

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW FOR FOUNDATION STAGE

The children's learning in Reception is completely integrated with all 7 areas of learning addressed through a variety of 'topics.' These have been carefully chosen and developed to appeal to the wide range of interests that girls and boys have at this age and are as follows:

Term 1- Colours	Term 4- Traditional stories
Term 2- Cultures and Celebrations culminating in Christmas	Term 5- Minibeasts culminating in a visit to Paignton Zoo
Term 3- Bears	Term 6- All About Me centred around our visit to the Life Education Centre

Personal, social and emotional development

This area of learning is fundamental to everything we do in Reception. It is essential that children feel safe, secure, valued and happy at school and we aim to achieve this through addressing the social and emotional needs of each individual child as they arise in all situations. We aim to personally develop the children through play, discussions, stories and assemblies. We help the children to form positive relationships and to learn that conforming to a set of basic school rules where the feelings, opinions and beliefs of others are considered and respected can lead to a sense of belonging and inner well-being. This is the essence of being a pupil at Boringdon.

Communication and Language

This area of learning is divided into 3 areas:

Listening and Attention where children learn how to actively listen in a range of situations and respond appropriately to what they have heard. This area of learning is fundamental to developing children as good learners and its teaching is integral to every experience the children have.

Speaking where children are encouraged to feel confident to speak in a range of situations and use conversation to express their needs, feelings and opinions. Children's speaking skills are developed through play, stories, conversation and role modelling by the teaching staff. Their vocabulary is extended and developed, speaking in grammatically correct sentences is encouraged and the voice of every child is valued.

Understanding where children are taught to follow instructions involving both ideas and actions. Children are encouraged to respond and develop their understanding through a variety of play, stories and experiences.

Physical development

This area of learning is divided into 2 parts:

Moving and handling where children's gross and fine motor movements, co-ordination and control are developed through a wide range of play, creative and 'PE' experiences.

Health and self care where children are taught how to develop healthily through exercise and good diet and learn how to stay safe. Children are also taught how to be independent with personal hygiene, toileting and dressing.

Literacy

This is divided into 2 areas:

Reading: Children are taught to read individually at Boringdon as it is our belief that every child learns to read in a slightly different way and the teaching of reading has to be individualised to meet each child's needs. A range of strategies are used to teach reading, including phonics. Our core reading scheme is the Oxford Reading Tree but other schemes are used to supplement this to meet the needs of all children. Large book corners in each class are continually available to the children and they also enjoy weekly Library visits to actively develop a love of books and reading. A phonics and reading evening is offered to Parents in Term 2 to help them to understand how we teach reading and what they can do at home to support their child.

Writing: This is also taught individually. Children are taught how to hold a pencil correctly, form letters with the correct orientation from memory, phonetically sound out words and to write in full sentences. A wide range of learning experiences and stimuli are used to motivate and evoke high quality writing. Children are also encouraged to write as an integral part of their play.

Maths

This is divided into 2 areas:

Number: Children are taught how to count and calculate with numbers to at least 20. A firm understanding of the value of numbers is developed through a range of play and 'taught' activities. Children are encouraged to develop their maths understanding by solving problems including doubling, halving and sharing numbers.

Shape, Space and Measure: Children are taught how to recognise and describe 2 and 3 dimensional shapes. Their development in this area also links closely to language development as children learn how to talk about size, weight, capacity (volume), position, distance, time and money and how to solve problems in all of these areas. They are encouraged to recognise, create and describe patterns.

Understanding the World

This is divided into 3 areas of learning:

People and Communities: Stories, role play and experiences are used to teach children that we all have similarities and differences amongst our families, communities and traditions. The topic called Cultures and Celebrations is used to directly teach children about some of these differences as many are beyond their direct experience. The children are continually taught the importance of respecting and accepting differences as an integral part of forming relationships with adults and peers at school.

The World: Children are encouraged to observe and use language to describe similarities and differences in relation to places, environments, objects, materials and living things. Each child's ability to observe and explain why some things occur and talk about changes is also developed, and this also relates closely to their language development. Many parents will associate this with Geography and Science from their own school experiences.

Technology: Children are taught about the range of technology that is used in different places such as work, home and school and how to select the right technological equipment for different purposes. All children experience a weekly computer lesson in the ICT suite where they all learn how to navigate a computer program, draw and paint on the computer, print their work and log on and off. They are also taught how to select computer programs to specifically support their learning.

Expressive Arts and Design

This is divided in 2 parts:

Exploring and Using media and materials: Children are encouraged to join in with a wide range of singing, musical and dancing experiences. Weekly drama, music and dance lessons ensure the development of this area for all children and there are innumerable opportunities for children to develop this themselves through self chosen play activities. Children are also taught how to use a variety of materials, tools and techniques in art activities. They are then encouraged to freely explore colour, design, texture, form and function using what they have been taught. A weekly teacher led art activity related to our chosen topic is used to teach each of these aspects of art and design.

Being imaginative: Children are encouraged to use all that they have learnt about media and materials in original ways using and developing their imagination. They are encouraged to represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories. The weekly drama session is invaluable in supporting children to feel confident with being imaginative.