



Our Curriculum

Nursery and Reception



In Nursery and Reception we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (or EYFS) curriculum, this focuses on the distinct needs and interests of young children until the end of the Reception year. It is delivered through planned play activities and ensures that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and experience the best possible start to their education. Outdoor areas are used to support and enhance learning.

Each child will have a Learning Journey that follows them throughout the EYFS. This details what they are interested in, how they are learning and how we can develop this further. We use the information you give us as part of our overall knowledge of your child and to plan the finer details of our curriculum to meet their needs and follow their interests.

The Seven Areas of the Learning

There are seven areas of learning and development that shape the curriculum:

- Three prime areas: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Four specific areas, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Communication and Language

We give children opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Children express themselves and communicate through daily routines, imaginative play, drama, dance and movement, and also through other creative activities such as art and music. We encourage children to talk and listen to each other in small groups at snack times, within key group time as well as in front of the class. This helps them to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events.

Physical Development

We work to develop skills of control, co-ordination, manipulation and movement. It helps children gain confidence in what they can do and enables them to feel the positive benefits of being healthy and active.

We use the hall and outdoor areas to develop our gross motor skills and teach a range of skills. We teach children how to use tools like scissors, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with increasing control. This is important as it also supports the development of our fine motor skills which is closely linked to writing.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We provide experiences and support children to develop social skills, a positive sense of themselves, and how to manage their feelings. Through role play and stories we initiate discussion and opportunities for the children to understand their emotions and feelings.

Literacy

We encourage children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. They have access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest together with having the confidence, opportunity, encouragement, support and disposition to use them. We aim to foster a love of language and reading by sharing books and reading to the children as often as we can throughout the session or day.

We have daily phonics sessions where we use a multi-sensory approach following the Letters and Sounds programme.

Reading in Reception

We use a variety of approaches to teach your child how to read. We teach the children a range of skills and strategies in Guided Reading sessions when children work in a small group under the guidance of the teacher or teaching assistant. We also hear the children read individually once a week.

We send home activities that focus on early reading skills for your child to work at with your support. When they are ready we will select a graded reading book with your child for you to share at home.

Home – School Reading Books

We provide a range of graded reading books from many different reading schemes for children to use in school and at home. These include reading schemes with a particular emphasis on phonics. Please read with your child regularly at home and encourage them to discuss the story and ways in which they ‘work out’ unknown words.

Mathematics

We provide opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. This understanding is developed through stories, songs, problem solving, games and imaginative play, so that children can enjoy using and experimenting with numbers. We use the outdoor area in many ways: for example throwing beanbag into a target and keeping score, measuring our plants to see how much we have grown.

Understanding of the World

This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment.

We use the festivals and traditions to understand the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families and communities. We help children develop skills of observation, predicting, exploring, investigating, interpreting, discussing, decision-making and using tools and materials appropriately. We use the ICT suite to build on skills started in class including exploring environments, mouse control skills and creating pictures on screen. We also use other forms of technology including Beebots, programmable toys and voice recording equipment.

Expressive Arts and Design

We enable children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

All seven areas of the curriculum are connected and are equally important.

Come and see us to understand all the learning the children take part in.