How we learn in Reception

Our learning is based on the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This curriculum is split into seven areas of learning which are: Personal, Social and Emotional development, Physical Development, Communication and Language, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design. We use a range of cross curricular continuous provision to ensure that the children have rich and rounded learning experiences, guided by the children’s interests and abilities. The Characteristics of Effective Learning underpin everything we do, as they help develop the children’s skills as learners and enhance essential attributes for life long success, such as perseverance, problem solving and critical thinking. The Characteristic of Effective Learning are divided into three categories: ‘playing and learning’, ‘active learning’ and ‘creative and thinking critically’.

Maths

This year children will start to develop their understanding of number and shape, they will do this through the exploration of the world around them and through active learning. Children will be encouraged to investigate number both indoors and outdoors through play and they will be given a wide range of opportunities to develop critical thinking skills by solving simple problems practically. Key skills will include: The children will learn to count, recognize, and order numbers to 20. They will investigate the meaning of each number and different ways we can represent it. We will introduce addition and subtraction, finding one more and less using concrete objects and applying this skill in different situations. We’ll also learn to double, halve and share groups of objects.

English

During English this year the children will explore a range of books and stories linked to our topics. This will support children with their rapidly growing vocabulary and it will expose them to new and unfamiliar words and their meanings. They will begin to answer questions about texts and they will discuss what they have read with an adult. The children will explore writing for different purposes including labels and captions, retelling stories, writing lists and simple instructions and creating short non-fiction pages. Children will then develop the ability to compose, verbally recall and write simple sentences that can be read by an adult. The children will learn to use finger spaces, capital letters and full stops in their writing and also develop the ability to sound out new words for spelling.

Phonics

We follow Ruth Miskin’s ‘Read Write Inc’ phonics in school, with a focus on teaching children to read and spell accurately and fluently. Children first learn to recognise the individual sounds, then move onto groups of letters which make sounds when they are put together, we call these ‘special friends’ for example ‘sh’. Children learn to write the letters, using a memorable rhyme to help them, and also to blend and segment words, supporting reading, writing and spelling in the early years. It is also enormous fun, ask your child to show you one of our phonics celebrations!
**Do you want to be friends? Autumn 1**

This is the very first topic covered in Reception class and it helps the children to settle into school life quickly and confidently. Children become aware of their classmates and friendships soon develop amongst them. Children also get to know the adults in school and who are the people that will help them everyday.

This topic covers all areas of learning but mainly supports the children with Personal, Social and Emotional Development, helping them to settle confidently. Children will explore relationships and learn about the qualities of a good friend and how important friendship is. They will be learning about their own families and about the similarities and differences between themselves and others.

**Will you read me a story? Autumn 2**

Stories are a key focus of this topic enabling the children to develop their reading and writing skills as well as their imaginations. We will explore books like *The Hungry Giant* and *Harry and the Dinosaurs go to School*

Children will use stories to develop their knowledge and understanding of the world. They will be excited by learning about fantasy in ways which will help develop their imagination. Children will use their art and design skills to plan and create a party suitable for some story characters.

**What is a reflection? Spring 1**

In this project the children will be exploring the world around them by looking at different textures and materials. Children will have the opportunity to explore features of their own environment and compare how other environments may differ from their own. They will look closely at similarities and differences and be encouraged to comment and ask questions about aspects of their familiar world such as the place where they live.

Children will talk about things they have observed, why things happen and how things work. They will be encouraged to show care and concern for the environment they live in. Through reading the story of the Three Little Pigs, the children will explore the materials the pigs used to build their home.

**Are we there yet? Spring 2**

Children will explore different occupations and ways of life in the world around them. They will be looking closely at their community and beginning to develop an understanding about the similarities and differences between themselves and others.

Children will be using non fiction texts to explore different people in their community and the way they help us.

Children will be visited by firefighters and police officers to develop their understanding of different occupations. They will be using their construction skills to design and create an emergency vehicle.

**What can you see in the summer? Summer 1**

Children will talk about observations they make of plants. They will be exploring why things happen and how things work by planting bean seeds and finding out what they need to grow. Children will begin to develop an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time as they explore different plants in the environment. At the same time they will be shown how to care for the environment that they live in. Children will be able to talk about different plants, explain why some things occur and talk about the changes. They will hear the story of Jack and the Beanstalk to support this topic. Children will be introduced to the great artist Van Gogh and his famous Sunflowers.

**Why do zebras have stripes? Summer 2**

Children will observe animals in their own environment and other environments. They will be shown how to care for living things, looking closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change through the class butterfly project.

Children will know about similarities and differences in living things as they explore animals and their habitats. Children will make observations of animals by observing the butterfly project which will help them to explain why things occur and talk about the changes.

Children will be using a variety of books to support this topic including *Mr Gumpy’s Outing*.