

Dear All,

Another week and another challenge – including navigating our turning through the garage queue!

Throughout their day at the Centre children access our **continuous and enhance provision**. Continuous provision describes all of the areas available for children to use everyday. Within each of these areas there are a core range of resources that the children know will be there all of the time. Enhanced provision are resources that we add to develop a child's interests, to add challenge or to introduce a theme. These are there for a period of time before they change - a bit like the seasonal aisles at the supermarket. Working with continuous and enhanced provision needs careful planning and managing, we spend a lot of time with the children developing the routines and expectations for how to work in each area and how to look after all the resource they have access to. A few years ago we came up with a phrase which is now established across the Centre, which some previous children have transferred with them to school and which may also be helpful for you at home. When the children have finished working in an area they are taught to **SORT** it ready for others to use before they move on, as a reminder they are very familiar with the phrase **'You choose it, you use it, you put it away'** On our facebook page we have videos of our rooms from last year which will give you an idea of what our environment looks like and we hope to be adding updated ones soon. For children in Greenfinch and the Space Room these have pretty much remained the same.

We are currently developing our **curriculum** offer and are considering what it is we would like each child to be able to do, to know, to have regard for, when they leave to continue the next part of their learning journey. From this we will have a set of waypoints which we would plan for to achieve these outcomes. We would really like you to be involved in this decision making as the outcomes must reflect the needs of the children at the Centre and our community. Over the next few weeks it would be great if you could let us know what **characteristics and skills** are important for you and your child. I will send out some links to publications early next week which will give you more information about the Early Years and child development.

For those of you currently thinking about **school applications** the two village primary schools will be hosting some open day sessions for you to go and visit. These will need to be booked in advance as space on each will be limited. I am expecting a letter from them today which we will forward to you if your child is in Greenfinch or Robin room.

And so to the continuing **Covid** challenge and trying to manage any potential outbreak at the Centre. As you are aware the rules around isolation have changed considerably and children are no longer required to isolate as contacts if they have no symptoms even if the case is within their household. We have been considering the implications of this carefully and are aware of several incidents where a family member has tested positive then others have tested positive up to 10 days later, with this in mind we would respectfully ask that if there is a household member that tests positive that any children do not then attend their sessions for that period of time. We are happy to discuss cases on an individual basis and the impact of this should it arise for you. Whilst we would love for everyone to be attending we have to consider the safety of all our children, parents and staff, particularly those who would be vulnerable should we have any cases. Many thanks to everyone for continuing to follow up symptoms with PCR tests, we do realise that it is cold season and there are other illnesses around but this is the process that we are having to follow.

If you are looking for a book to share at home **'Kindness makes us Strong'** by Sophie Beer is one that we have been sharing and discussing with children. It focusses on things we can do rather than things we shouldn't do. The do's rather than the don'ts.

Have a lovely weekend - Karen