

Curriculum

In Early Years (Nursery and Reception) the children learn through play inspired by their own natural curiosities. We follow a long term plan split into termly themes to expand the children's knowledge and understanding, which can be found below. Weekly learning is planned around these themes and the children's own individual interests. These activities are differentiated and careful planning ensures that learning meets the needs of both Nursery and Reception pupils (Ofsted, 2020).

We offer rich and varied activities and experiences which are in tune with children's interests and believe strongly in giving children enrichment through books, drama, science, French and learning Makaton. Our inclusive environment, supported by the use of Makaton, by both staff and pupils, ensures children can be included and thrive in our family orientated setting. Our children have daily opportunities to explore outside and learn in the natural environment. Through these well planned learning experiences we inspire a love of learning and a spirit of enquiry both now and in the future.

We work with the Early Years Foundation Stage which incorporates seven areas of learning including the prime and specific areas of:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Understanding the World
- Mathematics
- Literacy

Daily sessions

Phonics

The children complete daily planned, adult-led 'Phase One' systematic phonics sessions within nursery, In particular, it will support them linking sounds and letters in the order in which they occur in words, and naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet in preparation for starting to read when they begin Reception. Phase One activities are arranged under the following seven aspects:

Aspect 1: General sound discrimination – environmental sounds

Aspect 2: General sound discrimination – instrumental sounds

Aspect 3: General sound discrimination – body percussion

Aspect 4: Rhythm and rhyme

Aspect 5: Alliteration

Aspect 6: Voice sounds

Aspect 7: Oral blending and segmenting

Mathematics

Maths in the Early Years involves providing children with opportunities to develop skills in counting, using number, shape, space and measure. We plan a challenging and enjoyable experience following 'Number of the Week' mastery approach where a different number is focussed upon for a set period of time to a deeper level using a variety of practical and natural resources. This aims at transferring the children's learning to their long term memory and allowing learning to be built upon over time.

Fine/ Gross Motor

Funky Fingers

The children complete daily 'Funky Fingers' sessions providing them with the opportunity to develop their fine motor skills. These activities are planned weekly for the children, for example, threading, cutting, using tweezers, tracing over lines and many more to help improve their formation in preparation for writing.

Squiggle While You Wiggle

During the Early Years we complete regular 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' sessions. This is an approach to stimulate early writing through the development and improvement of gross motor skills using movement to music. Children begin using fabric to rehearse, a range of shapes and movements, to music, leading to mark making, in preparation for writing.