

Bayford C of E Primary School



Foundation Stage Curriculum Newsletter 2023 – 2024

Foundation Stage Leader: Mrs Kinsley

Jesus said, 'I am the Good Shepherd... I know my sheep and my sheep know me.'
John 10.14

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area of learning is about emotional well-being. The children will find out who they are and where they fit in. They will learn to feel good about themselves, develop respect for others, improve their social skills and gain a positive attitude to learning.

Through this area of learning children will be encouraged to:

- be interested, excited and motivated to learn
- confidently try new activities
- initiate ideas and speak in a familiar group
- maintain attention, concentration and sit quietly when appropriate
- respond to significant experiences, showing a range of feelings
- be aware of their own needs and the needs of others
- form good relationships with adults and peers
- take turns and share fairly
- understand the values and codes for behaviour
- understand what is right and wrong and why
- select and use activities and resources independently

Communication and Language

Communication and Language development 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.

Being able to listen and focus attention underpins language development and are the building blocks of communication and language skills.

Through this area of learning your child will be encouraged to:

- listen to others and stories with increasing attention and recall
- join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events and phrases in rhymes and stories
- focus attention, follow directions and respond to simple instructions
- take turns in class discussions and activities
- begin to use more complex sentences
- question why things happen and give explanations
- use talk to organise, sequence and clarify thinking, ideas, feelings and events
- introduce a storyline or narrative into their play
- extend their vocabulary

Physical Development

This area involves helping children to improve their skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. It helps them to gain confidence in what they do and they benefit from being active and healthy. As part of their physical development, children are taught:

- to move with confidence, imagination and safety
- to control and co-ordinate their movements
- to use a variety of equipment to travel around, over, under and through
- to show an awareness of space, of themselves and others
- to recognise the importance of being healthy and the changes that happen to their bodies when they are active
- to use a range of small and large equipment
- to handle a variety of tools, objects, construction and malleable materials safely and with control

Literacy

Literacy development involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children will be introduced to a wide range of reading materials to ignite their interest.

Your child will be taught Literacy in many different ways. This will include:

- sharing a book daily, discussing the story, characters and feelings, sometimes relating the story to their own experiences
- reading keywords in the context of a story and on their own
- becoming aware of terms used about a book, i.e. title, page, contents, cover, author and illustrator
- learning to hear and recognise different sounds (phonemes) in words and being able to match the correct letter
- learning to form the letters of the alphabet correctly
- knowing that text carries meaning and is written from left to right and top to bottom
- experiencing writing for different purposes
- using their phonetic knowledge in writing
- using a pencil correctly

Foundation Stage Overview 2023-24

Over the next year we will be looking at the following topics:

Autumn term first half

Myself

- family
- hobbies
- likes and dislikes
- parts of the body
- keeping healthy
- growing and changing

Autumn term second half

Food

- favourite foods
- types of food
- where food comes from
- fruits and vegetables
- food around the world
- healthy eating

Spring term first half

Weather

- different types of weather
- seasons
- snow, ice, rain, sun, wind, clouds and fog
- extreme weather
- clothes for different weathers

Spring term second half

Toys

- our toys
- moving toys
- teddy bears
- materials
- toys from the past
- toys around the world

Summer term first half

Growing plants

- plants around the school
- planting seeds
- caring for plants
- flowers
- plants for food
- plants around the world

Summer term second half

Mini-Beasts

- looking for mini-beasts
- ladybirds
- snails
- worms
- spiders
- butterflies
- pond dipping

Mathematics

This area is developed through practical activities so that children become confident and competent in using key mathematical skills. Children will be taught to:

- count objects reliably up to 10
- say and use number names and recognise numerals to 10
- use mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems
- use a variety of vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting
- compare quantities i.e. taller/shorter, bigger/smaller, heavier/lighter and use the appropriate vocabulary
- recognise, copy, recreate and extend patterns
- use language to name and describe 2D and 3D shapes

Understanding the World

In this area of learning the children are developing their knowledge and skills to help them understand and make sense of the world. This begins to form the foundation for the future curriculum for science, design and technology, history, geography, RE and ICT. Work in this area will help the children to:

- investigate objects and materials using all of their senses
- find out about and identify some features of living things, places and objects
- look at similarities, differences, patterns and change in the natural and man made environment
- identify the uses of technology and use ICT and programmable toys
- look at past, present and future events in their lives
- have a developing respect for their own culture and the cultures and beliefs of others

Expressive Arts and Design

Creativity is crucial to successful learning. It allows children to make connections between different areas of learning to help their understanding. This area covers art, music, dance, role play, drama and imaginative play. The children will:

- explore colour, texture and shape in 2 and 3 dimensions
- explore how sounds can be changed
- sing songs from memory and be aware of sound patterns
- match movements to music
- use their imagination in art, design, music, dance, role play and stories
- respond in a variety of ways to what they see, hear, smell, touch and feel
- build and construct, selecting resources, and adapting their work
- express their ideas, thoughts and feelings through imaginative and role play, movement, designing and making, and a variety of songs and musical instruments

Outdoor Learning & TWiGS

At Bayford Primary School, we recognise the positive outcomes associated with Learning Outside the Classroom and believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances. We define learning outside the classroom as: "The use of places other than the classroom for teaching and learning." We believe that such learning often makes the most memorable education experiences and helps young people make sense of the world by linking feelings and learning, builds bridges between theory and reality, schools and communities, young people and their futures.

Where and when appropriate, lessons across the whole curriculum will be taught out of the classroom. Teachers will make use of our lovely grounds, including the Sacred Garden, playground and field as well as our local community environment.

Your child will take part in outdoor forest school style sessions with Tim from TWiGS (Teaching Withing Green Spaces), one day every half-term. These sessions may involve activities linked to their curriculum learning or forest school type activities (shelter building, fire lighting, outdoor cooking etc.).

TWiGS Sessions will take place whatever the weather, so your child needs to come to school on the TWiGS days dressed appropriately. We have a number of spare waterproof and warm coats as well as some welly boots. Please speak to a class adult about borrowing these if you need to.

Helping your child

Reading

All children will have a free choice library book which will be changed once a week. Please share this book with your child and encourage them to talk about the pictures and story. Reception children will also have a book from our school reading scheme, which will be changed weekly. They will have a reading record book for you to make relevant comments about your child's reading. The children will also have some keywords in a word pot to practise reading. They will also have a little green book to help them reinforce sounds learnt in class.

PE

Nursery children have PE everyday so they need to come to school dressed in appropriate clothing for physical activity. Earrings should be removed or covered for P.E. During lessons in the hall they have bare feet so it is helpful if your child could practise taking off and putting on their shoes and socks. Reception children need a PE kit which should be kept in school on your child's peg. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Work at home

Please encourage your child to talk about the topics they are learning about and to bring in any photographs or other items which are relevant to our theme.