



## Little Meadow Group

Dear Parents

Can you believe how quickly the year is going? Before long it will soon be the 17th July and we will be sending our very confident and capable little people off to continue their educational journey at a new school. We hope you are all as proud of them as we are.

I do appreciate for some parents who drop older siblings off at school etc in the mornings that time is a premium. However, can I please ask those parents that do not have to do this to make an effort to be here prior to 9 so that the children can all come in and the setting doors shut at 9 allowing for registration to begin on time and with minimum disruption.

Woven in to our normal themes and planning our underlying focus for the forth coming weeks is to make the transition process as smooth and calm as possible and we have lots of things planned to help achieve this. It will require some organisation at home and your involvement will help to make this a successful time for your child. For this reason, I have listed below diary dates and what is needed.

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

We will be having daily visits from the children in Meadowside reception class. They will come and talk to us about different aspects of life in a school and drawing comparisons with life at Little Meadow. This should hopefully dispel any worries that children may have that it is very different and scary. We are very grateful to Meadowside for supporting us in this way. After the children have talked to us, they stay and play for a little while before returning to class.



### Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June



For these four weeks please could **parents** provide

- Snack. This needs to be clearly named including apples and bananas and where appropriate, in a small container with a named lid and bottom. Schools look for the children to be having a healthy snack that does not require cutlery and the snack boxes are not placed in a fridge so please choose carefully. The children will be taking their snack boxes with them to school and will be having snack whilst enjoying their playtime. Returning their boxes to the setting box when they have finished initially is a little challenging so it is important both parts are named. The children have their snack either sat or standing in the playground so please remember this when deciding what and how much to provide. The longer they need to spend eating the less time they have to run around and play. Over this time we will also be having water breaks (although we will have milk on standby) immediately after play as they do within most reception classes so drinks are not required.

and



### PE Kits

- Please send the children with a pair of shorts and T shirt in a named quad style bag. Please make sure everything inside is also named. We will be doing PE in a school hall, a playground and our room so can I ask you ensure the children are wearing suitable footwear to session, please avoid flip-flops and backless shoes. If you have purchased a PE bag from your new school then it would be wonderful if you could send this in so they can get used to finding their bag by its name. Similarly a PE kit that reflects what you intend them to have in September i.e.



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polo shirt or round neck would be great. I would however not suggest you rush out and buy their daps for September now as feet will grow over the time and may not fit by the Autumn. This kit will stay in setting until the end of term as it would at school.

### **5<sup>th</sup> June Extended Session**

For all the children who are in session on this Wednesday, they are invited to join us until 1.00. The purpose of this additional hour is for the children to be able to take a packed lunch down to the busy Meadowside School hall and sit and have their lunch. Any school dinner hall is a loud and busy place to be and this coupled with the responsibility of managing their own dinner can be quite a daunting experience. Our aim is that by offering this opportunity with the support of the Little Meadow key people we can address any worries. This additional hour carries a £4.00 charge and packed lunch is to be provided by home. Please ensure everything is named. Collection will be from the Meadowside School front door at 1.00.

### **10<sup>th</sup> June – 5<sup>th</sup> July School Visits**

During this time we will be taking small groups of children down to play in the classroom at Meadowside. All the children will have this opportunity as it is beneficial to experience a class full of children and to see what they will be doing. Each school still follows the Early Years Foundation Stage and will therefore operate in a similar way so we are very grateful to Meadowside for allowing us to do this for all our children. Should we feel any of the children would benefit from further opportunities, extra visits will continue over the following weeks.

### **27th June Leavers Photographs**

Our photographer will be here at 9.00 to take key group photos and a final individual photo. This is a lovely keepsake and if possible we would love all the children to be included. For those children that are not in session, could they be brought to session for 9 o'clock and we will aim to have their photographs done first and they will then be able to leave hopefully by 9.30. We do appreciate this may take a little jiggling of time tables for you but would be really grateful if it is at all possible for you to arrange so that all the children can be in our final photo. Could we ask for the children to be in Little Meadow uniform for the group photograph although we are happy to remove cardigans or sweatshirts for their individual photographs.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> July Cooked Dinner.**

Unfortunately due to our timetable, we are only able to offer this on this Wednesday for the children who are in session. The session will finish at 1.00 on this day and the children will receive a cooked dinner in line with the types of meals they can pick for their school dinner. Please can we ask for a contribution of £1.00 on top of the additional £4 for the increased time to cover the cost of lunch. All dietary requirements will be met.

### **10<sup>th</sup> July Rising 5 Leavers Trip.**

Feedback from parents through the years has been that this has been a lovely opportunity for one significant adult to spend some valuable one to one time with their Rising 5. Once the children make their move to reception, possibly joining other siblings in the education system, it is rare to have a chance to be one to one and for this reason we do ask for there to be no siblings on the trip. We are going to Cotswold Wildlife Park which is open to the public all year round so should you wish to go as a family at a different time it is a lovely place to go. You should have received a letter with all the details in and we hope as many as possible will be able to join us. There will be no Rising 5 session on this day.

### **17<sup>th</sup> July Rising 5's last day.**

This will be a normal session 9.00 – 12.00 packed full of fun. All Rising 5's are invited to join us.



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As you can see we are going to be very busy and this is not an exhaustive list as other events will be happening in response to needs, wants and opportunities.

Please be reassured of our commitment to ensure this transition programme benefits all the children regardless of the school they will be attending in September. Our focus is on every school having classes, playgrounds, dinner hall, assemblies etc and that we learn how to react to those situations regardless of the physical environment. For those children not attending Meadowside we will also be inviting teachers to Little Meadow and asking for photographs of the relevant areas within the school to provide a more individualised element to this program.

We do appreciate that for children who do not attend the setting on a Wednesday they are missing out on both opportunities for an extended session. If this is something you would like for your child please express your interest below and we will then be able to assess the demand and explore possible solutions. This would be an extra session to those currently attended and would carry a £15.00 session fee alongside the additional payment as requested above.

Thank you for your support.

Kind Regards

The Early Years Team.

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Child's Name:

My child will be attending the extended session on 5<sup>th</sup> June. I am aware I will need to provide a packed lunch and enclose the additional £4.00. I will collect my child from the Meadowside School front door at 1.00pm.

My child will be attending the extended session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. I enclose the additional £5 and will collect my child from Little Meadow at 1.00pm

My child does not attend Little Meadow on a Wednesday but I would like them to experience the extended session on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and understand should this session become available it will require me to provide a packed lunch and pay a fee of £19.00

My child does not attend Little Meadow on a Wednesday but I would like them to experience the extended session on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and understand should this session become available it will require me to pay a fee of £20.00.