

Reception curriculum

We believe that the Early Years is the strong foundation upon which children learn and develop the key skills they need to help get the best start in life. We are committed and dedicated in ensuring our children develop as independent learners and aim to have strong home school links with parents.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum is a play based curriculum which helps meet the needs of all children. The Early Years Curriculum is a broad and diverse curriculum that is split into two main areas, Prime and Specific.

The Prime Areas are the fundamental areas that underpin and aid development in all other areas. It covers Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Communication and Language development.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Children learn to build strong relationships and to develop their self-confidence and self-awareness in a range of different ways. They learn how to manage and express their feelings. Children learn how to negotiate, take turns and share. They develop their independence as well as learning how to follow rules and routines.

Physical Development: Children learn how to move in range of different ways, safely negotiating space. They develop their gross and fine motor skills through activities that involve using both their larger muscles and smaller muscles. As part of this Reception children at Bonner engage in weekly PE sessions.

They also learn about basic hygiene and why it is important to maintain a healthy lifestyle and how they can achieve this.

Communication and Language: Children learn to listen in different situations and maintain their focus and attention. They learn to follow directions and join in with repetitive refrains and rhymes. Children learn to follow instructions and answer 'how' and 'why' questions. They learn how to express themselves effectively, use a range of tenses and develop their own narratives.

The Specific Areas provide children with learning opportunities that will help to develop and strengthen vital skills and knowledge.

Literacy: Children learn to handle, share, enjoy and read simple stories. They learn sounds of the alphabet through daily phonic sessions and apply their learning to read and write simple words and sentences. They demonstrate an understanding of what they have read to others.

Mathematics: Children develop skills of counting, conserving and recognising numbers to twenty and solve simple number problems. They sort objects in different groups and talk about patterns around them. They use positional language to talk about where things are. They use construction materials to learn about and share their knowledge about shape and space.

Understanding the World: Children investigate the natural world around them and explore different materials. They learn about growth and change through observing plants, animals and life cycles. As part of this children will engage in Forest School sessions. They are given opportunities to talk about special events and learn about people in the local community. Children display their findings through both mark making and technology.

Expressive Arts and Design: Children learn to make music, exploring sounds and different ways of changing them. They learn how to express their thoughts and feelings through a range of different mediums including art, music, dance and drama. Children engage in role play and using props for

imaginative play. As part of Expressive Arts and Design children in Reception will be given the opportunity to take part in African drumming sessions.

The Characteristics of Learning:

The seven areas present what children learn, the characteristics of learning show how children learn and how they engage with other people and their environment. There are three characteristics of learning, these are:

Playing and Exploring: *We want children to take part in challenges however difficult they maybe and simple to 'have a go!' We want children to play with what they know and find out and explore the environment around them.*

Active Learning: *This looks at helping children to develop their focus to maintain attention for a period of time, to keep on trying and not give up at the first attempt to enjoy accomplishing what they set out to achieve.*

Creating and Thinking Critically: *This is about children having their own ideas in play and thinking of ways to solve problems. It looks at children making links and connections in their learning and choosing ways of how to do things.*

Phonics

Phonics is the programme by which children learn to read and write. Children in Reception take part in daily phonic sessions. We follow the Ruth Miskin phonics programme (RWinc) where children are taught sounds and how they are formed. We do not teach letters by name but by the sounds they make.

We offer several parent workshops based on Phonics during the year to provide you with a deeper insight into how it is taught.

What does EYFS Learning look like at Bonner Primary School?

We plan to ensure that our broad and diverse curriculum is an inclusive one that helps to meets the needs of all our learners. We follow half termly set topics in both Nursery and Reception.

Nursery:

Reception

Autumn 1: Me, myself & I and Black History Month

Autumn 2: Materials through Traditional Tales

Spring 1: Animals

Spring 2: Growth and Change

Summer 1: Out and About

Summer 2: Water, water everywhere!

Children learn through play, exploration and adult led focus activities. They use both the both indoors and outdoors learning environment. Children are also taken on local trips throughout the year to broaden their knowledge and understanding.

Messy play

Messy play is an important aspect of Early Years helping to foster growth in all areas of development. Although children are encouraged to wear an apron they may come home with paint, chalk, flour etc. on their clothes!

Enjoy the learning journey with your child!