



29 January 2018

Dear Parent/ Carers

Recently, we have had a couple of queries regarding outdoor learning. As you are aware, the Foundation Stage teaches a play based curriculum. We encourage the children to access the inside and outdoor provision continuously throughout the day to develop their learning through play based activities.

Outdoor play is as important as indoor. When your child is playing outside, they are:

- Experiencing the world with all their senses to develop early Science skills
- Investigating space for expansive physical movements.
- Developing their language and communication skills, and understanding their voice by having the opportunities to use a range of tone and expression.
- Developing their immunity.
- Developing their Maths skills by discussing capacity, positional language, problem solving and weight.
- Using and developing their imagination.
- Experiencing adventure.
- Developing their self-confidence to explore and take risks.
- Having fun.

When the children are participating in messy outdoor play, they always wear wellies and waterproofs. Although they are wearing protective clothing, sometimes mud and water can still appear on your child's uniform. For that reason, we ask that all parents send their child with a labelled spare set of clothing to get changed into. The spare set of clothing does not have to be school uniform. If you would like to send your child with their own set of waterproofs, we have plenty of space in the cloakroom to store them.

At Penshurst we strongly believe that if your child comes home a little dirty, they have probably had an excellent day playing and learning at school! If you have any further queries or wish to learn more about outdoor play, please ask for an appointment with either the EYFS phase leader or a member of SLT.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss H Barnett, EYFS Phase leader

