

What we do in Early years

We believe that young children learn best through play and through following their own interests. This is reflected in our Early Years learning Environment where teaching and learning is done through play.



The learning environment, both inside and outside, is planned and resourced to provide the best opportunities for children's learning and progress.

The Early Years Team play and interact with the children for the majority of the time. We help children practise and consolidate what they already know and help them learn new skills and knowledge, within the context of the activities they choose to do. We encourage reading, writing and maths in all these areas.

We teach phonics and maths to the whole class on a daily basis. The children have opportunities to practise their skills in all provision areas.

We also teach whole class 'Talk for Writing Sessions' where we explore written language through learning popular stories or non-fiction texts and creating our own versions.

Each week, children read in small groups or individually, to develop their reading skills. They are taught new skills including phonics and decoding skills and the understanding of what they are reading.

We are very lucky to have our own wooded area in school. Each week we visit the 'Forest' to do a 'Forest School' session where we develop practical skills such as den building and whittling as well as learning more about nature and our environment. In addition, Forest schools helps develop:

Confidence and self-esteem



Communication and social skills

Physical skills

A greater understanding and awareness of the natural environment

Natural motivation and a positive attitude to learning

The ability to manage risk

Healthier lifestyles.

We develop and learn technology, literacy and physical skills through visits to the computer suite and library and one PE session each week.

Key celebrations and events are explored at appropriate times, including Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year and Easter. We also explore the changes in the seasons throughout the year.

The Early Years Curriculum is taught through seven areas of learning.

Three prime areas:

Communication and Language—learning to listen and pay attention in different situations, developing understanding and speaking confidently

We will teach children to:

- listen carefully in a class and group situations
- listen to stories, talking about what the story is about and joining in when appropriate
- listen to what others say and respond appropriately
- follow instructions
- answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and stories and events
- express themselves effectively
- use past, present and future forms accurately
- tell stories, both about real and imagined events

Physical Development— moving in lots of different ways and handling tools and equipment safely, knowing how to stay healthy and look

after themselves. We will teach children:

- to develop co-ordination in large and small movements
- to move confidently in lots of different ways, safely
- to use equipment and tools effectively
- the importance of physical exercise and a healthy diet
- how to keep healthy and safe
- how to manage their own basic hygiene and personal, including dressing and going to the toilet independently



Personal, Social and Emotional Development—helping children make good relationships with adults and children, having confidence and self-awareness and being managing their feelings and behaviour. We will teach children to:

- play with others, taking turns and listening to their ideas
- be aware of the feelings of others
- make good relationships with adults and other children
- try lots of different activities, including new ones

- be confident to talk about their ideas, likes and dislikes
- find the things that they need and ask for help when they need it
- talk about feelings, behaviour and consequences
- know that some behaviour is unacceptable
- work as part of a group or class, and understand and follow the rules
- cope with changes in routines and behave appropriately





Four specific areas:

Literacy—the skills needed to read and write, enjoying stories and writing for a purpose. We will teach children to:

- read and understand simple sentences
- decode regular words and read some common irregular words
- talk about what they have read
- write use their phonic knowledge to write simple sentences including some irregular common words

Mathematics— understanding numbers and shape, space and measures. We will teach children to:

- count and order numbers from one to 20
- find one more and one less
- add and subtract with numbers up to 10, using equipment or counting on and back
- use their maths to solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing
- talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money
- recognise, create and describe patterns
- describe the characteristics of shapes, such as number of sides and faces

Understanding the World—learning about different people and communities, exploring the natural world and technology including computers. We will teach children:

- to talk about past and present events in their own lives and in the lives of family members
- that not everyone enjoys the same things
- about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions
- about similarities and differences in places, objects, materials and living things
- to talk about their environment and notice differences with other environments
- to talk about what they notice about animals and plants and explain why some

things happen

- about the technology that is used in places such as homes and schools
- how to use technology for particular purposes

Expressive Arts and Design—exploring and using different materials and equipment and being creative. We will teach children to:

- sing songs, make music and dance
- safely use and explore a variety of materials, tools and techniques,
- experiment with colour, design, texture, form and function.
- show their ideas in lots of ways including design and technology, art, music, dance, role play and stories



The **Characteristics of Learning** are ways in which children engage with other people and their environment. They underpin learning and development across all seven areas and help children be effective and motivated learners.

Playing and Exploring—engagement. Finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and being willing to ‘have a go’. This involves:

- Showing curiosity about objects, events and people and using senses to explore the world around them
- Engaging in open-ended activity and activities that interest them
- Taking on a role in their play and acting out experiences
- Initiating activities
- Seeking challenge
- Showing a ‘can do’ attitude
- Taking a risk, engaging in new experiences, and learning by trial and error

Active Learning—motivation. Being involved and concentrating, keeping trying and enjoying achieving what they set out to do. This involves:

- Focussing on their activity for a period of time
- Being fascinated and not easily distracted from what they are doing
- Paying attention to details
- Keeping going even when problems or difficulties occur
- Showing satisfaction and pride in their achievements

Creating and Thinking Critically—thinking. Having their own ideas, making links and choosing ways to do things. This involves:

- Thinking of ideas and solving problems
- Making links, noticing patterns, making predictions and testing their ideas
- Planning, making decisions about how to do something, solve a problem and reach a goal
- Checking how well their activities are going and changing strategy as needed
- Reviewing how well the approach worked