

What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

Your child will now be continuing their Foundation Stage learning. This first year at school is known as their **Reception** Year. Your child will be taught in Oak Class.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to 5.

Why is it Important?



The Foundation Stage claims its name and importance from the fact it gives children secure foundations for later learning. Early experiences affect children's attitude to learning so it is vitally important we get it right. All children learn best from experiences that are suitable for their stage of development. Play is key to the way young children learn. Through play children can develop, for example: the confidence needed for learning; the social skills needed for personal development and the skills needed for reading and writing. We encourage independence from an early stage to aid problem solving skills. Taking all this into account, the children will be given the opportunity to learn through a carefully planned, well-balanced, curriculum which covers 'topics' and is adapted to follow the children's interests.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Underpinning the curriculum are the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning:

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties, and enjoy achievements
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

- The '**Learning Zoo**' animals encourage the children to develop these good attitudes towards play and learning,



There are 3 **Prime Areas of Learning** -

Communication and language - a rich language environment helps children to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.

Physical development - children have opportunities to be active and interactive; to develop their fine and gross co-ordination, control, and movement..

Personal, social and emotional development - Children are helped 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.

There are 4 **Specific Areas of Learning-**

Literacy - children learn to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children are given access to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest.

Mathematics - children have 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.

Understanding the world - children are helped to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, and the natural environment.

Expressive arts and design - children explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, developing their imaginations, as well as sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

Areas of Learning and Development	Aspects
Prime Areas	
Personal Social and Emotional Development	Self-Regulation Managing Self Building Relationships.
Physical Development	Gross Motor Skills Fine Motor Skills.
Communication and Language	Speaking Listening, Attention and Understanding.
Specific	
Literacy	Reading Writing
Mathematics	Number Numerical Patterns.

Understanding the World	Past and Present, People, Cultures and Communities The Natural World.
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with Materials Being Imaginative and Expressive

During the Foundation Stage, these areas of learning will be introduced in ways that are suitable for young children. i.e. through practical, fun, stimulating and challenging activities. The children will be given opportunities to build upon their existing skills and interests to aid their development.



Children are assessed and monitored through their play and observations, as they work towards 17 Early Learning Goals, which are the expected outcomes for children of this age at the end of their Foundation Year at school. Progress will be discussed with you at Parents Evenings (usually October and February) and/or ongoing informal meetings. All assessments are used to plan appropriate work for the children.

At the end of the school year (July) you will receive a written report, which will summarise your child's progress and attainment across these 17 areas of learning. These outcomes form what is known as the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile. The document **What to Expect When** (on school website) gives more information about the developmental stages towards the goals.
NB This document is currently being revised in line with recent national reforms to the EYFS curriculum.