Years teaching team. We have already begun to implement the transition plan and you have been given details of your child's half-day transition visit. You can also help if you have a few minutes to spare, in the morning or afternoon to look through the classroom window or say hello to the teacher as you pass, it helps your child to know that you're ok with the move and that you will **support** them too.

Talk to your child at home about the **changes** that are coming up. This helps them to be prepared. Use the name of the new teachers, Mrs Bainbridge and Mrs Massetti, when you're talking about the move and ask for a photograph if you think it might help your child feel more prepared. Make sure that personal belongings are clearly labelled before your child starts school, otherwise your child will be very sad if they get lost and they might not be confident enough to manage without them.

Most of all, **remember how you feel when you go for a new job or move house** and don't know any of your neighbours or workmates. Ask questions before the move, so that you can help your child to be prepared. Be sympathetic and **understand** that your child might be more 'clingy' than usual, more tired at the end of the day. This is all normal. Allow time to help your child say 'goodbye' at the beginning of the day so that you don't have to 'drop and run'. Five minutes to hand them over to their class teacher for the first few weeks, will pay off in the long run.

Transition Plan: Moving to School – 2019

1. You have received notification of the dates of your parent/child visits from the school office. Please ask if you need us to take your child to school from pre-school;
2. In the meantime, to 6 children per day go over to school with a member of staff from the PS from 11.00 – 11.30 to join in with free-flow play activities. Where children need more time to settle, we take this into account and offer more sessions where we can;
3. After ½ term, a member of the EY teaching team will come into PS twice a week, to observe the children in a familiar environment and chat with their play partner about their individual needs, likes and dislikes and how they learn best.
4. Children who are transferring to other schools will meet their teacher here in pre-school after ½ term. Mrs Lockyear, from Guildhall Feoffment, is coming to visit on 18th June in the morning.

Please let your child's play partner know if you have any concerns or information you wish to share regarding the transition to school.

Sunny Days:

Now that the weather is becoming warmer, please remember to put sun-screen (minimum factor 30) on your child **BEFORE** they come to pre-school. We will top up as necessary throughout the day, with a factor 50 sun-screen for sensitive skin. If you **DO NOT** want us to put sun-screen on your child, you will need to let us know in writing. Please bring your child with a suitable hat to protect their head and leave it at pre-school if possible, so that it is always available for them to use. We have some spare sun hats but not enough for every child, every day.

Safety Reminder:

Please help us to keep your child safe on school premises. We ask that you discourage them from climbing on fences and encourage them instead to climb on the appropriate equipment in the main playground when you are waiting to drop off or collect from school or pre-school.

Happy Transitions!

Caroline, Vanessa & the team