



4th July 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Starting Foundation Stage 2/ Reception – September 2023**

As we look forward to the start of term at Haytor View on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023, we are keen to make arrangements with you for how this would best look for your child. This period represents the start of your child's 'full days at school' journey and as such we are pleased to be able to offer some flexibility in the experiences that your children will receive during the first two weeks with us.

Our experience tells us that depending upon individual children's needs this flexibility can be useful in allowing children to feel comfortable, settle back into and progress into the setting. We have detailed below possibilities that will be available for your child and we will give you a call over the coming weeks to discuss which of these you wish to take up.

On the first day of term we will be able to use all of our keyworkers to ensure that your children's first experiences in the unit will take place in small groups – ideal for building their confidence and familiarity with new or less familiar surroundings.

This will also provide a valuable opportunity for the new adults in the setting to spend time getting to know your child on an individual basis.

We are aware that children will be returning to school after following different routines during the summer holidays. It is important to remember that as the children start their school journey they can become very tired and children's moods can be variable and unsteady after a week of full days. Creating a steady smooth transition into their full time class is important so that each child can make the best start to their school journey. With this in mind, options available are:-

#### Part time sessions – Weeks 1 and 2

You may prefer your child to spend the first week and second week of the Autumn term as a **part time learner**. This will see them taking part in a morning or afternoon sessions for half of the day as well as having a lunch experience. You may feel that this will help your child have a smooth transition from the summer holidays into full time school. We recognise that many children struggle with 'diving in' to full days.

#### Full time sessions from Day 1

You may prefer your child to attend the Foundation Stage provision for full days immediately. This will see them starting the day between 8.35-8.50am and finishing at 3.15pm. You may feel that your child is able to rise to the challenge of managing a full day straight away – should you change your mind based upon your child's response we will be happy to adapt plans if required.

#### Lunch time with your child

Having lunch in the school hall and returning to the classroom after lunch is a big step for children. To support the children to become independent and confident in this space we invite small groups of parents to come and eat or sit with their child and share in their play – you may like to join us. Each group will have a particular day across the week where they can share lunch with their parent. If your child is only staying for the morning you can take them home following lunch.

#### What next?

Please speak to Miss Butler or phone the school office so that we can listen to your thoughts on what would be best for your child. We would be grateful for any time that you feel able to give us as we plan next steps for your child.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Butler  
Foundation Stage Leader

Scott Hampton  
Acting Head Teacher

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