

Play Times / Lunch Times

Over the last few weeks, you, like us, will have noticed that the children may have been coming home muddy after playing on the field during play times and at lunch time, especially children in KS2 who use the field more often.

We wanted to explain why this has been happening and to outline a plan to improve things going forward.

As you know, as part of our covid secure measures, groups have to be kept apart as much as possible throughout the day. This means staggered playtimes and lunch times for KS1 and KS2 children. At lunch time especially, we need to use both the playground and the field in order to keep the two groups apart. In 'ordinary times' we would not use the field at this time of year. With the building work going on at the moment, the size of the playground has been reduced and is often wet and slippery with leaves which can cause a problem when the children are running around playing games. We want to encourage the children to be as active as possible and to be outside as much as possible rather than in their classrooms all day long.

What are we doing about it:

- Uniform rules relaxed. Children wear their PE kit on days when they have PE. They can wear dark jogging bottoms / leggings / trousers on other days if their uniform is dirty to avoid having to wash their uniform overnight. They continue to wear their school shirt and jumper or cardigan.
- They can bring in trainers to keep in school and can change their shoes before playing outside. The trainers stay in school until Christmas.
- If you want to send your children in with wellies and/or waterproofs to put on at playtime, that is fine. Bear in mind that playtimes go quite quickly so they need to be able to put this on and take it off quickly on their own. These would stay in school until Christmas and not transfer between home and school daily.
- We are in the process of ordering and installing a hardstanding area at the edge of the field which has the most footfall and where the children line up.
- Children have been spoken to about playing sensible games and not rolling around in the mud.

How can you help:

- Don't worry about washing their clothes overnight. See the note on uniform above.
- Send them in with trainers which can stay in school until Christmas.
- Have a conversation at home about playing suitable games and not rolling around in the mud.

We hope that these steps will help. The building project and covid have both come along at the same time and so keeping playtimes running smoothly is a real operational challenge. The last thing we want to do is cause anger or upset by sending the children home in muddy clothes and we hope that the steps above will help to improve things.