

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning and development:

- **Communication and Language**
- **Physical Development**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional development**
- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children work at age-related Developmental bands in progressive stages e.g. 30-50months, 40-60 months. 'Early Learning Goals' in each area establish expectations for most children to reach by the end of the Foundation Stage.

Reception Curriculum

Our Reception curriculum is balanced, differentiated and structured to provide "value-added" progress for each child, whatever their starting points or needs.

Communication and Language

The children are offered a rich language environment in which to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves. They are encouraged to speak and listen in many situations.

Physical Development

The children are provided with many practical experiences to encourage the development of gross motor skills.

These include P.E. activities. Cutting, painting and construction are some of the activities available to develop their fine motor skills. The children develop an understanding of the importance of being physically active. They are helped to make healthy choices about food.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

The children form friendships and make positive relationships with other children adults and adults. They learn to manage their feelings, have confidence in their abilities and develop a positive sense of themselves. They understand appropriate behaviour and develop respect for others.

Literacy

We use the 'Jolly Phonic' scheme to teach reading through phonemes (sounds) and link these with memorable actions and sounds. Sound cards are sent home so that parents can have fun helping their children learn. When the children are able to blend the sounds and 'hear' the words they will be given a reading book to take home. A comment book accompanies the reading book to enable teachers and

parents to liaise about the children's reading progress. Children will be heard as frequently as possible in school but it is hoped that they will also read regularly at home too. You are invaluable at motivating your child to be a reader. Please support your child with our school reading challenge.

Many reading opportunities are provided including class book corners, shared reading of books on the interactive Smartboard and frequent reading and storytelling sessions. Children learn to be writers by first communicating with pictures and letters and then learn to spell 3 letter words phonetically. They are encouraged to 'write' in all areas of the classroom.

Mathematics

The children extend their counting skills and learn to read, write and order numerals. Through many practical experiences they begin to add and subtract, explore pattern, investigate 2D and solid shapes and solve problems. They weigh, measure, begin to tell the time and add coins.

Understanding the World

The children make observations and develop their scientific concepts. They learn how to describe living things and materials in terms of scientific properties. They are given opportunities to find out about people, places, technology and the environment. They use computers to develop their skills and to support their learning.

Expressive Arts and Design includes Art, Music, movement, Dance, role-play and design and technology. The children are given many opportunities to express themselves and to develop their thoughts, ideas and feelings. They make decisions and develop their social skills through working with other children.

Topics

We plan our curriculum through topics which include all 7 areas of Learning and Development.

Our topics this year are

Autumn term

- Ourselves
- Penguins
- Christmas

Spring term

- Dinosaurs
- Transport / People who help us

Summer term

- Life cycles and minibeasts
- Animals and the seaside

The children are invited to share their ideas as to what they would like to learn about or do in each topic and these are then included into the half term plan. This is an important part of our teaching and learning.

The Learning Environment

The children learn through planned, purposeful play. There are both adult- led and child-initiated activities for each area of learning and development. We want the children to be independent both in the classroom and outdoors and the children have access to indoor and outdoor play. Our classrooms are arranged so that the children can have learning experiences in all the seven areas of the curriculum. An art area, computer station, writing area, numeracy area, book corner, science area and role-play area are permanent fixtures. The child's personal, social and emotional development is stimulated in the role play area. Sand, water, art, construction and technological activities help in the physical or manipulative skills. Regular P.E. sessions take place to develop physical skills and to help keep your child fit!