

CURRICULUM INFORMATION



**Foundation Stage
Summer 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 theme is ‘Minibeasts.’

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This term the children in the foundation stage are learning about caring for animals. They will have the opportunity to observe the life cycle of a frog. They will make daily observations of the frog spawn being cared for in the Foundation stage classes. They will have the opportunity to discuss the changes they see.

The wormery will allow the children to observe worms in their habitat. The children will be encouraged to care for the minibeasts and will learn the importance of washing their hands each time they come into contact with any of the minibeasts.

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Each class has a role-play area in which the children are encouraged to improve their speaking and listening skills and turn taking in conversation. They are encouraged to take on literary characters in their play. This term they will be taking on the roles of minibeast detectives in the outdoor area!

This term we will be looking at fiction and non-fiction books. We will be reading, The Hungry Caterpillar, Incy Wincy Spider, Ladybird Fly Away Home, The Busy Spider, Little Miss Muffet and other information books on minibeasts.

The children in Nursery will continue mark making and writing their own names and will be encouraged to link letters and sounds in their emergent writing. They will be attempting write labels for the minibeasts they find.

Reception will continue to link letters to sounds to form simple words and will be encouraged to write sentences. They will be recording the information that they find out about minibeasts in their topic books.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

This term the children will be looking at numbers in the environment, shapes, counting on and back, sorting objects, doubling numbers to five, looking at symmetry, finding missing numbers and using a number line. They will be learning a variety of number songs and rhymes.

They will be sorting minibeasts according to different criteria. They will be learning to count and double using the spots on ladybirds. They will be counting the legs on a variety of minibeasts and using the patterns on butterflies to help them to understand symmetry.

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 minibeasts and their environment. Children will be identifying minibeasts they find in the outdoor area. They will be encouraged to use magnifying glasses and bug boxes to make careful observations. They will be encouraged to comment orally on the changes that happen to the tadpoles throughout the term.

The children will be using a variety of materials to make models of the beasts they find. They will learn a variety of joining techniques. The children will continue to use the interactive whiteboards in their lessons. They will have the opportunity to listen to stories in the listening posts and will be encouraged to operate tape players independently. In small groups they will record their bug hunts using a digital camera.

The children will continue to learn about different cultures from around the world.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

There are two main strands to the development of the children's physical skills, gross motor skills and fine motor 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

This term the children will be painting, sketching, working with clay and salt-dough, making observational drawings, creating sound journeys and using role-play to explore the term's topic. They will be drawing the minibeasts they find and sketching habitats in the outdoor area. They will make minibeasts using 3 dimensional materials. In music lessons they will be shown how to choose appropriate sounds to create a journey.

There is always a variety of materials and equipment that children can access independently in their child initiated learning.

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 'relationships.'

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. We endeavour to hear your child read on a regular basis and their book will be changed on a weekly basis. If you feel that the book needs changing before the weekend then you are welcome to change the book in shared reading on a Friday morning. 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.

Shared Reading	Friday 8.50am 9.10am
Games Library	Friday 8.50am 9.10am & Tuesday 3.15pm-4pm

Forthcoming Events

Sports Festival (Reception)	24th April
Quiz Night	25th April
Maths Workshop	29th April
Bank Holiday	5th May
INSET Day	1st June
Occasional Day	20th June
Sports Day	27th June
Summer Fayre	13th July
Open Evening	16th July
Last day of term (2.15pm finish)	Wednesday 23rd July

In the Foundation stage a great emphasis is placed on outdoor learning. Could we remind all parents and carers that children **must** have named sunhats with them at school **every day** in the summer term. As the weather improves the children will need sun protection applied every day before school. This cannot be brought into school for staff to apply.