

CURRICULUM INFORMATION



**Foundation Stage
Autumn 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 ‘All around us.’

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This term the children in the foundation stage are learning about the world and environment all around them. They will be learning about their immediate environment by taking sensory walks around the school and making mood maps to record their feelings. They will continue to learn the importance of treating living things with respect and care and showing a concern for the environment. Through looking after the plants in the early years’ garden they will have the opportunity to care for their own plants.

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 puppets will be used to retell stories. They will be taking on the roles of bear hunters in the outdoor area!

We will be looking at fiction and non-fiction books. We will be reading *We’re Going On A Bear Hunt*, *Where’s My Teddy*, *The Supermarket* and information books on the environment.

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 to write labels.

Reception will continue to improve their phonic knowledge through daily phonic sessions. They will continue to link letters to sounds to form simple words and will be encouraged to write sentences. They will be writing lists and sequencing instructions.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

This term the children will be looking at numbers in the environment, shapes, counting on and back, sorting objects, 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 bears according to different criteria. They will be learning to count a variety of objects and will begin to use a number line to count on and back. They will be looking at patterns in their environment and will be encouraged to recognise these simple patterns.

Both Nursery and Reception will be creating a shop in their Maths Corner and children will be encouraged to use coins and scales in their play.

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 environmental features. Children will be identifying natural materials that they find in the outdoor area. They will be encouraged to use magnifying glasses and make careful observations. They will be encouraged to comment orally on the changes that happen to around them throughout the term and to notice the effects of seasonal change.

The children will be using a variety of materials to make models of local buildings. 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.

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. When acting out the story of the bear hunt children will have the opportunity to travel around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment.

Both Nursery and Reception have a daily fine motor skills session 'Finger Skill.' 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, making imprints using clay and salt-dough, making observational drawings, creating sound journeys and using role-play to explore the term's topic. They will be drawing and sketching buildings they find in their local environment. They will use a wide range of materials and suitable tools to make buildings using 3 dimensional materials. In music lessons they will be shown how to choose appropriate sounds to create a journey and sound effects for a story. There is always a variety of materials and equipment that children can access during independent learning time.

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 'New Beginnings.'

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

Parentline plus/Supporting you child's learning meeting	Tuesday 16th September 9.15 – 10.15am (crèche) & 12.45 – 1.45pm
Parent Forum (Head's Office)	Thursday, 18th September 9.10am
Parent Consultations	Monday 13th October 3.30-6.00pm
Primary On-Line Application Session	Tuesday 14th October 9.05am – 11.30am
Parent Consultations	Wednesday 15th October 5.30-8.00pm
Last day of half-term	Friday 24th October

In the Foundation stage a great emphasis is placed on outdoor learning, whatever the weather. Therefore all children **must** have coats and wellies.