

Stanton Primary School & Nursery



EYFS Intent

At Stanton Primary School and Nursery, we believe that the Early Years Foundation Stage is crucial in securing solid foundations that children are going to continue to build upon. It is our intent that the children who enter our EYFS develop physically, verbally, cognitively and emotionally whilst embedding a positive attitude to school and learning. We believe that all children deserve to be valued as an individual and we are passionate in allowing all children to achieve their full, unique potential. With all of this in mind, we begin each new year by looking at the individual needs of our children and - taking into account their different starting points- we then carefully develop our flexible EYFS Curriculum which enables them to follow the path of their learning journey, at a point, that is suitable for their unique needs and stage of development.

Children in both our Nursery and Reception classes follow the EYFS curriculum, which has seven main areas of learning.

The Prime Areas:-	The Specific Areas:-
• Personal, Social and Emotional Development • Communication and Language • Physical Development	• Literacy • Mathematics • Understanding the World • Expressive Arts

The teaching of these areas of learning is practical and playful with support and challenge from adults in class sessions, small group sessions and working with individuals. There is a combination of adult-led, teacher taught sessions as well as a wealth of stimulating continuous provision opportunities. Our Nursery and Reception classes open up to create an Early Years Base, which enables the children to access a wide variety of resources and teaching staff. Throughout all of these areas of learning and at the heart of the EYFS Curriculum are the "Characteristics of Effective Learning". At Stanton Primary School and Nursery, we strive to develop these key characteristics of "Playing and Learning", "Active Learning" and "Thinking Critically" in order to give the children the skills that they will continue to draw upon throughout their development. All of the crucial skills, knowledge and vocabulary that we teach are presented to the children throughout the year which encompasses a range of topics, which are designed with their interests in mind.

Our learning environments, both inside and outside are also adapted regularly to meet the different and developing needs of the children in our care. We aim to ensure that these areas are always stimulating and exciting and that, importantly, they are accessible to all children, regardless of where they are on their learning journey. The environments are developed to promote independence within our children and allow them to access the curriculum independently and confidently with the necessary level of support and challenge.

Within our EYFS Curriculum, children are assessed continuously through accurate and informal observations. These provide us with information for future planning, not only for our individual classes but also for individual children's next steps in their learning. They enable us, as EYFS practitioners, to ensure learning is embedded and consistent and that all children continue to make outstanding progress within our EYFS setting.

Our Stanton Primary School and Nursery EYFS strongly believe that all children deserve an education rich in wonder and memorable experiences that allows children's natural creativity and curiosity to flourish, alongside the purposeful acquisition of skills and knowledge. We believe that an education that does all of this gives children the best chance to become well-rounded, happy individuals, ready to succeed in an ever-changing world.

Implementation

At Stanton Primary School and Nursery, we offer a curriculum which is broad and balanced and which builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills of all children, whatever their starting points. We follow the Early Years curriculum using topic themes and enrichment opportunities. However, we are also aware that, children have their own interests and where possible we encourage and build on these to develop their learning further.

The aim of our curriculum is to develop a thirst and love for learning by:

- Carefully planning sequences of activities that provide meaningful learning experiences, developing each child's characteristics of learning.
- Providing high quality interactions with adults that demonstrate and impact on the progress of all children.
- Using high quality questioning and interactions to check understanding and address misconceptions.
- Staff acting as role models to the children they teach in order for children to develop their own speaking and listening skills.
- Carefully assessing, through observations, which are recorded on a termly basis and shared with parents. These are used to inform the next steps of learning and meet individual needs.
- Developing an effective and engaging environment that is set up so that children can access all areas of learning both inside and outside at any one time.
- Providing activity starting points for child initiated activities that enhance children's learning and impact on progress.
- Allowing children to be successful in their attempts at an activity and using effective feedback to help facilitate next steps in learning.
- Suggesting home learning opportunities with information about what has been taught, allowing parents to build on their child's school experiences, at home.

We recognise the changing needs and interests of our pupils and we are responsive to this, regularly developing existing topics.

Every half term we launch a new topic, for example, Marvellous me, Where the wild things are and Splish, Splash, Splosh. We carefully select quality texts which relate to the topic, that we use not only to develop a love of reading but to inspire our learning through a range of engaging activities.

Phonics is taught daily through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds program with a focus given to phase 1 in nursery and Phase 2, 3 & 4 in Reception. During phonic lessons, sounds are introduced to children each day with flash cards, pneumonic and resources. During phonics sessions, the children are given opportunities to make marks, form letters and words in a variety of multisensory ways. The phonics activities are revisited to embed over the year and supported in a range of engaging ways. As children begin to blend the sounds they have learnt they are introduced to a reading book. They are then heard read three times a week with a slightly different focus each time; decoding, prosody and comprehension. At the end of the week their book is allocated on big cat online for them to follow up and practise at home.

We support our children to become successful and creative writers with a variety of approaches which include taking into consideration the physical attributes needed for writing. The children participate in a daily 'dough disco' and or 'pen disco' session and weekly sessions of 'Write dance'. These approaches support and develop the children's gross motor movements and core strength required for the fine motor action required for writing.

The maths curriculum is taught through daily dedicated sessions. These sessions are carefully planned using concrete resources, including rekenrek, and build on prior learning and real-life experiences across the theme and year. We follow the Ark Curriculum Maths Mastery of work in reception and Master the curriculum in Nursery. This starts with really mastering numbers 0-5 and then progresses through to 0-10. We want our children to become confident mathematicians who can apply what they have learnt to real life experiences and be prepared for Maths Mastery in KS1.

Weekly outdoor sessions are run for children in early years in our forest area; these support a range of skills and develop their social interactions. All seven areas of learning are encompassed within these sessions and allow all children to take risks in an unpredictable environment whilst developing leadership skills and promoting mental health and wellbeing.

Pupils have opportunities to share their learning with their parents and carers through Dojo. Regular 'Stay and Play' sessions for Nursery and Reception, allow parents to join in learning activities alongside their children and share the Foundation Stage experience. Parents are invited to share their child's library visit and encourage a love of reading. We use Class Dojo to share children's learning and successes are celebrated here. Nursery has a 'Facebook' page for a similar purpose.

Impact

With the successful implementation of both an enriched, rounded and balanced curriculum and a well-structured, safe, active and challenging learning environment, both indoors and outdoors children develop the skills, knowledge and understanding that enables them to be successful learners. Children are actively engaged in learning and their enjoyment of this learning will be apparent to all. All children experience a curriculum that provides, exciting and enriching learning experiences and opportunities for children to learn through educational visits and hands on experiences. Children fully appreciate and understand the world around them, experiencing and learning about different

cultures, music, dance, art and history. Children develop their characteristics of learning and are able to apply their knowledge to a range of situations making links and explaining their ideas and understanding. Children are confident to take risks and discuss their successes and failures with adults drawing on their experiences to improve or adjust what they are doing.

Children are skilful at solving problems and they have effectively developed their personal levels of resilience and independent learning skills. Children are successful learners and fully prepared for the next stage of their education as they transition from Foundation Stage to Year One. We help children to make sense of the world around them, to develop tolerance, compassion and an understanding of their rights and the rights of others in an ever evolving world. Children at the end of Foundation stage have developed essential knowledge and skills required for everyday life and lifelong learning. Children at Stanton Primary School and Nursery are well rounded, happy, inquisitive and successful learners.

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