

Newcomen Primary School

Reception Curriculum Overview

Introduction

At Newcomen Primary School, we are passionate about enthusing our children with a love of learning which is both meaningful and relevant. Our curriculum is designed to allow our children to develop all important human qualities and dispositions. While knowledge is integral to the design of our ambitious curriculum, the key driver is the ethos and values of our school. We have a holistic approach where pupils can access a knowledge rich, vocabulary focused curriculum which builds skills and reinforces learning. We offer children an exemplary education in a safe, calm and purposeful environment. Our aim is to nurture well-rounded, respectful and resilient children who will develop skills for life-long learning. We aspire for all our children to be respectful of themselves and of others in our school, our local community and the wider world.

Communication and Language

From the moment our children begin their Early Years journey, we endeavor to immerse them in an environment rich in vocabulary, quality interactions and opportunities for communication. The number and quality of conversations children have with adults and peers throughout the day in a language rich environment is crucial. Children experience a wide 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 with talk partners and retelling familiar stories, children 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 develop fine motor skills as they continue to have regular access to threading, pinching, rolling and cutting activities alongside increasing their pencil control. Gross motor skills that develop overall body strength, coordination and balance are practised during outdoor play, Yoga, balance bikes and Physical Education 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 build successful relationships, manage their own feelings and behaviour and be sensitive to the needs of others allows children to work together to become successful learning partners. We explicitly teach the children to understand right and wrong. Through regular stories and discussions, we learn how to treat others fairly and foster resilience, confidence and pride in all that we do. Exploring injustices in the world, enables the children to develop tolerance and understanding of opinions that differ to their own.

Literacy

Using Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised systematic synthetic phonics, children learn to hear, blend, segment and write sounds. This supports both early reading and writing development and is taught by immersing children in a wide variety of stories, rhymes and poems. Children retell stories in different ways, for example retelling and performing traditional tales such as Goldilocks and the Three Bears in the role play area in order to practise using story language verbally. Children learn that we use reading and writing for a variety of purposes and take great satisfaction in being able to do both independently. They read decodable books that match their phonic stage three times a week with our Reading Champions in school and bring these Reading Practice books home to read again with parents and carers. They also choose a Reading for Pleasure book every week to share at home that helps to develop their love of reading and extend their vocabulary beyond their phonic stage.

Mathematics

Children 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 enable children to gain the enjoyment and confidence to go on and solve more abstract problems. We aim to instil a 'have a go attitude' towards mathematics and be able to apply new skills to everyday situations. Children begin to use early mathematical language to describe two and three dimensional shapes, weight and capacity and develop subitising skills in order to instantly recognise amounts without having to count every object.

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 are explored as well as looking at and replicating different illustrative styles. Children are encouraged to select colours and materials to achieve a planned affect in their designs and explore different aspects of reproducing music.

Understanding of the World

Children 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 explore different environments and aspects of the natural world such as animals, plants and lifecycles. They cultivate an appreciation of the seasons by observing the changing weather and natural environment around school.

Our Goals

- 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. To 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 Reading Practice book, Reading for Pleasure book or a favourite story. Please keep reading with them at home. As their reading skills increase, they will be able to participate more and more.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves independently every day. Being able to put on outdoor clothing (including zips and buttons) is especially important too.
- Listen carefully to how your child speaks. Correct their pronunciation of sounds and words that they struggle with and take an interest in the new sounds that they learn in phonics.
- Always talk to your child about their day at school and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Essential Information

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

Thank you and best wishes