INTRODUCING LOOSE PARTS PLAY - SAMPLE LETTER

Before you start: Remember, this letter is only a sample - it contains more or less detailed information - which can be supplemented or limited depending on who you want to communicate with. Flexibility is the key here. If you need more detailed information, please refer to the Manual.

Dear school families,

As part of the ongoing improvements to our school and playground, I want to let you know about an exciting new activity we are making available to children.

We will soon be introducing **Loose Parts Play** at lunchtimes and during class time. Loose parts play encourages children to use their imagination to play with resources such as cardboard boxes, tyres, nets, cable drums, sticks and other loose materials. These items can be used in many different to make things like a pirate ship, a den or mix up a potion from mud.

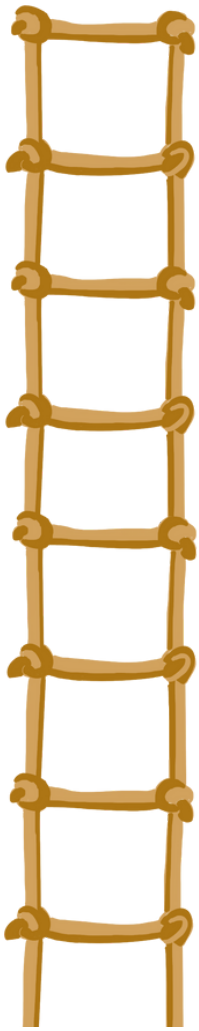
Loose parts play will be a chance for children to play freely with friends, investigate, discover, explore and create. When playing with loose parts, children use lots of trial and error to learn for themselves, and they learn to make their own judgments about adventurous play and recognising safe limits.

To ensure loose parts play is introduced safely and effectively, we have robust processes in place:

- Staff and children will be working together to introduce loose parts play
- All staff will receive training to support children's play
- Staff and children will be part of discussions on rules and procedures for loose parts play in our school.
- Issues including how to use the resources safely will be discussed
- All classes will receive a taster play session
- Thorough risk benefit assessments will be undertaken
- All items will be checked initially and on a regular basis for safety.

Loose parts play will take place in most weather conditions, please ensure children are dressed for the weather so they can join in – they might need wellies, waterproof jackets, gloves or sunscreen, sun hats depending on the weather.

Our school will need a supply of a wide range of loose parts such as suitcases, pipe lagging, crates, fabric, saucepans, keyboards, dressing up clothes and tubes. Please look out for more information on collections and opportunities to learn more about loose parts play.

For safety reasons, we cannot accept the following from you: paints, grease, oils, used batteries, sharp-edged objects and glassware. If you are unsure whether an item is suitable, please ask a member of staff. Our staff also have a list of items that we can accept from you - they will be happy to provide this list.

We are really looking forward to seeing the benefits of loose parts play in our school and working with the whole community to make it a success.