

Early Years

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage

In the Foundation Stage our aim is to provide the very best start in life for your child by developing the skills they need to become independent learners. We follow the statutory framework of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which sets the standards for learning and development for all children up to the end of their Reception year. Children join our Reception Class from both the private provider onsite nursery and other nurseries/settings. They continue learning through the Early Years Curriculum, which includes the skills of reading, writing and mathematics as well as social skills and a continued understanding of the world. We believe that Early Years education should be exciting, stimulating, well organised and fun.

Ethos:

- In the Early Years Foundation Stage children come first and our priority is to deliver high quality teaching and learning whilst at the same time providing rich and truly enjoyable learning experiences for our children.
- Everything we do is to ensure that the children achieve their very best.
- Our ethos is centred around developing and nurturing the whole child including their emotional, social and personal development as well as academic success.
- Developing a Growth Mindset is important so that children learn to persevere, be resilient, 'have a go', persist, show determination, understand the need for effort, try different strategies, realise it is okay to make mistakes and appreciate they may not be able to do something 'yet' but the simple goals they set themselves can be achieved in time. This can encourage them to foster a love of learning in the early years and is the first step on the pathway to being a successful learner for life.
- We want every child to be successful, striving for success and setting their own simple goals so that when they leave us, they have a love of learning and a keen curiosity to begin their school journey.

Our Aims:

- To provide a high quality experience where children are at the heart of everything.
- To create a safe, appealing and inspiring environment where children thrive and learn.
- To build secure and trusting relationships with children and their families valuing parents as the children's first and most important educators.
- To celebrate diversity, appreciating and respecting the things that make each child unique.

Partnership

We believe that working together and communicating effectively to create a partnership between school and home is vital in giving your child the best possible start. After all you know your child best! We have an 'open door' policy and a member of staff is always available to discuss any worries or concerns you may have.

Curriculum

Our curriculum is based on The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. This explains how and what your child will be learning to support healthy development. Your child will be learning new skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating understanding through 7 areas of development.

Learning through play underpins all of the EYFS, therefore, the children learn through a play based curriculum, which draws on their interests and is pitched at each child's personal level of development.

The framework is split into three 'prime' areas of learning and development and four 'specific' areas of learning and development.

Areas of Learning and Development

Prime Areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Whilst these seven areas provide a framework for the Early Year's Curriculum, young children's learning does not easily divide up into distinct areas. A particular experience may develop learning over several of the seven areas at any one time. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult led and child initiated activities.

At Highfield's Primary School we recognise that the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending the children's development. We aim to create an attractive, welcoming and stimulating learning environment which enables exploration, curiosity, independence and risk taking. We also aim to make it a place where children feel secure and confident, and are challenged to develop their independence. Children have the opportunities to engage in both the indoor and outdoor environments during the school day. We are led by the children's interests and curiosity, teaching the next steps in the moment through quality interactions.

On-going formative assessment is at the heart of our practice. Observations of the children allow us to plan experiences and learning opportunities to deepen their understanding and drive their learning forward to the next stage.