

Welcome to the Foundation Stage

Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met and when they have positive relationships with the people around them. We therefore aim to create a setting which is welcoming, safe and stimulating, and where children are able to enjoy themselves, to grow in confidence and to fulfil their potential.

Children will learn through the activities they enjoy both indoors and outdoors, that are sometimes child initiated and sometimes adult led. The EYFS framework was revised in 2012, having greater emphasis on your role in helping your child develop. The Prime areas are:

1. Communication and Language
2. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
3. Physical Development
4. Specific Areas of Learning; Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Communication and Language

Children will be provided with the opportunity and encouragement to use their skills in a range of situations and for a range of purposes. Children will have the daily opportunity to learn to listen, share and enjoy responding to stories, information books, traditional rhymes, music, action songs and poems through our various topics and themes. Children are encouraged to express themselves effectively.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children will be provided with experiences and support which will help them to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, respect for others, social skills and a positive disposition to learn.

Physical Development

Children will be given the opportunity to be active and to improve their skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. They will use a range of small and large equipment in the classroom and outdoor area. They will learn about the importance of good healthy exercise, diet and safety.

Literacy

Our daily phonics sessions will focus on teaching and learning the first 42 sounds and letters (phonemes and graphemes). This includes single letters / sounds and consonant diagraphs such as th, ch, sh and some vowel diagraphs such as aa, oo and ee. They will be taught to blend letters for reading and to segment for writing.

They will learn how to write their own names, focusing on the correct formation of each letter. Initially this may be using sand, paint, playdough or reproducing letters in the air, in order to develop the gross and fine motor skills involved in writing. By the summer term, children will be encouraged to read and understand simple sentences. They will be able to write simple sentences using phonic knowledge attained during letters and sounds.

Mathematics

Activities will focus on counting and recognising numbers up to 10, particularly through rhymes and action songs. They will learn to use language such as more and less when comparing groups of objects and find one more or one less from a group of up to five objects. They will begin to add by combining two groups. Activities will encourage children to

sort or match objects in different ways, learn to describe shapes, models, pictures and patterns around them, and to recognise and make their own simple patterns.

Understanding of the World

Children need to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding to help them to make sense of the world. They will be encouraged to look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and changes, and to ask questions about the things that they see.

In the Spring term we will cover the topic of 'Transport' including forces (push and pull), and designing and making our own vehicles. After half-term our topic will be 'Food'; including healthy eating and food related to the celebration of Easter.

Children will learn to recognise that a range of technology is used in places such as home and school. The classroom contains an interactive whiteboard, which is used regularly in class teaching, iPads and everyday technology and programmable toys to support their learning.

Expressive Arts and Design

Opportunities will be provided for the children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through song, music, dance, art, design role-play and stories. Children will also be introduced to a variety of materials available to explore and make their own creations on a daily basis. Music is taught on a weekly basis, where the children explore percussion instruments and build up a repertoire of songs to sing in class.