



10 September 2026

Dear Families,

Ref: Stay & Play and Assemblies

We are delighted to be continuing our Friday morning Stay and Play sessions alongside our weekly Primary Assembly this year, and we would like to clarify how they will work, especially for our families new to the school.

Every Friday, all primary students will attend assembly from 9:30am to 10:00am. We warmly encourage family members to join us whenever possible, as assemblies are an important part of school life and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our students' achievements.

If your child is going to be actively involved in leading or presenting part of the assembly, your child's class teacher will let you know in advance. However, we hope families will attend regularly, whether or not their child has a specific role in that week's assembly.

Why do we have Stay and Play in addition to assembly?

For some students, sitting in an assembly for 30 minutes, even with support, is a significant achievement. Like any skill, learning to participate in assembly takes time, practice and patience. It would be unrealistic to expect every child to manage the full assembly immediately. We therefore use a gradual approach, teaching students the skills they need to successfully participate for longer periods over time.

To ensure that all families have a meaningful reason to attend on a Friday morning, we have put in place a Stay and Play session. This means that even if your child is not yet able to remain in assembly for the full session, you can still spend quality time with them in a familiar and supportive environment.

What happens on a Friday morning?

When you arrive at school:

1. Please sign in at Main Reception.
2. You are welcome to attend the Coffee Morning in Meeting Room 1 (upstairs, with lift access available).
3. Just before assembly begins at 9:30am, staff will escort families to the Main Hall.
4. Your child will arrive with their class.

We encourage students to sit with their classes during assembly, even when family members are present. We know, however, that for some children this may take time, and we will support each student at a pace that is appropriate for them.

Our Assembly Structure

We follow the same format each week so that assemblies are familiar and predictable for our students:

1. Welcome and Golden Rules Song
2. Assembly input, led by a member of staff or a class
3. Student of the Week announcements
4. Class of the Week
5. Special Attendance Awards
6. Other awards and celebrations (including House Points very soon. Watch this space!)
7. Birthday card presentations

Building Assembly Stamina

At present, many students can manage the welcome and Golden Rules Song before transitioning to Stay and Play. As the year progresses, we expect the amount of time students spend in assembly to increase, with the need for Stay and Play gradually reducing.

Based on our observations at the start of this academic year:

Currently able to attend the full assembly:

- Canada
- Madagascar

Currently benefiting from attending the welcome and song before moving to Stay and Play:

- Wales
- Portugal
- Cape Verde
- Seychelles
- France
- Spain

Currently able to attend more than the song, but not yet the full assembly:

- Ireland
- Botswana
- Italy
- Mozambique

For these classes, teachers will make a professional judgement each week about the best point for students to transition to Stay and Play.

We appreciate that this is a broad overview and every student is different. Within the same class, some students may be ready to stay for longer periods than others. We will always cater for these individual needs. This may mean some staff remain in assembly with part of the class while other staff accompany students to Stay and Play.

There will also be occasions when a student who would normally remain in assembly needs to leave earlier. We continually monitor students' presentation and wellbeing and make decisions based on what we believe is right for them on that particular day.

If you would ever like to discuss your child's participation in assembly, please contact your child's class teacher.

We Would Love to See You There!

Friday mornings are becoming a special opportunity for our school community to come together, celebrate success and share in our students' achievements. We hope as many families as possible will join us throughout the year.

In the coming weeks, we will also be sending out a short survey about assemblies and Stay and Play, as we would very much value your feedback and suggestions.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming you on Friday mornings where your commitments allow.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E Tobin', written in dark ink.

Mrs E Tobin
Deputy Headteacher