



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning



Academic Year 2016-2017

- **Year:** FS2
- **Term:** 1

Your Child's Teaching and Learning Team:

- Mrs H Darken
- Mrs A Prentice
- Miss Z Clark
- Miss R D'Roza
- Miss J Pendlebury

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first curriculum overview of our new school year. The purpose of the overview is to let you know what your children will be learning during Term 1 and suggest some ways in which you can offer support at home.

As new learning can be very fragile it is important that all children receive the right kind of support in school and at home. This is why we set homework. The aim is to support and extend new learning. Our expectations regarding homework are therefore shared in the overview along with suggestions for things you can do at home.

It is very important that all homework is at least attempted at home. If you have a child who does not understand something that has been set for homework, please do **not** worry, the homework has done its job. Please reassure your child and ask him/her to do as much as they can. This will help us understand the issue(s) and identify gaps in knowledge.

Try not to fall into the trap of doing it for them, or panic that it will reflect badly on your child or on you as parents/carers. The key thing is that the homework is attempted seriously and your child does his/her best.

As soon as you can just notify your child's teacher (in person or by adding a note to the homework that has been attempted) so that the issue can be followed up – and most importantly – so your child can receive all the reassurance and encouragement that they need from us in order to move forward.

We also know that methods of teaching and learning change constantly which is why we are **always** happy to explain them to you if you have a question or are not sure about something. Sometimes it can be confusing for a child when well-meaning parents/carers try to teach the way they learned because it might undo what has been taught in class.

To help you help us we are **always** happy to arrange parent/carer workshops or even provide one-to-one support to parents/carers who would like this. Please speak to us in confidence if you would like some help.

As always, if you can support us because you have a skill, specialist knowledge; a real-life experience, artefacts, or useful contacts to share – or if you can help with an educational visit or with activities in class then please speak to your child's teacher(s). All offers of help are welcomed and appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher



EYFS Prime Areas

Communication & Language, Physical Development & Personal, Social & Emotional Development

The EYFS Prime Areas of learning will be the main focus of our teaching and learning this half term. They underpin all aspects of learning in Foundation Stage. The Foundation stage is designed to overlap and compliment all the different areas which make up the curriculum as a whole and hopefully this overview will give you a flavour of how this will work.

Our main theme is called 'A Whole New World' which links well with adjusting in to the 'whole new world' of school. We want the children to settle well in our class and become familiar and happy with all the new routines. During the next few weeks we will be helping the children to establish simple class rules, which will support positive learning behaviours. The staff will use photos, pictures and gestures with language to support all learners. Children will learn to listen to each other in small groups and sometimes with the whole class. We want to encourage the children to speak confidently to each other and to familiar adults. The children will be expected to care for themselves, each other and our environment. The staff will help the children to keep the classroom tidy and look after the resources. Independence and the child's unique personality will always be valued.

Moving safely around the school environment is important. The children will be supported to keep safe and develop appropriate hygiene routines.

Children will use the outdoor environment every day, so they will need a coat as the weather becomes cooler. Children will also be asked to bring named wellies when the weather gets wetter. The children develop many physical skills and social skills when using the outdoor environment. Already children are showing good turn-taking and co-operative skills.

Longer P.E. sessions will be on **Monday** afternoon and children will be given daily PE instruction in the class outdoor area. During this term the children will be getting used to listening to instructions and responding appropriately in the hall and outdoor. They will also get used to dressing and un-dressing independently – all good practice for developing physical skills!

You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *giving your child time to think and respond if you ask them a question*
- *encouraging your child to dress and undress independently (perhaps helping them by setting out their clothes in the correct order)*
- *using a knife and fork to eat meals*

EYFS Specific Areas

Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the world, Expressive arts and design

We will be using the school 'Read, Write Inc.' programme to deliver the sound work (phonics) which will help the children to begin to read and write with more confidence. During the first term we will cover different letter(s) sounds each day and will be sending home sheets with the daily sounds on them so they can practice at home. We will be running some sessions for families on phonics and reading during the first term and will send details out later.

In literacy we will role model the different areas in the classroom, we will read a variety of stories including 'The Three Bears' and 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'. We will learn and sequence the stories plus many more bear related activities. We will also have a teddy bears picnic, making sandwiches, designing invitations and hopefully having lots of fun.

In mathematics we will be looking at recognising and creating patterns, counting and recognising numerals 1-10, sequencing these numbers, ordering items by length and weight. We will look at the language used to describe 2D and 3D shapes and explore and create patterns. The curriculum places a lot of emphasis on mathematical language so much of the work will be done orally with little formal recording.

Our topic will support the children's learning about families, people and communities, helping them to understand that people are both different and similar and what make us unique. In expressive arts we will be exploring colour, using different media and materials and selecting and using tools safely and appropriately.

We will be exploring the outdoor area doing planned activities around the school grounds and learning about how to respect and care for our school environment.



You can support your child's learning at home by:

- *helping them with letter sounds at home*
- *using everyday opportunities such as cooking, baking and setting the table to support their understanding of mathematics*
- *talking to them about things that they find in their environment, using construction sets; helping them to make things using everyday objects and how to use scissors and other tools effectively*

EYFS: Characteristics of Learning

Throughout the year we will be looking at how children develop certain 'characteristics' such as how they engage in their learning, find out, explore and 'have a go'. If they are motivated to learn by being involved, concentrating, keep trying and enjoying achieving what they set out to do. We also consider whether they are able to develop their own ideas, make links in their learning and the ways they choose to do things, whether they plan, review or change their strategy when approaching a task. We will talk about being resilient, resourceful, reciprocal and reflective linking these characteristics to media characters.

These are all attitudes to learning that children need to become successful learners. Hopefully we will lay the foundations for these young children so they grow their skills and achieve both personally and academically.

Music

Music is taught by Miss Pendlebury, our specialist music teacher. Our module during this theme is called 'Moving Patterns'. We will be learning about musical structures and sequences through a variety of songs and percussion activities.

PE

REAL PE

This will include moving in different directions.

Children will develop skills individually & with a partner. We will also be learning about personal skills needed for sport such as good listening.

Outdoor games

Team games will continue – running, hopping, etc. and using some small equipment.

Assessment

All assessments throughout Foundation Stage 2 will be done by observational assessment. We will collect photos, written observations as part of our evidence. We also hope you will contribute to your child's learning journey by adding photos and information from home. You will be invited to fill in 'Wow moments' about your child's achievements at home, more information will follow. We will share more information with you as the term progresses.

More information will be given about our new online learning journeys at the FS2 Welcome meeting on **Tuesday 4th October at 3.30pm**. We hope to see you there.