

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that the children and all of their families have had a happy and healthy summer break. We are excited about the year ahead and have written to you today to inform you of some of the Statutory changes which are being introduced into Early Year settings as well as to let you know what the children will be involved with this term and how you can support your children's learning and development at home.

### **Statutory Changes to EYFS**

The changes to the EYFS statutory framework are being made to improve outcomes at age 5, particularly in early language and literacy. The most significant changes and what these mean for you and your child are summarised below.

- In order to ensure that practitioners spend more time with children in their care, we are no longer required to collect physical evidence to assess whether an individual child is at the expected level of development. This means that while we will continue to take photos of the children and to post these on Tapestry, you will not see detailed write ups about the learning which is taking place.
- There is a new assessment that now has to take place at the start of the reception year - the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a short assessment, taken in the first six weeks of when a child starts reception class at school. Further information can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

- Promoting oral health has been included under the health requirement. Children at Wetheridge FSU will be discussing oral health and taking part in guided teeth brushing daily (where permission has been given). Please note that this should not replace teeth-brushing twice a day at home.

### **How you can you help your child at home**

- Read books and bedtime stories with your child and encourage them to join in. I cannot emphasize enough the importance to your child's progress in having the opportunity to read with a grown-up and enjoy books at home. In order to support you with this, all of the children will choose a picture book to borrow from our library each week to share with you at home - please enjoy reading this with your child. Children love and benefit from reading the same stories repeatedly so we hope that having the book at home for a week will help to provide this opportunity. As well as enjoying a range of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction texts are all fantastic ways of helping your child to learn new words and vocabulary.
- If your child is in Reception, please attend our short Phonics parent meetings and try to find time to read the documents we provide to help you support your child with their reading.
- The development of your child's spoken language is fundamental to all areas of their learning and the number of conversations they have with adults and peers throughout the day is crucial. Try to chat to your child about what they have been doing that day and encourage them to talk to you about the things which interest them as well as sharing with them what you are doing at home. The following websites can help you develop your child's language and communication skills, so they get the best start in life:

[What is Tiny Happy People? - BBC Tiny Happy People](#)

[Hungry Little Minds - Simple fun, activities for kids aged 0 - 5 \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#)

- Share and contribute to your child's Learning Journal online via Tapestry. Strong links between home and school provide important opportunities for us to better understand your child and we encourage you to share your child's experiences outside of school with us.
- If your child is in Reception they will be taught to form letters by starting and finishing in the right place - encourage your child to write their name and practise early writing whenever they can. For example, practising their sounds, writing a shopping list, labels, or a letter to someone special to them.
- Provide practical situations where your child can recognise and name shapes and numbers.
- Play board games with them.
- Encourage them to be independent.

### **Communication with FSU staff**

Please speak to a member of staff at the beginning or end of the school day (or your child's session with us), if there is anything you would like to pass on to staff with regards to your child's wellbeing. If you wish to discuss anything in more detail or should you wish to speak to staff confidentially then please let us know by e-mailing the school office [admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@witheridge.devon.sch.uk) and we will contact you to arrange this.

Finally, I would like to introduce and welcome Miss Wybourne to the FSU Team. Miss Wybourne joined us during the latter part of last term. She is an experienced EYFS practitioner who will be supporting the children's learning each morning and during some afternoons.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs North