

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for school as well as preparing them for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs. One of the major drives of the Early Years' curriculum is developing and providing opportunity for independent learning. Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. This is balanced out with daily, structured, adult-led focus groups, increasingly so as the children head towards Year1. These are the 7 areas of learning and development which guide professionals' engagement with your child's play and activities as they learn new skills and knowledge:-

**Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food. The children have access to our lovely big garden on a daily basis for active play and learning. We encourage the children to become independent with shoes, coats etc as well as with their personal hygiene. They help to prepare healthy snacks mid-morning and we have regular cooking activities to taste and experience different types of food. Our focussed PE sessions promote co-ordination and teamwork as well as teaching the children to dress independently.



**Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities. We will be playing circle games to get to know each other as well as encouraging sharing skills and respect. We will get to know other adults and children in school and learn all about rules and routines in school.

**Literacy development** involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest. The Reception children will start a daily programme of learning to read and write using a systematic phonics programme-Jolly Phonics. The children will be introduced to the 42 main sounds of the English language. They will be taught letter sounds, letter formation, identifying sounds in words for writing, blending letter sounds for reading and tricky words/irregular words. We will play games to encourage listening and use alliteration and rhyme during our group time. We read to the children daily and there are always books for the children to take home to share with you.

**Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. The children will be learning to recognise, count to and use numbers confidently to 20. We use opportunities in play to do this so that it is relevant to the children. We will learn how to count accurately and talking about what we can use to help us. We will talk about numbers which are familiar to us such as ages and house numbers. We will talk about 2 and 3D shapes and use measuring techniques in and out of class. Our home corner role play area will give opportunities for the children to investigate sizes, money, quantities and use a range of mathematical vocabulary.

**Communication and language development** involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations. Our home corner role gives children a chance to communicate with each other learning from experiences outside the classroom and putting into practice their sharing and co-operative skills. We will provide the children opportunities to retell fictional texts and help make appropriate props. The children have a chance to take turns to talk formally to their class at carpet time - this sometime takes time to build up confidence. Our small class size will help the more reluctant talkers. We will let you know if we are having specific show and tell times. It is always great to hear about exciting events from home. (please only bring in special toys if you feel your children needs the connection with home).

**Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. We will be exploring our local environment as well as talking about where we all live. We will talk about our likes and dislikes, similarities and differences and explore with our senses. We will be concentrating on Autumnal changes in our outdoor learning. We will learn how to use all our technology in class carefully and appropriately.

**Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, roleplay, and design and technology. We will provide a range of activities for children to use their senses and be able to express their own ideas and creativity. We like to provide open-ended resources for the children to use in their own ways. We will also be tackling some self-portraits - watch out for our gallery!



Remember to keep an eye on the school website for pictures and videos of our classroom fun!