

Foundation Stage 1

Communication and Language Development

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development. It involves providing opportunities to speak and listen in a range of situations and develop their confidence and skill in expressing themselves.

In Foundation 1 the children are encouraged to listen to what other children and adults have to say through a wide variety of learning experiences which include story times and whole class activities. Throughout the year we work hard to develop the children's spoken language, building up vocabulary so they can express themselves effectively and use simple sentences.

By the end of Foundation 1 (F1) the children are expected to be able to understand simple questions and respond to basic instructions.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children's personal, social and emotional development is crucial for children to lead healthy and happy lives. It involves helping the children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others and to have confidence in their own abilities. The children are encouraged to play cooperatively, learning how to share and take turns. It would be hoped that during this year they form good relationships with other children and adults.

During the year the children make progress in asking familiar adults for help when necessary and gain confidence in new social situations. Children are expected to make progress in learning to understand and cooperate with some boundaries and routines and to accept the needs of others and adapt their behaviour for different events and changes in routine.

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy and active lives. This involves providing opportunities for the children to be active and interactive and to develop their coordination, control and movement.

In Foundation 1 we help the children to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food. Our weekly P.E. sessions allow for a more focussed development of such skills as jumping, running, rolling, hopping, skipping etc and ball skills.

Physical development also means small movements such as threading, holding a pencil or paintbrush and using one handed tools e.g. scissors. From the start of F1, the children are encouraged to manage their own personal hygiene and personal needs and become independent in using the toilet, washing hands and feeding themselves.

Literacy

Comprehension and word reading - The children regularly listen to and join in with stories and rhymes. They are encouraged to look at books independently and to describe the main story settings, events and principal characters. In this year it would be expected that most children would learn to recognise their name and be aware of letters in signs and labels etc.

Writing – Our focus in this year is to help the children develop their gross motor and fine motor skills to enable them to hold a pencil effectively. Opportunities for the children to use a variety of mediums and tools are available each week and during the year the children learn to write their own name with attention to correct letter formation.

Mathematics

Developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to excel mathematically.

By the end of the year, many children will be able to recognise and write numbers to 10. They will be

able to subitize to 5, count reliably up to 10, find the total number of objects and begin to have an awareness of numbers in everyday life. The children will be able to name some shapes and use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position and length.

Understanding the World

This involves guiding the children to make sense of their physical world and their community. Throughout their time in our Foundation Stage the children are encouraged to show interest in the world around them: - To talk about the things they observe and show care and concern for living things and the environment. The children are encouraged to talk about the things that make us unique and be aware of some of the similarities and differences in relation to other children and family members.

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic and cultural awareness supports their imagination and creativity. This involves supporting children to explore and play with a range of media and materials - art, music, movement, dance and role play. Over the year the children will learn simple songs and can explore and learn how to make and change sounds using a variety of musical instruments. They will use a variety of construction materials to construct and build with a purpose in mind. They will engage in imaginative play and have many opportunities to make representations of people, objects and events using a variety of media.