

Early Years Foundation Stage.

Children in our nursery and in the reception class follow the 'Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage'. We try to make learning experiences as fun and enjoyable as possible, through providing lots of play-based learning both indoors and out. We also provide children with daily focused activities aimed to develop understanding and skills in reading (RWI), writing and mathematics. All our activities and learning experiences are aimed to develop outgoing, independent and confident learners, by developing the following 3 characteristics as described in the 'Development Matters' documentation:

- ☺ Engagement; playing and exploring

We aim to develop children's curiosity by encouraging them to use their senses to explore the world around them. We encourage the children to be playful, and be willing to have a go and take risks by engaging in new experiences.

- ☺ Motivation; active learning

Children will be encouraged to develop their concentration and attention, and persist when they find something tricky and take pride when they achieve their goals.

- ☺ Thinking; Creating and Thinking Critically
- ☺ In the early years we aim to provide children with problems to solve, and encourage them to find new ways of doing things. Children are supported in giving predictions and testing their ideas, as well as teaching them different methods to approach problems with.

Through providing practical, hands-on, fun, exciting and challenging activities, we develop the following 7 areas of learning:

Personal Social Emotional Development:

- ☺ Developing confidence and self-esteem
- ☺ Learning about relationships with both adults and children, making friendships and learning to share, to take turns and to negotiate with others.

Communication and language:

- ☺ Be able to talk about what we want and how we feel and will have opportunities to express this through role play.
- ☺ Be able to enjoy stories, poems, songs and rhymes, and will develop the ability to use language to describe past and present experiences and a sequence of events.

Physical development:

- ☺ Become good at moving, climbing, controlling and coordinating as we play.
- ☺ Learn to use our body, feet and hands with more and more skill.

Literacy

- ☺ Recognise that words tell stories and that the words we see in the world around us tell people something.
- ☺ See letters and words written down and to try and write them and use them when we play.
- ☺ Learn the alphabetical sounds through a mixture of speaking and listening.
- ☺ Through Letters and Sounds in Nursery, and Read Write Inc. in Reception, children will develop their early reading and writing skills.

Mathematics

- ☺ Count accurately up to at least 20
- ☺ Begin to read and write numbers to 20
- ☺ Develop calculating skills by adding and subtracting objects
- ☺ Play with lots of resources indoors and outdoors and make comparisons in things like height, weight, size and texture.
- ☺ Use words like under, on top, between and in front to tell where things are and to put things in order when we play.
- ☺ Have opportunities to build and make things with shapes and talk about what these shapes look like.
- ☺ Recognise and name shapes that they see around the environment. Investigate and explore 2D and 3D shapes.

Understanding the world

- ☺ We will be able to look at and talk about objects, materials, living creatures and plant life, noticing lots of details and things that are the same or different.
- ☺ Be able to take part in explorations and investigations at all different times of the year in the classroom and in the outdoor environment giving us the chance to notice changes as time passes.
- ☺ Make predictions, try things out and come to some conclusions and even give some reasons as to why we think things happen.

Expressive arts and design

- ☺ Express our own thoughts, ideas and feelings through drawing, painting, model making and by using clay.
- ☺ Use lots of tools to see how they work and what they can do
- ☺ Use natural and manmade materials to design and make our own creations, models and structures.

All of our work in these areas will be documented by photographs, mark making, paintings and other pieces of evidence in our Learning Journeys.

As the children come to the end of their time in the Early Years, they will be supported with their transition into year 1 to ensure the best possible start in key stage 1.