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Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Avalon Pre School and Nursery Provision**

When we reopened our EYFS setting in September, we stringently followed the Government guidance with regards to 'bubble' groups and have maintained strictly separate groups for Pre School and Nursery children throughout this half term. As the term is drawing towards the half term break, it is a timely opportunity for us to review and evaluate our current arrangements.

We are continually looking at ways to improve and develop our provision at Avalon, whilst being committed to maximising the educational opportunities for your children. Our assessment of the current arrangements is such that there are some important benefits that the children would normally gain from interacting with each other in small mixed age groups, and that these have been more limited this half term, due to the segregation of these groups.

Children's learning is inherently scaffolded when they have opportunities to learn in mixed age groups; they are encouraged to become self-directed learners who explore, develop curiosity, and solve problems. There are clear benefits to language development and extension of vocabulary alongside the further development of social and emotional elements of learning when children have the opportunity to play and learn with others, particularly when small groups of different aged children are combined. The chance to share expertise, skills and model real world experiences with others, such as turn taking, listening and learning how to empathise and establish positive relationships, are also key factors that can help to maximise children's self-esteem, confidence and overall global development.

Using this evidence and our close observations of the children this term and whilst it is conducive to do so with small groups of children, we have decided to bring the Nursery and Pre School groups together as one bubble group, following the half term break.

Provision for focused activities in small groups across our EYFS rooms will continue to be facilitated, when it is appropriate to do so, for example when children are working on focused speaking and listening skills. However, at other times and for whole group activities, it will be more appropriate for the children to play and learn together in one space/room.

Our excellent EYFS provision will continue in the same way and there will be no changes to staff, opening hours or curriculum, other than continuous improvement to support your children and to maximise their learning. Please also be reassured that all the school's protective measures related to COVID-19 will still apply and will continue to be rigorously followed.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the EYFS team or myself to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Callaway  
Headteacher