

Rainbow Room Newsletter

Welcome back to school to our children, and welcome to our new P1 child! We have been pleased to see how everyone has settled back in - no problems at all.

A quick overview of this term... reminders for our established families and information for our new family.

Curriculum – The children will be following their individual programs of learning, but we always match our topics in the Rainbow Room to the mainstream classes' topics. The topics will be shared on Dojo as each one begins. Where appropriate and possible we will take the children to their mainstream classes. This will look different for each child – for some it will be for certain lessons on a regular basis, for some it will be for play, for some children it will just be specific activities. Our goal is always towards mainstream inclusion but we factor in each child's individual needs.

The whole school topic for the first couple of weeks has been our shared whole school values and vision. We do this with a display of photos on our wall of the children demonstrating the values within school and we talk about the values in context as opportunities to teach the values arise. This becomes our Charter. The children in the Rainbow Room will be included in their class Charters too, following the input in the Rainbow Room.

Staffing – This year we have some Learning Assistants who were with us in the Rainbow Room last year and some Learning Assistants who joined us from the mainstream classes. Because we were able to have a good transition period before the Summer holidays the children have come back familiar with the adults and the adults know the children's needs and everyone has settled quickly. We aim to have a balance of consistent adults who the children build good working relationships with, but also make sure the children know other adults in the school so that if an adult is absent it's not too stressful for the child.

The Local Authority have given each Learning Centre a further teacher for this academic year only. The post will be advertised and the new teacher will be in place in October. In the meantime we have two regular members of staff covering the position as a jobshare. Having the further teacher will hopefully facilitate more opportunities with the mainstream.

Sometimes we have other adults in our classroom who are visiting specialists, such as Occupational Therapists, or Speech and Language Therapists.

Environment – With the running challenge last year we managed to raise just under £1500 which we have earmarked for outdoor and sensory resources. We can put it together with the £2000 from Eon for something really special for our children! It seems to be taking a long time, but the Community Payback scheme is going to build a large play structure for our outdoor area. We are just waiting to see the cost of materials for this and then we can spend the rest of the funds (although we've not been able to resist getting a few small items already!).

Inside the classroom, apart from our display for our values and vision which is shared across the school, the displays are what our children in the Rainbow Room prioritise. We know that changes to the environment can be quite distracting for our children so where possible we encourage them to help us with the displays. They may not always look as neat as elsewhere in school but they are meaningful and show the children that we value them, their ideas and their work, without causing anxiety that sometimes comes about with change to the environment.

Communication – We use Dojo as our main means of communication, but if your child is absent or has an appointment, please remember to phone and let the school office know. Likewise with forms that the office send out, they often need a parent signature so please return forms as soon as possible. Any questions PLEASE ASK!