



CURRICULUM INFORMATION

EARLY YEARS STATEMENT

It would be difficult to paint a clear picture of exactly what you should expect your child to learn within each subject in the reception year. We are working with children in the earliest stages of their education and we know that in order for them to want to continue climbing by themselves, we will need to provide them with a rich and stimulating curriculum that very distinctly meets their needs and interests.

The children will have their first 'school' experience with us in our reception class. The curriculum that they follow is led by the Early Years Foundation Stage Document. This document details the expected development through the seven areas of learning. At this stage it is vital that the children begin to develop the skills that will provide the foundations for future learning. The adults working within the classroom observe the children's current learning stages so they can carefully lead them towards the next steps in their development. At the same time the environment will encourage them to learn independently, at their own pace, whilst developing the social skills to work in co-operation with their peers.

We strongly believe that Reading provides the *Keys to the Kingdom*, it will provide them with the ability to access the ever expanding bank of knowledge available to them, and for this reason the teaching of reading is our biggest focus. We start engaging the children with books at the earliest opportunity and begin teaching them to decode through the highly structured teaching of synthetic phonics. To do this we follow the Letters and Sounds document produced by the Department for Education.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is split into Prime and Specific areas. Within these there are seven areas of learning and development

The prime areas are:

Communication and language - We support the children's language development focusing on the three aspects in this area which are listening and attention, understanding and speaking. All adults working with the children use a good level of standard English and encourage the children through modelling to speak clearly and widen their vocabulary by introducing new words.

Physical development - There are two aspects to this area of learning; moving and handling and health and self-care. The children are encouraged to be independent and responsible for their own belongings and basic needs. During P.E sessions and outside play the children work on specific gross and fine motor skills.

Personal, Social and emotional development - The children are supported by the Early Years team to develop in the three aspects; Making relationships, self-confidence and self-awareness and managing feelings and behaviour. The children are supported to make positive friendships, manage their own behaviour and develop their confidence.

The specific areas are:

Literacy - Literacy is divided into reading and writing. Both of these aspects are underpinned by a rigorous phonics programme in reception. The children are given opportunities to develop and apply a range of reading and writing skills during phonics teaching and their own self-initiated learning time.

Mathematics - Mathematics is split into the aspects of number and shape, space and measures. The children are taught through a mixture of discrete teaching in whole class and small groups and through carefully planned play experiences.

Understanding the world - Understanding the world encompasses the more traditional school subjects of science, geography, technology, RE and History. In the EYFS these are split into the aspects: people and communities, the world, and technology. Our pupils learn about the world around them through outdoor play experiences and local area trips. We also learn about a range of festivals and celebrations from around the world and the children are taught to log on to the school computers and use age appropriate software.

Expressive arts and design - Expressive arts and design includes art, music, dance and imaginative play. The children are provided with a wide range of playful experiences across these areas to develop their use of various media and their imagination.