

Newcomen Primary School Reception Curriculum Overview

Introduction

“What a child can do today with assistance, he/she will be able to do by herself tomorrow.”

Lev Vygotsky

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage which incorporates Nursery and Reception. This unique keystage represents the first steps in developing a love of life-long learning. Through stimulating and engaging environments, children have the opportunity to become independent and resilient learners.

We value and recognise you as your child's primary educator and look forward to forming a successful and genuine partnership that will support your child in reaching their full potential.

Communication and Language

The number and quality of conversations children have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language rich environment is crucial. Children will have a variety of opportunities to develop their spoken language and gain confidence in speaking confidently and clearly in front of others. From reporting the daily weather forecast, working in talk partners and retelling familiar stories, children will also learn to become attentive and responsive listeners.

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. Children will develop fine motor skills as they continue to have access to threading, pinching, rolling, cutting activities alongside increasing pencil control. Gross motor skills that develop overall body strength, coordination and balance will be practised during outdoor play, Yoga, balance bikes and PE sessions. Children will become aware of the effect of healthy eating, oral hygiene and exercise on their bodies.

Personal, Social and emotional Development

This area of learning provides the backbone of our curriculum. Learning how to make successful relationships and manage their own feelings and behaviour and being sensitive to the needs of others allows children to work together to become successful learning partners. Threaded through every area of learning, children will be encouraged to become resilient and confident learners.

Literacy

Using systematic synthetic phonics, children will learn to hear, blend, segment and write sounds. This will support both early reading and writing development and will be taught by immersing children in a wide variety of stories, rhymes and poems. Children will retell stories in different ways, for example retelling traditional tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears in the role play area in order to practise story language and performing it as a play. Children will learn that we use reading and writing for a variety of purposes and enjoy growing satisfaction in being able to do both independently.

Mathematics

Children will develop a strong grounding in number and the patterns within numbers. Thorough mastery of early number facts through a wide range of activities and games will enable children to gain the enjoyment and confidence to go on and solve more abstract problems. We aim to instill a 'have a go attitude' towards mathematics and be able to apply new skills to everyday situations. Children will begin to use early mathematical language to describe two and three dimensional shapes, weight and capacity.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials. We work with paint, chalk, clay, pastels and ink to name but a few! Simple artistic techniques such as colour mixing will be explored as well as looking at and replicating different illustrative styles. Children will be encouraged to select colours and materials to achieve a planned affect in their designs and will explore different aspects of reproducing music.

Understanding of the World

Children will gain an understanding of the world around them including their own communities, other cultures and the natural world. We learn that people around the world have different beliefs and celebrations as we explore our own communities and festivals. Children will explore different environments and aspects of the natural world such as animals, plants and lifecycles.

Goals we hope to achieve

- To become attentive and active listeners and speak confidently for different audiences.
- To become social, empathetic and resilient members of the school community.
- To be able to hear, recognise and write letter sounds in order to write simple sentences independently and be able to read and understand simple texts.
- To form recognisable and regular letters that can be read by others and use some simple punctuation such as capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.
- To have a sound mastery of numbers to ten including number bonds, doubling and halving. To recognise some amounts without counting. Count to twenty and back.
- To gain control of our bodies through skills including dancing, jumping, balancing, throwing and catching.

How can you help?

- Reading with your child for ten minutes every night. It may be their school reading book or a favourite story from home. As their reading skills increase, they will be able to participate more and more.
- Always talk to your child about their day at school. Allow them to teach you what they have learnt!
- Regularly practise the sounds in your child's Phonics Journal. They can tell you how we say them in school.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves independently every day. Being able to put on outdoor clothing (including zips and buttons) is important too.

Information

- Books bags to be brought to school every day. Please keep reading books in book bags.
- Please put your child's name in **all** items of clothing, including PE kits.
- The children have snack together each day. If you would like to make a voluntary contribution, please bring £1 weekly.
- Class 1 do PE on Mondays and Class 2 on Fridays. If children have earrings, please provide plasters to cover or remove them on these days.

Thank you and best wishes.