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### Trial changes to Playtime

Dear parents/carers,

You may be aware that we have made some changes to the lunchtime play to ensure every child has a safe, respectful playtime learning with their friends.

We take pupil and parents feedback seriously so the senior team started to discuss changes at the end of last term. The changes were then shared with all pupils in our whole school assembly on Monday morning.

Last term pupil council shared that children from their class found playtime boring so we introduced more activities and structure. This included more sand toys, tuff tray activities under the canopy, the lunchtime library, utilising more play pod equipment and game of the week in the Multi Use Games Area. Despite this we noticed that more and more children were coming into the school building over lunchtime.

Children were also going back into class saying they had disagreements with their friends which then carried on into the afternoon. Often learning was delayed for all children by up to 20 minutes and in some instances, it was taking the whole afternoon for disagreements to be resolved. Through our curriculum work and assemblies we ensured every child had at least one trusted safe adult outside who they could easily find in high viz jackets. This also included modelling of our 'Talk it out' scripts.

Lunchtime is still one hour, between 1:00 and 1:15 children are transitioning into their classrooms. This allows enough time for children to tidy up the resources they have played with, collect their belongings, return to the classroom, have a drink and go to the toilet. This also allows time for any disagreements to be resolved with the support of trusted adults. This change will support children to feel more settled, happier and ready for learning to start again at 1:15.

We have had feedback on the walk-in task that children have on entry to the classroom. This is typically vocabulary focussed or reading and carried out as the class teacher returns and completes the afternoon register.

Yesterday this gave a positive end to the lunchtime. We will continue to review this.

Yours faithfully,

Jenny Harvey  
Principal

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