



HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
FAIRLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY

**Pound Avenue
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Hertfordshire
SG1 3JA**

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CURRICULUM INFORMATION



Foundation Stage Spring Term 2009

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 'Ourselves.'

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This term the children in the foundation stage are learning about themselves. They will be learning about their bodies, their senses, their family and different feelings.. They will continue to learn the importance of treating others with respect. In our hospital role play area they will be able to act out caring roles and they will be able to express their feelings in our new quiet corner. Our SEAL theme for the first half term is "Going for Goals" and for the second half it will be "Good to be me".

COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

In the role play areas children are encouraged to improve their speaking and listening skills and turn taking in conversation. This term we will be using finger puppets in our puppet theatre to act out traditional tales.

We will be reading a selection of traditional tales and rhymes. We will be looking at non-fiction books about the body and books on the five senses.

The children in Nursery will continue mark making and will be encouraged to recognise their own names in a variety of contexts. There will be the opportunity for the children to write their own names and they will be encouraged to link letters and sounds in their emergent writing.

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 compose sentences. They will labelling parts of the body. They will be matching captions to pictures and be asked to retell traditional tales.

Reception will continue to receive four words a week to learn to read at home.

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

This term the children will be measuring parts of their bodies using non-standard measurements. They will be using 2D shapes to create pictures of people and using the shape names to describe their picture. They will be using comparative language when discussing similarities and differences. They will be making pictograms to represent differences in eye colour. We will be looking at symmetry during creative activities.

They will be sorting various play people according to different criteria. They will continue 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.

The children will continue to use the shops in their Maths Corners 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. The children will be making a personal time line and we will be asking them to bring in photos of when they were a baby. Children will be encouraged to use all of their senses. They will be identifying various smells in jelly, playdough and water. They will be encouraged to walk over a variety of textures in bare feet. They will be taken on environmental walks around the school grounds to identify to a variety of sounds. The children will be using recording equipment to speak about themselves, this will be used in our interactive displays. Look out for this in the upper building entrance!

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.

Both Nursery and Reception have a daily fine motor skills session 'Finger 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 will be using mirrors to look closely at their own features before painting self-portraits. They will be looking at their hand and finger prints and will use paint, wool and salt dough to record their observations. They will be looking at skeletons and create their own using a variety of materials.

They will be learning a variety of songs including "Them bones" and "Heads, shoulders, knees and toes".

They will continue to have access to musical instruments both inside and out and will be encouraged to use these to create their own tunes.

Reception will be taking part in a dance festival being held at the school and will be working hard on their dances over the second half term. There will an opportunity for parents/carers to watch this event nearer the time.



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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' and 'Good to be me'.

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 have the choice of bringing in a packed lunch or having a hot school dinner followed by games in the Foundation Stage setting. Again, this does not need to be booked in advance but needs to be arranged the morning you bring your child to Nursery. The cost of this facility is £1.85 if you bring your own lunch or £3.45 for a school dinner. There are concessions for children that are entitled to free school meals – please see the office for further details. 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.

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.

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

Please ensure that your child is in school on time to give them the best start to each day as it can be very unsettling for both your child and others in the class if they arrive after the register has started. We understand that there can be unavoidable circumstances. In this situations please sign your child in at the late book (a member of staff will be in the KS1 hall door to greet your child) rather than taking them to their class door. This ensures that your child has

been registered and minimises disruption. Thank you in advance with your cooperation with this.

Shared Reading	Friday 8.50am 9.10am
Games Library	Friday 8.50am 9.10am

Forthcoming Events

4th March	World Maths Day
5th March	World Book Day
9th & 11th March	Parent Consultations
Week beginning 9th March	Science Week