

Wednesday 4th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We turn our attention to Friendship in the month of May. There is a new assembly powerpoint on the website for you to look at with your child.

At the moment, the children are recovering from the effects of extended periods of time away from friends and are in the process of learning what friendship is and how to be a friend. We think there is a lot of worth in having Friendship as a value right now.

Friendships are very complex even for very young children and often a source of worry for parents as we all want the children to be happy and have friends at school. Children need to learn about what friendship is, why it is important and what we need to do to be a good friend. Children need to be taught these skills and strategies just like anything else. At school we do this through class, group and one to one discussions, stories and by setting good examples ourselves as adults.

The children have experience of Growth Mindset concepts and can be encouraged to apply this to learning about friendships as well. In this way, we want the children to understand that by making mistakes in their friendships we can find opportunities for learning, that friendships require effort and perseverance and that it may be hard at times but the rewards are great. Children can be encouraged to use other values as well, such as Manners, Empathy and Kindness. There are some great ideas in this blog:

<https://kidsactivitiesblog.com/24345/teaching-kids-2/>

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if your child is having ongoing friendship worries- we are more than happy to help solve them so that all the children can have a good day at school.

Best wishes,

The Stillness Staff