



24 January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## Playground Arrangements

I am just writing to update you on the current playground arrangements. Following recent parental feedback regarding the playground and the integration of our youngest learners, you may be aware that we have made some changes to how lunchtimes are managed. I want to ensure you that this is only in the interim whilst we consider the best way forward to ensure our playtimes work for all.

We are still using the main playground at lunchtimes and believe that this is an invaluable part of learning for our youngest learners. It helps them mix with other learners and feel part of the school community, whilst also helping them to develop their spatial awareness and physical skills. We feel it is important as well to make the transition from the reception playground to the main playground so that children can differentiate between the 'playtime' at lunch time and the 'play' they experience during their learning time.

In light of concerns raised regarding supervision, modelling of play and injuries caused by accidents with older children we have made a zone specifically for our Reception children.

This was an interim measure while we monitored how best to address the verbal feedback we have been given from our parent body. As a school we are currently looking at the redesign of our Lunch times. We are extremely fortunate in that we have all of our LSA's out on lunch duty. This means that not only is this a friendly face for the children as it is a known adult to them but also that we can look at further developing playtimes to involve zoned activities such as sport of the week, a quiet area, skipping area, role play etc. We are also looking at how we could possibly run some clubs indoors as well. If you have any further feedback with regards to this then please do email me directly on [flord@broadstonefirst.poole.sch.uk](mailto:flord@broadstonefirst.poole.sch.uk). We would love to hear your ideas. As much as we are working on this, this is an area that will take a little while for us to get up and running as we need to ensure each zone can run and that the children are confident in how to access them.

Going forward while we develop this, we will have an area designated for Reception children only and this will be an area for them to play in if they are overwhelmed or hesitant of the main playground. However for some of our learners they have found the segregation a little upsetting as they have not been able to play with siblings or older friends they have made. Therefore as of next week they will be able to choose whether they would like to be in there or not and can access the zone at any point through lunchtime.

As always, we welcome your feedback and we try to do the best we can for all our families to ensure the children are safe and happy. We would greatly appreciate receiving the completed feedback forms given out last week to ensure our practice is the best it can be.

Kind Regards

Mrs Fiona Lord  
Assistant Headteacher

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