



Whittingham, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 4UP
Telephone: 01665 574222 Email: admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk
Website: www.whittinghamprimaryschool.co.uk

Thursday 20th May 2021.

Trial of changes to Early Years Provision following COVID 19 pandemic from September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

This year staffing levels across the whole school have been higher than ever and this has enabled us to provide additional social, emotional and academic support in a variety of ways for our pupils. Looking forward to the new school year 2021-22, we remain committed to continuing this additional support from September for the benefit of all our pupils.

The COVID pandemic has had an impact on all of us and as part of my role as Headteacher it is important that I guide the staff team and governors to ensure that during this difficult period and beyond, support is provided to children and their families.

Impact of COVID 19 pandemic on Early Years.

Recently I have been attending webinars and reading research and a report by The Sutton Trust <https://www.suttontrust.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Early-Years-Impact-Brief.pdf> highlights the impact particularly on children in Early Years.

In response to this, and following feedback from families of young children, I would like to trial some quite radical changes and improvements to the already amazing provision in Early Years for the School Year 2021-22 initially for one year.

COVID restrictions permitting we will be **extending the session time from September 2021**. The increased time will enable us to have more impact on the children's social and emotional experiences, socialisation and learning. It will also prove more convenient for families who have children in more than one class across the school as they can co-ordinate their drop off and pick up times.

Children entitled to 15 hours of Nursery Provision

At our school from September 2021 this is delivered through morning only sessions.

Drop off times will be extended from the current time of **9.00 a.m. to 8.45 a.m.** for the morning session.

Pick-up time for children who attend morning only will be **12.00 p.m.** and will include lunch for an additional cost of £2.20.

If your child is not entitled to 30 hours nursery entitlement, we currently offer a Community Powers provision each afternoon. This is a paid session with school lunch (at a cost of £2.20) and the pickup time is normally 3.10 p.m. A huge change that we will be **trialling for Autumn Term 2021** to address the impact of COVID 19 on our very young children, is to offer this Community Powers session in addition to our morning Nursery at **NO CHARGE (apart from £2.20 for lunch)**.

We expect demand for this to be extremely high and it is open to the children who are already attending nursery and to the new children starting in September!

Headteacher: Mrs Belinda Athey



So please contact school on 01665 574222 and ask for Mrs Marsden (Early Years teacher) or Mrs Athey (Headteacher) or by email Admin@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk or Belinda.athey@whittingham.northumberland.sch.uk by Thursday 27th May 2021.

30 Hour Provision

This will continue (please ensure our Office Manager, Mrs Kennedy has your 30 hour code) and the children will also benefit from the extended hours **8.45 p.m. – 3.10 p.m.** There is an additional cost for lunch of £2.20.

Full time and Part time places

Historically we have been very clear on our full time and part time provision. If your child is entitled to 15 hours nursery provision, we offered five mornings or a part time place on Monday, Wednesday and Friday This was to ensure that we could plan curriculum coverage so that children attending a part time place gained a broad range of experiences. We could also provide additional staffing as needed as we have always been committed to providing an outstanding experience.

While we still maintain that children attending our provision for either five full mornings or five full days is best for their social and emotional development as well as academic achievement. From recent feedback from families, we realise that it may not fit into family life and as part of our bid to address the impact of COVID we will **trial the following for one term:**

Children with 15 hours nursery provision who use it at our school may do this flexibly and can access the days they need.

The only stipulation to this is that we need to know the intended morning sessions in advance before Thursday 27th May 2021 and whether you intend to supplement this with our “funded by school” afternoon sessions.

We hope you will share with us the great excitement we have regarding these enhancements we have planned from September 2021 ensuring that our children have the best possible start.

Kind regards,

Belinda Athey – Headteacher.

Toni Marsden – Early Years Teacher.