



HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
**FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY**

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# **CURRICULUM INFORMATION**



## **Foundation Stage Spring Term 2008**

# The Foundation Stage

The Foundation stage unit comprises the Nursery and Reception classes. The Foundation Stage curriculum is organised into six areas of learning – Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication, Language and Literacy Development, Mathematical Development, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Physical Development and Creative Development. The Nursery and Reception practitioners work together to plan the provision for the children and progression is maintained through continued, shared observations and assessments.

Outdoor learning is an important part of the Foundation stage curriculum, providing children the opportunity to explore and participate in activities ‘on the go’. Equality of opportunity is achieved by enabling the children to access the curriculum both indoors and in the outdoor area.

## What are we learning about this term?

This term’s themes are ‘Ourselves and the World Around Us’

### PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Personal, social and emotional development is a key area in the Foundation Stage. Children in the Nursery are encouraged to play and co-operate with others, cope with the routines of the setting and start to develop independence. As they move into Reception, they take part in activities to encourage them as independent learners. Circle time is an important part of the activities in Foundation Stage and the children share news and ideas with others regularly. The children are supported in developing their social skills through role play activities and turn taking games. This term our role play areas will be: a baby clinic and clothes shop indoors and a construction site in the outside area.

### COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Communication, Language and Literacy development includes Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. Before children can write it is important they have developed their language skills through imaginative play. Role play and self chosen activities enable the children to do this. It is also important that they can hear rhyme and patterns of sound so daily action rhymes, songs and stories with repeated patterns are part of the Nursery setting. In the Reception class they are introduced to letter sound recognition, blending and segmenting sounds to read and spell and a range of book making activities. This term we shall be focussing on different characters in stories and information books including finding out about different parts of the world and the weather.

In the Nursery the children will continue to experiment with their mark making skills, including writing their own names. In Reception the children will be developing their emergent writing skills by focussing on early spelling and attempting to write for a range of purposes including lists, stories and captions. The children are encouraged to use their emergent writing skills in their role play activities and to label their models etc.

## **MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT**

The children in Foundation Stage have many opportunities to develop their mathematical skills in practical situations. Although the children start to record their work in the Reception class it is necessary that they have had time to understand a range of mathematical ideas prior to that. Number rhymes and songs, counting round the circle and in games situations take place daily. In the Nursery class the children are encouraged to recognise numbers 1 to 10 and count groups of objects by pointing to each one in turn. They also gain experience in recognising familiar shapes, making repeating patterns and comparing objects according to size. In Reception the children start to work with higher numbers although the emphasis is still highly practical. They will be working with familiar coins, comparing sizes and weights and begin to record number sentences to show addition and subtraction. At all times they will be encouraged to use simple mathematical language to develop their ideas.

## **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORLD**

Knowledge and Understanding of the World includes the areas of History, Geography, Science, Design Technology, RE and Information Technology. This term we shall be looking at how we change and grow, different kinds of weather and hot and cold countries. The children are encouraged to use their senses to explore the world around them and think about eating healthily. They have the opportunity to use CD players, the listening post and digital cameras to record their ideas. There is now an interactive whiteboard in both the Nursery and Reception classes and the children in the Reception class also visit the computer suite in the Upper Building to develop their skills. The children will be finding out about other cultures and finding out about different festivals such as Chinese New Year and Easter.

## **PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT**

There are two main strands to the development of the children's physical skills. They need a wide range of opportunities to develop their co-ordination, balance and sense of space through PE activities in the hall and in the outdoor area. They use the bikes and scooters regularly and are encouraged participate in using small and large apparatus. They also have daily opportunities to develop their fine motor and hand/eye skills. Activities such as threading, tracing, cutting and exploring malleable materials like play dough, clay or gloop help the children strengthen their hands and support them in their growing pencil control.

## **CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT**

The children have the opportunity to participate in a range of creative activities on a daily basis. Sometimes these will be adult led to teach the children key skills, but there is also an opportunity in the setting for the children to choose their own materials and express their ideas more independently. This term we will be exploring pattern and shape through looking at mini-beasts and plants. They will also have the opportunity to explore collage, printing, observational drawing and model making using malleable materials such as salt dough. The children also participate in music based activities and experiment with sound through exploring a range of musical instruments.

## What else is happening?

### SEAL Time

Each term, we focus on a particular aspect of Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning (S.E.A.L). This term, we will be looking at the theme of 'GOING FOR GOALS'.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is available to the children every morning during term time. It runs from 8.00 am to 8.50 am in the dining room in the Upper Building. There is no need to book, just come along on the day! Details are available at the school office or on the website.

### Nursery Lunch Club

Nursery lunch club runs from 11.30 am until 12.30pm daily. Your child will be offered a hot meal followed by games in the Foundation Stage setting. Again this does not need to be booked in advance but can be arranged as you bring your child to Nursery in the morning. Children attending Nursery in the afternoon session are also welcome to join us at lunch club and this needs to be booked either the previous day or by 9.00 am. Could you please talk to the Nursery staff before your child starts attending lunch club to be sure they have had time to feel settled. Information regarding cost can be obtained from the school office.

### Supporting Your Child

In the Nursery your child will be encouraged to take home books from the Classroom Library to share. This continues in the Reception class and they also start bringing home reading books and advice regarding letter formation. We would ask that your child brings their book bag to school **every day** and that you share these books with your child at home. Remember, little and often is the best way to support your child's growing reading skills. If you are unsure how to support your child at any time please speak to one of the Foundation Stage staff.

<b>Shared Reading</b>	<b>Friday 8.50am 9.10am</b>
<b>Games Library</b>	<b>Friday 8.50am 9.10am</b>

### Forthcoming Events

<b>3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Parent Consultations</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>World Book Day</b>
<b>Week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Science Week</b>