**EYFS**

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their healthy development.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development.

Children should mostly develop the 3 prime areas first. These are:

• Communication and language;

• Physical development; and

• Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child’s healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas. These are:

• Literacy;

• Mathematics;

• Understanding the world; and

• Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child’s learning and activities. It is designed to be flexible so it will suit the interests and unique needs of your child.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside. The learning area that we now have attached to our classroom ensures that children have the opportunity to explore in a safe and secure environment, whatever the weather. It also allows us to have more space where ‘messy’ play activities can be available at all times.

We will be recording your child’s progress throughout the year in a learning journey document. This will contain key pieces of work, photographs and observations of your child as evidence of their learning. It is invaluable for our planning and assessment, to know what your child is able to do at home as well. Holidays and weekends can be full of exciting experiences for your child so if you notice any ‘wow’ moments where your child has surprised you with some knowledge or a new skill, please write it down or bring in a photograph and we can add it to your child’s learning journey document. It all counts!

At the end of the EYFS – in the summer term of the reception year in school – we will complete an assessment which is known as the EYFS Profile. This assessment is an overview of everything learnt through the year and the data is collected from our own knowledge of your child and the learning journey that we will have created.

**General**

Reading

Children will be introduced to their first reading book after the first couple of weeks. We will provide a reading diary to go alongside the books where we will record the book titles and dates issued. Please sign and date this diary and add any comments of your own when you read with your child. We do value these comments and it reassures us that the children are being read with at home.

Reading books will be changed once a week (as long as children have been read with at home). Every child is an individual so please don’t feel like it is a race to read through all of the books. Encourage your child to take their time and talk about their book and the characters in it. This will support them in getting a good foundation for their reading.

Children will be taking part in daily, high impact phonic sessions. As a link to home, we will be sending home relevant phonics packs that will contain letters and sounds that the children will need to practice. We will also send home some high frequency and tricky words for the children to practice; this will support them in their reading and phonics sessions.

Snack

Children are welcome to bring in a healthy snack for morning break. There is also a snack counter available where children can purchase toast, fresh fruit, bagels or crumpets at a cost of 25p. You are welcome to pre pay for this snack if you wish or pay daily.

We provide a piece of fresh fruit for the children during our afternoon break time. There is no cost for this.

Water bottles

We encourage children to always have a named water bottle in school with them. Please take this home at the end of each day and return the next morning. Children are able to refill their bottles with cold water from our water filter. We do ask that you do not provide juice.

Uniform

Once you have purchased a school uniform please do ensure that all of it is named.

Please ensure that you provide the children with the correct clothing at different times of year; especially a hat in the summer as we do spend a lot of time outside. Sun cream is also beneficial at this time of year.

Welly walk

Welly walks will happen on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure that your child has a named pair of wellies in school for that day as we will be out in the school grounds exploring our environment and carrying out nature investigations.

Finally…

Over the summer time, please can you encourage your child to practice being as independent as possible. Hanging coats up and taking shoes on and off (tying laces might be tricky at this stage), folding clothes and getting changed are all really important skills for when the children start school.

Extra information about the EYFS curriculum can be found at

www.foundationyears.org.uk