

Foundation Stage

The curriculum is called Early Years Foundation Stage (“EYFS”) and is divided into seven areas; three prime areas and four specific areas:

Prime Areas

Personal, Social and Emotional Development underpins all that is happening in the Foundation Stage, and most learning opportunities will have a PSED learning objective as well as one from the main focus for learning. Teaching children to work together, to form positive relationships based on respect and to be tolerant of each other’s feelings are skills which will impact on their ability as lifelong learners as much as being able to read and write. We teach these skills through our whole approach to the curriculum

Communication and Language covers all areas of speaking and listening and the essential communication skills. Children are encouraged to talk about their ideas and learn to explain themselves clearly. They listen to and join in with stories and rhymes. Children talk about their own experiences and answer questions.

Physical Development is very important to these children who are still growing and developing and they must have lots of opportunities to develop their muscles through large gross motor movements such as running and climbing and smaller fine motor skills such as scissor and pen control and building bricks. In Foundation stage we ensure the children have plenty of opportunity to be outside so they can move freely and practice all these skill to strengthen their muscles in their play.

Specific Areas

Literacy encourages children to read and write by seeing others doing it and by having a go themselves. They are introduced to the skills they will need to develop and encouraged to hear the sounds letters make, to say what they are trying to write when they put marks on paper. They have opportunities to write for a range of purposes.

Children develop an enjoyment of books by looking at them in a variety of contexts and having books and stories read to them. All children take home reading scheme and library books and we encourage our children to read with their parents.

Mathematics is taught through practical experiences as children need to be able to count and know which number name relates to each symbol before they can start doing sums on paper. Children also need to be able to use everyday language to talk about size, weight, time and money. They should notice patterns around them and name/describe everyday objects and shapes.

Understanding the World refers to all the enquiring and thinking skills which will later be seen as science, history, geography, technology. Through these the children learn about the world in which they live. Our teaching always has a topic base as young children see life as a whole and not in parts. They will have the chance to explore their world in practical ways which will enable them to follow their own enthusiasm to learn.

Children learn about ICT by exploring a range of technology such as CD players, control toys, computers, lap tops and iPads.

Expressive Arts and Design is essential for young children to explore the many textures and materials and find ways of expressing their feelings and emotions. Many young children need to spend a lot of time exploring how materials and tools work so they can use this knowledge later to create their own designs and know how things work. They sing songs, make music and dance.