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Nell Gwynn Nursery School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Last term our setting became involved in a project where we received support and training from the Speech and Language Therapy team at Evelina London. This is a very exciting opportunity for staff to develop their knowledge in offering a communication rich environment where children can thrive and be supported.

Children who attended last term will have been screened and the parents/carers would be aware of the outcome. Children who are new to the setting have yet to be screened. This term we are re-screening children and screening new children for the first time. It's important to note that it may not be necessary for all children to be re-screened, for example those who were previously highlighted as green (expected level of speech, language and communication development). Please read on to find out more about the Wellcomm Screening Toolkit.

The speech and language therapy team are helping staff to identify which children would benefit from support and then setting up intervention groups that nursery staff can implement. Speech, language and communication development is important in supporting children's learning and their ability to build relationships. Any difficulties can have an impact on the pupil's self-esteem.

The Speech & Language Therapy team is supporting staff to use the WellComm screening toolkit to screen your child's speech, language and communication skills.

The WellComm can be used with children from 6 months to 6 years to identify if there are any areas of language, communication and interaction development that may need further support. Every child will be assessed for around 10-15 minutes on their understanding of what is being said to them (receptive language) and also how they communicate verbally (expressive language).

Your child's score will be rated as either green, amber or red and we will let you know the outcome of the screening.

Green: Your child's speech, language and communication skills are developing as expected for their age.

Amber: Your child would benefit from some support with their speech, language and communication. We will set up some group activities in nursery and will provide you with ideas for how you can support them at home.

Red: Your child would benefit from a referral to the Speech & Language Therapy team for a full assessment. We will speak to you about this and get your consent to make the referral. We will set up some group activities in nursery and will provide you with ideas for how you can support them at home.

If you have any questions about the WellComm screen or your child's speech, language and communication needs please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

Nell Gwynn Nursery Team