



Monday 21 October 2024

Parents and carers in Year R

Dear Parents and carers,

Firstly, I hope those of you who are new to the school are settling in well. I work at Valentine every Monday and have been spending time with your children, each week, and watching them grow as they become familiar with their new school.

Currently, you'll see that the EYFS (early years) outdoor area has been shut off, whilst we spend money improving the facilities so that it's an attractive outdoor play/learning environment for every child. Windows are currently being restored and repainted, as well as a coat of paint over the brickwork to extend the outside and inside areas. We've had weeds and general tidying of the plants, and the trees have been cut back too.

As you know, Mrs Padgham (EYFS lead) has recently been unwell. She was in school today to meet Mrs Rutter and I - she plans to phase her return-to-work full time after half term. It's great news - and I know the wider team are looking forward to having her back. In the short term, we have benefitted from visits from another partnership school, St Mary's, and Georgia (our Assistant Headteacher for Early Years). This ensures that the curriculum is supporting your child to learn well. We have increased staffing in Year R too, to increase the ratio to support smaller group working for your children.

Having spoken to a few families, I am also aware of some behaviours that have been being exhibited in Year R and wanted to update you on steps taken to improve this. I understand that the behaviours of some individuals, with a higher level of need, have created some tensions that we are addressing. This includes sanctions - in Year R - to detain at lunch or break time and (in some extreme circumstances) to move to another year group for a set period. **No child should feel fearful or worried about school.**

Despite this, it was great to see the children's work today around Black History Month. They're looking at JoJo and GranGran (CBeebies) and the journey to the UK for GranGran's family. Intertwined in this is study is learning about significant Black individuals who have made a positive contribution to British life. It is nice to see how well they're sat listening and learning!

All good wishes,

DJ Constable-Phelps .

Mr D Constable-Phelps
Executive Headteacher