A person wearing a scarf

Description automatically generated with low confidence**Information sheet**

**Study title: Exploring Parents/Carer's and Children’s Experience of their First Year of Primary School.**

Hello! My name is Arwa, I am a research student at Newcastle University!   
  
I would like to invite you and your child to participate in my research study designed by researchers at Newcastle University, and parents/carers and children in the local area.  
  
Please read through this information sheet carefully to decide whether or not you would like to take part. If you have any questions about the information here, please feel free to email us (contact details below page).  
  
**What is this study about?**

The first year of school can be a big change in your child’s life, sometimes challenging and exciting. We are interested in learning about you and your child experience of being in reception so that we know what activities we can develop in the future to make the transition into reception even more exciting and fun for the family.  
  
**As a thank you for taking part, a £10 gift voucher will be given to you for each part of the study you decide to take part in, and your child will receive a gift at the end of the study (£20 in total).**  
  
**What does taking part involve?**  
  
Taking part will involve talking to you and your child and then having a catch-up after 1-2 months to see how things are going for you both.  
  
The conversation with parents/carers will be about how you are feeling about your child’s first year of school, how your child is feeling as well, and potential positive and/or negative impacts the pandemic had that may have influenced you and your child’s experience of the school transition.

The conversation with your child will be about how your child feels about being in reception, for example, what they are excited about and/or nervous about, including how they could manage these feelings.  
  
You will also be given a short questionnaire that will ask for a bit of information about you (e.g., your age, ethnicity, and so on). You do not have to answer any of these questions if you do not want to.  
  
**How will the conversations work?**  
  
For the conversations with yourself, you can mention anything you think is important. There are no right or wrong answers, we are interested in learning about what you have to say about you and your child’s experience of the first year of school. These conversations will be voice-recorded.  
  
For the conversations with your child, we will do some drawing activities, and then we will invite your child to look through 9 pictures with the researcher that show a character in different situations that typically happen in school, for example, the character watching children play in the playground, lining up in for lunch, being dropped off by their parent/carer to school and so on. Using a puppet, we will ask your child how they think the character in the pictures are feeling about these situations and what the character could do to change the situation. None of these pictures show situations that are distressing, such as situations of bullying; the images reflect typical situations that happen every day in reception that can be challenging, such as doing schoolwork. This conversation will also be voice-recorded.  
  
For the second conversation, we will do the same activity with your child, showing them the same pictures.  
  
**When and where will these conversations be held?**  
  
The conversations with you and your child will take place a few days after you sign the consent form. The second conversation will take place approximately 1 to 2 months after our first conversation.

Arrow

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The conversations with you can be held online on a video call or face-to-face; we can discuss where to do this, and what date/time with you, once you have signed the consent form.  
  
The conversations with your child will be face-to-face so that we can see what your child is drawing to engage in a conversation. The location for the interview, e.g., in their home, at our location, in a café, etc, can be discussed once you have signed the consent form.  
  
**A summary of this study:**

**I want to take part…what now?**

1. If you are happy to take part, please sign the consent form, and then the following contact detail form on the last page.
2. We will email you to contact you for a quick 10 minute chat to arrange the date/time for our chat and go over any questions you might have about this study.
3. Then, we will have a conversation with yourself first and then your child.
4. We will send out an invite via email/text for the second conversation approx. 1 to 2 months after our first conversation.

**What if I join the study, but then change my mind after?**

If you change your mind after signing the consent form, you can withdraw from the study at any time without having to give us a reason. You will still be gifted £10 for each aspect of the study you took part in.  
  
**Who will have access to my information?**  
  
All the information collected from you and your child will be kept confidential and only the researcher and supervisory team will have access to any personal information (names, addresses etc).  
  
The voice-recordings from the conversations will be stored on a secure, password-protected device and will be destroyed after the study has ended.  
  
When writing up the findings to this study, we may add quotes of what was said in the interviews and the drawing from your child, however, no personal or identifiable information will be published alongside this information.  
  
**What are the benefits of taking part?**  
  
Although there are no direct benefits of taking part, you and your child’s participation could help improve our understanding of what it is like to experience the transition into reception. This can help us learn how to make sure that starting school is an enjoyable experience for all families in the future.  
  
**Thank you** for taking the time to read this information sheet.**If you would like to take part, please sign the consent form on the next page, and then the following contact detail form on the last page.**   
  
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the study:  
  
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