

THRUPP PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents

I am writing to you to tell you about an exciting project we are involved in at school. Since last year I have attended some training for 'Children's Access to Play'. Our school believes that all children need opportunities to play which allow them to explore, be creative, take acceptable levels of risk, express themselves, build confidence, challenge themselves, develop resilience and acquire good social and behavioural skills. Twenty per cent of a child's time in school each day is play time and as a school we believe that this time needs coherent planning, especially as changes in society such as heavier traffic, less freedom for children to play outdoors and the increase in digital technology have led to 'play poverty' for today's children. This makes their play opportunities at school even more vital. We recognise that 'rich' play opportunities are a child's right, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation, economic or social circumstances, ethnic or cultural background or origin, or individual abilities.

The chief medical officer reports that children should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week. This can include all forms of activity such as physical education, active travel, after-school activities, play and sports.

With all of the evidence showing how beneficial physical outdoor play is we have decided to make some changes at school to playtimes (and soon to include lunchtimes). I hope your children may have come home and told you about morning playtimes? We now allow the children to play and have free access to any outdoor area or zone and we no longer line up to come in as we felt lining up was not necessary and takes up valuable 'playing' time. The children now have the chance to fully mix with any child in the whole school and I can tell you it is so lovely to be on duty now with such happy children.

Now we have playtimes established we would like to make similar changes to lunchtimes to allow the children to do nothing but eat and play during their hour break. This structure will also allow the midday supervisors to support play and become more like play leaders in this time. We are hoping that some children may enjoy the opportunity to eat outside and the freedom to eat in a quieter indoor hall if they wish.

The main reason now for this letter is to ask for your support and to ask you to provide essential **wellies** and **waterproofs** so that they can access all areas/ zones whatever the weather, yes they will be out in the rain and hopefully snow! As Albert Wainwright quotes "There's no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing". We will find suitable storage for wellies and waterproofs if you would prefer to leave them in school and please talk to us if this is likely to be difficult and we may be able to help, it would be great if we could collect spares or organise a boot swap of some description.

I hope that you will agree these changes will be beneficial for our children and that you will support us in making these changes. Please come and ask if you would like any more information.

Yours Sincerely

Tina Harris

