**The Early Years Foundation Stage encompasses learning for children from birth to five years of age.**

The EYFS curriculum is spilt into ‘Prime Areas’ which cover the knowledge and skills which are the foundations of school readiness. These are particularly crucial for igniting children’s curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and building their capacity to learn, form and thrive. These three areas are: Communication and Language; Physical Development; Personal Social and Emotional Development.

There are also four ‘Specific Areas’ through which the three Prime Areas are strengthened and applied. The Specific Areas are: Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World; Expressive Arts and Design

Throughout the year the Foundation Stage curriculum is delivered through a topic, steered by the children’s interests. Some of the topics that we have looked at have included Pirates, Superheroes, Chinese New Year and Minibeasts. We aim to expose children to as many different learning opportunities that we can.

 Communication and Language The development of a child’s spoken language underpins all areas of the curriculum. This involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment, to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves, and to speak and listen in a range of situations. We will have a role play corner, both indoors and outdoors, hoping to encourage children to be the best talkers they can be. We aim to ensure that all children become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary.

Physical Development. Physical activity is vital in a child’s all-round development, ensuring that they live happy and healthy lives. Children will be provided with opportunities to be active and interactive; and to develop coordination, control and movement. Children will have opportunities to develop their gross and fine motor skills. In Foundation Stage we will have one session of PE each week where we will be learning to control our bodies in different ways. We will also use the Adventure Trail outside and will experiment with large and small equipment in our indoor and outdoor equipment. We will also use the parachute to play games. Physical Development also includes developing our Fine Motor Skills, using scissors of different sizes, bikes and throwing and catching balls. Our outdoor classroom is an extension of our classroom; it is a fully enclosed space where we can run, jump, climb and play in a safe environment. Physical development also takes into account the child’s ability to look after themselves including dressing and undressing themselves for PE.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development Learning in this area involves children developing a positive sense of themselves and to develop positive relationships with others. It encourages children to develop social skills and the ability to make sensible choices. Children are encouraged to look after their own belongings and to work and play together co-operatively. Through adult modelling and guidance children will learn how to look after themselves, including healthy eating. Children are also encouraged to be independent in our classroom environment and it is set up in such a way that children can choose and replace equipment independently.

Understanding the World Understanding the World involves guiding children to make sense of the physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. Children will be encouraged to use some simple computer programmes using the school laptops and iPads. Children are encouraged to explore with different textures, for example, with sand and water. Children will have lots of opportunities to investigate their world by looking at different cultures. Children will have opportunities to investigate the world that surrounds them.

Expressive Arts and Design Expressive Arts and Design enables children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as encouraging children to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings, through a variety of activities in art, movement, dance, role play, music and design and technology. Children will enjoy experimenting with different materials, for example, paint, pastel and crayon. They will also experiment with gluing, drawing, junk modelling and role play. In our classroom we will have a role play area that will change according to our topic and the children’s interests.

Literacy It is crucial for children to develop a lifelong love of reading. Reading can be broken down into two dimensions: language comprehension and word reading. Language comprehension develops through talking about stories and enjoying rhymes, poems and sounds. Word reading involves decoding and making sense of words. Writing also contains transcription and composition where we articulate ideas before writing them down. This involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters to help them learn to read and write. Children are encouraged to experiment with mark making in all areas of the classroom. In this subject children will begin to develop their reading skills by using the phonics system. This is then linked to the children’s first reading books.

  **Key Reminders**

**PE Kit**

Our PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays. Please bring your child to school in their PE kit on this day.

 PE Kit: Plain black jogging bottoms/black shorts (only on hot days), school light blue PE t-shirt and Velcro trainers. Please do not send your children to school in laced trainers unless they can tie them themselves. Trainers are only to be worn on PE days.

Please ensure everything is labelled with your child’s name on. Children are not allowed to wear any type of jewellery for school.

**Books and Book Bags**

Please send your child to school with their St. Catherine’s school book bag every day. We will help your child put any letters, homework etc into their bag at the end of the day. So please check their bag each day after school.

**Water Bottles and lunches**

Please send your child to school with their own water bottle every day. Please do not fill your child’s water bottles with juice, plain water only. We replenish the water throughout the day.

A reminder that school meals are free in Reception. We highly encourage parents to let their children have a free school meal as we believe it is important for children to try a variety of food and enjoy a hot meal. We are a healthy school so if a packed lunch is preferred then advice for healthy packed lunches can be provided by our school cook. No nuts or sweets in packed lunch boxes please

Religious Education

In Early Years Foundation Stage, we follow the Come and See programme.

 We will explore the following topics:

1) Myself

This is a very special time for you, as this is the time you begin to understand how much God loves you. You will learn and appreciate how special and unique you truly are.

2) Welcome

3) Birthday

 4) Celebrating



5) Gathering

6) Growing

7) Good News

8) Friends

9) Our World

10) 2 Other Faiths

**Are you ready for Nursery?**

Each day Nursery children will have the offer of two snacks (one AM and one PM). There are a range of healthy snacks to chooses from. The children will also be offered a bottle of milk each day.

Your child should bring a water bottle to school everyday. This should be taken home at the end of each day, then washed and refilled.

Your child will need a spare set of clothing which will be hung on their coat peg. This does not have to be school uniform.

Children in Nursery Class are expected to:

 • Use a toilet (with support if needed)

• Begin to dress/undress independently

 • Begin to take off/put on shoes and wellies independently (Please wear shoes that are easy to take on and off, preferably Velcro)

 • Wash hands independently

And finally,

If you have any queries or questions about any area please do not hesitate to contact us. We value greatly your co-operation and continued support in helping your children to achieve their potential and develop confidence through a happy and enabling learning environment. With many thanks, Mrs Murray and Mrs Nixon

 “From little acorns mighty oaks grow." Author unknown

Reading/Phonics

Please read a variety of stories with your child, asking questions about the story and pictures. Phonics is a main area of focus. All children take part in daily phonics activities. We use the Read, Write Inc Phonics in Nursery to deliver these sessions.