

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Sharing our learning



Academic Year 2020-21

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

Your Child's Teaching & Learning Team:

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first curriculum overview of our new school year. Its purpose is to let you know what your children will be learning during the first term. We will also offer suggestions for supporting your children at home.

New learning can be fragile which is why it important to give our children the right kind of support in school and at home. If we get it right our children will feel positive and confident as they learn and make progress.

We do set homework to support and consolidate their new learning and to encourage the children. Our expectations regarding homework will therefore also be shared in this overview.

Children are always encouraged in school, and all we ask is that they do their best both in school and at home. We understand that children learn best when they are confident; they are most confident when they are happy; and they are most happy when they feel loved, supported and encouraged.

Clearly, it is important that homework is attempted by children on their own. If children do not understand something **they should never worry**. This means that the homework has done its job. If this happens then simply offer reassurance and encourage your children to do as much as they can. This will really help us to understand what they actually remember and know and where any gaps are, so that the right support can be offered.

If children have genuinely done their best we will *always* be proud of them, whatever they manage to do. We never want our children panicking or feeling anxious. If your child is stuck then simply notify staff in person, via the class email or by adding a note to the homework. Tell us what they remembered, could do and what they struggled with, so that we can follow it up with lots and lots of reassurance and the right kind of support.

With this in mind, please avoid the temptation to 'over-help' your children with homework tasks. This could end up masking important issues and delay children getting the help they need. Just offer encouragement and keep telling them that everyone at school will understand and will help and support them.

We know that ways of teaching and learning do change over time and so we are **always** happy to explain our approach if you are not sure and have questions. Please just ask. Children can find it more confusing if parents/carers try to show them what they remember being taught at school, especially if this is very different.

As always please contact us if you can offer support with any aspect of the curriculum overview perhaps because you have particular skills, knowledge or experiences, artefacts, useful contacts or you would like to volunteer to help us on an educational visit (subject to COVID guidance).

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher



TERM 1 LEARNING VALUE

Our value for this term is '**Determination**'. Being determined is having the ability to keep going, even when there are setbacks. It's accepting that things don't always work out the way you expect them to, but continuing to set new goals that help you to grow as a person. Believing in yourself, being patient, and being the best that you can be are all important parts of determination!

What does determination look like to you?

- ✓ you can say "Yes I can!"
- ✓ you can set yourself your own challenging goals
- ✓ you have confidence in yourself to keep going, even when things get tough

If you have determination what do you realise?

- ✓ never, ever, ever give up
- ✓ you can reach your potential if you believe in yourself
- ✓ confidence gives you the strength to carry on when it's really hard

How can you can show determination?

- ✓ having a positive and determined mind-set
- ✓ setting challenging goals and having the courage to try
- ✓ be a superhero
- ✓ say "Yes I can!"



RE

Information about our Term 1 RE curriculum is in the 'Come and See' letter accompanying this overview.

OUR THEME THIS TERM

This term we will be thinking about Autumn. We learn a story about harvest, what happens to trees during Autumn and the names of some common trees.

In the last few weeks will learn a more traditional story and use our senses to explore flavours and textures.

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ feelings
- ✓ family
- ✓ harvest
- ✓ gather
- ✓ Autumn
- ✓ changes
- ✓ senses

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 linked to the season Autumn and the changes it brings which links well with adjusting in to the new world of school. We want the children to settle well in our class and become familiar and happy with all the new routines.



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During the next few weeks we will be helping the children as we establish simple class rules to 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 actively in small groups and within whole-class work. We also want to encourage the children to speak confidently to one another and with familiar adults.

The children will be expected to care for themselves, each other and our classroom environment. The FS2 team will help the children understand how to keep our classroom and learning areas tidy and to look after the resources they use.

Throughout it all 'independence' and the child's unique personality will always be valued.

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

Children will also learn outdoors every day, so they will need a coat as the weather becomes cooler. They will also be asked to bring **named wellies** for days when the weather is wetter. The children will develop many key physical and social skills when they are learning outside and using the environment and many are already showing us that they are able to take turns and cooperative well with others.

Our longer PE sessions will be on **Monday** afternoons and children are asked to come to school wearing their PE uniforms. They children will also benefit from daily PE instruction both in class and our outdoor area. During Term 1 the children will get used to listening to instructions actively and responding to them appropriately.

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ listen
- ✓ share
- ✓ care
- ✓ resilience
- ✓ routine

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
- ✓ reminding children of positive behaviours and good manners which will be vital for building friendships.
- ✓ talking about changes that happen in the environment linked to seasons

EYFS SPECIFIC AREAS

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

We follow the 'Read, Write Inc.' programme to deliver phonics which is a key step in helping children to know and say sound on their way to reading and writing independently and with confidence. During the first term we will cover different letter(s) and sounds each day and will send home sheets with the daily sounds on them so that the children can practise at home. We will share details soon of the phonics/reading workshops for parents/carers that we plan to run this term.

Using role-modelling in the different zones of the classroom, we will share a variety of stories with the children including, 'The Little Red Hen' and 'Pumpkins Soup'. The children will learn and sequence these stories plus many more Autumn-related activities.

We will also start to think about the natural world as we learn and name berries and nuts seen in Autumn. In addition, we will learn how to identify different trees by the shape of their leaves naming and other features.



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In Mathematics we will focus on

- ✓ creating patterns
- ✓ counting and recognising numerals (1-10)
- ✓ sequencing numbers 1-10
- ✓ ordering and sorting items
- ✓ the language used to explore and create patterns

Our Mathematics curriculum places a lot of emphasis on the children hearing, repeating and knowing mathematical language so a lot will be done orally, in line with guidance, with less 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 as they consider what make us all unique.

In expressive arts the children will explore colour, using different media and materials and selecting and using appropriate tools safely and appropriately.

They will enjoy learning in our outdoor area and the school grounds as they engage with planned activities focused showing them how to respect and care for our school environment.

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ *phonics*
- ✓ *sounds*
- ✓ *letter formation*
- ✓ *digits*
- ✓ *numbers*
- ✓ *sequence*
- ✓ *pattern*

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

- ✓ *helping them practise letter sounds at home*
- ✓ *encouraging your children to write their own names*
- ✓ *using everyday opportunities such as cooking, baking and setting the table to support their understanding of mathematics e.g. how many plates will we need?*
- ✓ *talking to them about things that they find in their environment*
- ✓ *using construction sets to create different things*
- ✓ *helping them to make things using everyday objects*
- ✓ *supervising them as they practise using scissors and other tools safely and effectively*
- ✓ *talking about and creating repeated patterns*

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 D'Roza. Our module focuses on musical patterns. The children will learn about musical structures and sequences through a variety of songs and percussion activities. This children will have a chance to participate and learn new songs.

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.

Key words we will be using are:

- ✓ listen
- ✓ stop
- ✓ control
- ✓ coordination
- ✓ teamwork

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

- ✓ continuing to encourage your child to be independent when getting dressed /undressed and being responsible for their own belongings
- ✓ playing games in your garden or in the park, particularly running, chasing and ball skills

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 which will be shared online. We will give you lots of important information about FS2.

