



Coleham Primary School

For every child, an Excellent Education

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Headteacher: Ms C Jones

18th December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

CHANGES TO EYFS TIMETABLE

We are constantly looking at ways to improve our practise and have recently being carrying out some research into improving the provision of learning time in the Early Years Foundation Stage at Coleham. We have decided to make some changes to the timetable (just for EYFS children) in light of what we have found out from our research and from other settings that we have visited.

We have realised that some elements of our timetable actually interrupt learning. We have reviewed our EYFS timetable and staffing and have aimed to remove the "start/stops, where possible. We have discussed this widely as a staff and feel strongly that the right thing to do is to make some changes in the new year.

Therefore, from January, we are taking the step not to take the EYFS children on to the playground for morning playtime and to only attend the whole school assembly on a Friday morning. The children will, in effect, not have a traditional break time in the morning but instead will have access to the conservation area and adventure playground areas far more. The children will still have "down time", a chance to eat a snack and have a drink but the teachers and teaching assistants will teach for the whole morning and continue, as they do now, to give the children high quality intervention to develop both socially and academically. By removing a traditional playtime, this gives each child a staggering two and half hours per week more teacher contact time. It also allows us to double the amount of sessions that the children can access the conservation area, allowing all children to take part in Woodland Work every week. The children will continue to have a playtime with the whole of KS1 at lunchtime and partake in class assemblies.

Just as is the case now, all children will be taught weekly discreet lessons by a teacher for Phonics, English, Maths and Handwriting; PE will still be led by Mr Venn on a Thursday morning. All other areas of the EYFS curriculum will be covered through adult directed activities, child initiated activities and through the introduction of "Project Learning".

"Project Learning" is an exciting development for us. We have arranged our timetable, in the new year, to include uninterrupted learning time every afternoon. Each educator in the base will lead a motivating and engaging project based on the children's fascinations and interests. The children will choose which project they want to be a part of and can swap between projects as they see fit. The projects will develop over time and be documented in sketchbooks. This way of working will really allow us to develop, not only all aspects of the EYFS curriculum, but also sustained shared-thinking and the characteristics of effective learning for all children.

We hope that you will see the benefits of the changes that we are making in the new year. If you have any questions or queries, please do come and speak to myself or Miss Harris.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rowley, Early Years Foundation Stage Leader