



Stamford Green

Primary School and Nursery



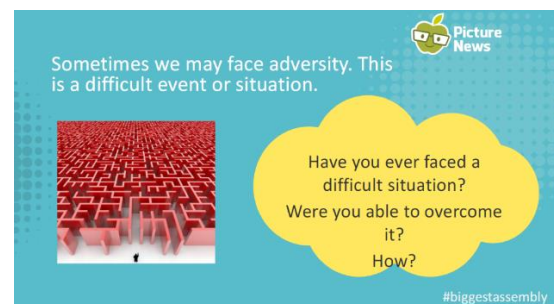
20 September 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to the autumn term

It has been fantastic to welcome the children back to school this September and I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new children and families that are starting at Stamford Green this year. New learning is very much underway across the school and our nursery, and I hope that your child is telling you all of their news from school; if not the Weekly Information may help fill in any gaps!

At the beginning of September, we joined 501,301 children online in the biggest assembly for primary schools. After a summer where areas of the country saw disorder, it was important for us to focus on the fact that we are better together, with everyone belonging. The assembly focused on celebrating our differences and overcoming adversity.



What did we do on the staff training (INSET) days?

You won't be surprised to know, that some of the staff turned up as bleary eyed as some of the children because of the earlier starts in September! However, a few coffees later and the staff were learning and enthusiastically ready to make Stamford Green even better for the children. The theme for the training days, and one that will permeate this school year, was creating a culture of excellence and getting the basics right with a sense of pride.

We focused on improving learning by increasing 'live' feedback and marking during each lesson. Dylan Williams, a renowned educationalist explains, 'the main purpose of feedback is to improve the student and not the work'.

In addition, we focused on our lunchtimes at Stamford Green. Having sought feedback from the children and staff we set about solving the issues they raised. Interestingly, there was commonality between adults and children as they wanted to reduce queuing time and the pressure some children felt to get back out to play, instead of taking longer to eat. In addition, people want us to take pride in the school hall so it is left in a pleasant state for the next children who use it. We also considered children who don't like the bustle so set out to create a pleasurable social environment. Given that 695 children need lunch daily, achieving the aforementioned needed Mrs Vidal's logical and ambitious skillset and the dedicated support staff we have to make it a reality!

We now have four sittings for the children, starting at 11.25 for YN and the last one is at 12.55 for Y4 and Y5. There are set periods of time for eating and chatting before a short period of tidy up time, in line with our school values and teaching about personal and collective responsibility. The children have been learning how to set their place with cutlery correctly and the uptake of 'extras' like salad and bread has already increased, which is great because children that aren't hungry are happier. Some classes set their places first and others get their lunch first. Lunches in the hall are 'checked off' against bookings and dietary requirements so the children queue in alphabetical (register) order to ensure the children are queuing for the shortest time possible.

Don't worry, we did not forget about the children that bring a packed lunch. In order to solve the issues and improve lunchtimes for all of the 695 children we needed another space, so the Studio is now used by Y3 to Y6 to eat their packed lunch. Thanks to the PTA, new tables and benches will be arriving shortly, we didn't want to buy anything until we had trailed and evaluated what was needed. In the meantime, the children have been using the hall chairs and tables.

New staff welcome

Since the new class special newsletter, in the summer term, we have appointed some new members of staff to join the team. Mrs Kuo and Miss Ocraft join us as Teaching Assistants (TAs) and many of you may remember Mrs Bennett from nursery who has come back to Stamford Green as a TA and Sunset Room Leader. In addition, we have temporarily welcomed back two previous Playworkers/TAs – Mr Lee and Miss Costello.

Afternoon communication opportunity

Over the years, we have tried various ways to ensure we are available to chat. Parents' Forum and the 'I've always wondered' breakfast coffee mornings have been great, but we are trying something new this year to try and reach as many of you as possible.

An email is ok but sometimes an in-person conversation is better. Therefore, to complement the morning offer of staff available, we have a team ready to listen and support after school. You will find members of the Extended Leadership Team by the West Gate (way up West) and the East Gate near the colorful feather flag. It was a classic amazon purchase, which can be either too small or too big... I leave you to decide which one our flag is!

Who and when:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
East Gate	Mrs Smith	Ms James	Mrs Temlett	Miss Croucher	Mrs Williams
West Gate	Mrs Druce	Mr Loughlin	Mrs Frost	Mrs Druce	Miss Burgess

It has been lovely to speak to so many of you during my West Gate afternoons so please feel free to come and chat, especially if you are a new family to Stamford Green, as my brain needs all the help it can get to know all our new children – there are over 120 this September!

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a letter from Mrs Dray about the government changes to attendance. Fundamentally we can't teach children who are not in school so this national area of focus is on our agenda too this year.

We are all looking forward to working with you this year and seeing the children make progress.

Best wishes,

Mrs Druce
Headteacher