

7 October 2020

Dear parents,

Your child has entered the nursery setting at Portswood Primary School this year.

During their time in the nursery setting, a child's educational achievements are assessed using the Development Matters assessment criteria.

This will occur throughout a child's time in the nursery years. However, this year, Portswood Primary School will be using the reformed Development Matters guidelines, and therefore will be assessed against amended early learning criteria.

As a school we are taking part in the 'early adopter' phase of the introduction of the reformed Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, which will be introduced across all early years settings from September 2021.

Your child will be assessed, using the reformed Development Matters criteria to determine whether they are meeting key age-related milestones.

At the end of the academic year, parents/carers will receive a report which will share the key findings of assessments completed.

The details of the areas of assessment are included below for your information.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

*J. Leonard*

J. Leonard  
Vice Principal

***There are 7 areas of learning and development:***

***prime areas:***

communication and language

physical development

personal, social and emotional development

***specific areas:***

literacy

mathematics

understanding the world

expressive arts and design

The characteristics of effective teaching and learning

Three characteristics of effective teaching and learning are:

- playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things