

The Early Years Curriculum

3rd October 2018

- **Development Matters** is our non-statutory curriculum, this has 7 areas of learning, split into 17 strands:

Prime areas (focus in Nursery):

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Making relationships/Self Confidence and Self Awareness/Managing Feelings and Behaviour

Physical Development: Moving and Handling/Health and Self Care

Communication and Language: Speaking/Listening/Understanding

Specific Areas (also become a focus in Reception)

Literacy: Reading/Writing

Maths: Number/Space, Shape and Measure

Understanding the World: The World/Technology/People and Communities

Expressive Arts and Design: Using Media and Materials/Being Imaginative

- **Characteristics of Learning** are also a very important part of our curriculum, we give children many opportunities to develop and practise these:

Playing and exploring – engagement

Finding out and exploring

Playing with what they know

Being willing to 'have a go'

Active learning – motivation

Being involved and concentrating

Keeping trying

Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically – thinking

Having their own ideas

Making links

Choosing ways to do things

- **Early Learning Goals:**
These are our aims for the end of the year. There are 17 areas which we will report on at the end of the year. These can be continued into year 1 if necessary. If you would like to see what the Early Learning Goals are in each area, search for 'Development Matters' online.
- **In the Moment Planning:**
This means we observe, assess and act on the children's learning all the time during their free flow play. We are always looking for 'teachable moments' when we can teach new skills. Each class will have three focus children each week. During free flow we will be especially observing and recording their learning and progress, and putting onto Tapestry or into their Special Books. Your input is especially valuable when your child is focus child.
- **Tapestry:**
We use the online learning journey called Tapestry to record and assess children. It is really useful to have parental comments or observations added to this.
- **Storytelling and Helicopter Stories:**
We are a Storytelling School which means we focus on one story each term, learning it in real depth. Helicopter stories fit in well with our Storytelling School ethos as the children tell a story for an adult to scribe, then the whole class act it out.
- **Phonics:**
We teach phonics every day, starting with phase 1 (rhyming, listening to sounds, using instruments etc) and then when the children are ready, moving on to learning the sounds made by letters and starting to read and write. There will be a phonics meeting later very soon.
- **Maths:**
We do Maths Mastery which means we learn about one area of maths in depth before moving on to another area. Maths is everywhere in our environment. There will be a maths meeting later in the year.
- **Additional support:**
We track the progress made by all children in all areas each term. If we identify children not making progress or who might need additional support we will put this in place. We will speak with you if we are concerned about your child's learning, please speak with us if you have any concerns with your child's learning.